Dated: November 20, 2006.

Frank L. Davis,

General Deputy Assistant Secretary for Housing-Deputy Federal Housing Commissioner.

[FR Doc. E6-20040 Filed 11-27-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210-67-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Performance Review Board Appointments

AGENCY: Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Performance Review Board Appointments.

SUMMARY: This notice provides the name of individuals who have been appointed to serve as members of the Department of the Interior Performance Review Board.

DATES: These appointments are effective upon publication in the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Marilia Matos, Director, Office of Human Resources, Office of the Secretary, Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, NW., Washington, DC 20240, Telephone Number: (202) 208–6761.

Dated: October 30, 2006.

Marilia Matos,

Director, Office of Human Resources.

2006 Performance Review Board

The following individuals have been appointed to serve on the Department of the Interior 2006 Performance Review Board:

	Discrete of Trust Beauty
Ethel Abeita	Director, Office of Trust Records.
David Achterberg	Director, Safety, Security and Law Enforcement.
Kevin Adams	Assistant Director, Law Enforcement.
Martha Aikens	Program Manager.
David Allen	Regional Director, Portland.
William Alley	Senior Science Advisor.
Joseph Alston	Park Manager.
David Applegate	Senior Science Advisor for Earthquakes and Geologic Hazards.
Carl Artman	Associate Solicitor.
Maryanne Bach	Director, Research & Development.
Charles Bacon	Research Geologist.
Anne Badgley	Executive Director—Regional Ecosystems Office.
Karen Baker	Associate Director for Administrative Policy & Services.
Mark Bathrick	Associate Director, Aviation Management.
Theresa Bayani	Program Director for Compliance and Asset Management.
Keith Beartusk	Regional Director.
Mark Beighley	Director, Office of Wildland Fire Coordination.
Richard Beck	Director, Office of Planning and Performance Management.
William Benjamin	Regional Director—Great Plains.
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Julio Betancourt	Research Hydrologist.
Henri Bisson	Deputy Director.
John Bennett	Director Trust Program Management Center.
Robert A. Bennett	State Director.
Edith Blackwell	Deputy Associate Solicitor—Indian Affairs.
Stephen Blanchard	Senior Science Advisor for Surface Water.
L. Michael Bogert	Counselor to the Secretary.
David Boore	Research Geophysicist.
Douglas Bourgeois	Director, National Business Center.
Charles Breece	Principal Deputy Director, Office of Hearings & Appeals.
Robert Brown	Associate Director for Administration and Budget.
John Buffington	Regional Director, Western Region.
Melvin Burch	Regional Fiduciary Trust Administrator.
Brenda Burman	Deputy Commissioner.
Kenneth Burnham	Statistician.
Carla Burzyk	Chief, Office of Budget and Performance.
James Byrnes	Attorney-Advisor.
Chad Calvert	Deputy Assistant Secretary—Land and Minerals Management.
Richard Cardinale	Senior Advisor to the Assistant Secretary.
William Carswell	Regional Hydrologist.
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Thomas Casadevall	Regional Director, Central Region.
Niles Cesar	Regional Director.
Dolores Chacon-Alleva	President, DOI University.
Ralph Cheng	Research Hydrologist.
Bernard Chouet	Research Geophysicist.
Debbie Clark	Deputy Assistant Secretary—Management.
Horace Clark	Regional Solicitor.
Colleen Coggins	Interior Enterprise Architect.
David Cohen	Deputy Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs.
Robert Comer	Regional Solicitor.
Anthony Conte	Regional Solicitor.
Elizabeth Cordova-Harrison	Director, Management Services Office.
Robert Craff	Regional Fiduciary Trust Administrator.
Walter Cruickshank	Deputy Director.
Elena Daly	Assistant Director, National Landscape Conservation Systems.
Elmer Danenberger	Chief, Offshore Engineering and Operations Division.
James Davis	Research Hydrologist.
Daniel Deerinwater	Regional Director.
Ivan DeLoatch	Federal Geographic Data Committee Staff Director.
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Frank DeLuise	Director, Natural Resources Damage Assessment and Restoration Pro-
Lucy Quarques Danett	gram.
Lucy Querques-Denett	Associate Director for Minerals Revenue Management. Senior Advisor for Science Application.
Clare Doherty	Deputy Director, Budget.
Douglas Domenech	Deputy Chief of Staff.
Robert Doyle	Deputy Director.
Matthew C. Eames	Director, Congressional and Legislative Affairs.
Sharon Eller	Director, Office of Civil Rights.
Donna Erwin	Principal Deputy Special Trustee.
Max Ethridge	Regional Geographer.
Michael FergusonOlivia Ferriter	Assistant Director, Business and Fiscal Resources. Director, Conservation, Partnership and Management Policy.
Lawrence Finfer	Deputy Director, Office of Policy Analysis.
Daniel Fletcher	Director, Office of Financial Management and Deputy Chief Financial
	Officer.
Vicki Forrest	Regional Fiduciary Trust Administrator.
Arthur Frankel	Research Geophysicist.
Art Gary	Associate Solicitor—General Law.
Jerold Gidner	Deputy Bureau Director, Tribal Services.
Rick Gold	Regional Director. Research Chemist.
John Goll	Regional Director, Alaska OCS Region.
Maria E. Gonzales	Senior Advisor for Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution.
Roseanne Gonzales-Schreiner	Director, Program and Policy Services.
Rowan Gould	Regional Director—Anchorage.
Clayton Gregory	Regional Director.
Stephen Guptill	Research Physical Scientist.
Samuel Hamilton	Regional Director—Atlanta.
Jeanette Hanna	Regional Director.
Susan Haseltine	Associate Director for Biology.
Abraham Haspel	Assistant Deputy Secretary. Deputy Chief Administrative Judge, IBLA.
James Harris	Associate Solicitor—Minerals Resources.
William Hartwig	Chief, National Wildlife Refuge System.
Nina Hatfield	Deputy Assistant Secretary, Business Management and Wildland Fire.
Pamela Haze	Co-Director, Office of Budget.
Lisa Hemmer	Administrative Judge, IBLA.
Paul Henne	Assistant Director, Budget Management and Operations.
Edward Hildreth	Research Geologist.
Catherine Hill	Regional Hydrologist. Research Geophysicist.
Robert Hirsch	Associate Director for Water.
Paul Hoffman	Deputy Assistant Secretary for Performance, Accountability and
	Human Resources.
Amy Holley	Senior Advisor to the Assistant Secretary.
Wandafa Hollingsworth	
Brian Holly	
H. Barry Holt	
Patricia Hooks	Regional Director, Southeast Region.
David Hughes	Administrative Judge, IBLA. Deputy Director, Programs and Policy.
Fay Iudicello	Director, Office of Executive Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs.
Richard Iverson	Research Hydrologist.
James Jackson	Administrative Judge.
Julia Jacobsen	Deputy Assistant Secretary—Land and Minerals Management.
Jim James	Regional Fiduciary Trust Administrator.
Christopher Jarvi	Associate Director, Partnerships Interpretation & Education, Volunteers
	& Outdoor Recreation.
Jonathan Jarvis	Regional Director, Pacific West Region.
Lawrence Jensen	Regional Solicitor.
Douglas Johnson	Attorney-Examiner. Research Statistician.
Lynn Johnson	Regional Solicitor.
Robert Johnson	Regional Director.
Blair Jones	Research Hydrologist.
Kenneth Jones	Chief Scientist for Geography.
Marshall Jones	Deputy Director.
Daniel Jorjani	Counselor to the Deputy Secretary.
Christina Kalavritinos	Administrative Judge, IBLA.
Donna Kalvels	Director, Center for Competitive Sourcing.
Edward Keable	Associate Solicitor, Administration.
Christopher Kearney M. Franklin Keel	Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and International Affairs. Regional Director.
John Kelmelis	Senior Science Advisor.
Suzette Kimball	Regional Director, Eastern Region.

Jerry Mitch King	Regional Director—Denver.
Stephen Kirby	Research Geophysicist.
Allen Klein	Regional Director.
Leonard Konikow	Research Hydrologist.
Ernestine Kreisher	Director, Office of Communications.
	Chief Justice.
Michael Kruse	
Robert LaBelle	Deputy Associate Director.
Matthew Larsen	Chief Scientist for Hydrology.
Joseph Lawler	Regional Director, National Capital Region.
Phillip Leahy	Associate Director for Geology.
David Lehman	Senior Advisor to the Secretary.
John Lemon	Director, National Conservation Training Center.
Ronnie Levine	Assistant Director, Information Resources Management.
Suzanne Lewis	Superintendent.
Steven Linscheid	Chief Administrative Judge.
Melinda Loftin	Designated Agency Ethics Official.
Renne Lohoefener	Assistant Director—Endangered Species.
Thomas Lonnie	Assistant Director, Minerals, Realty and Resource Protection.
Douglas Lords	Deputy Special Trustee—Field Operations.
D. Jeffrey Lords	Director, Trust Review and Audit.
Thomas Loveland	Research Physical Scientist.
Samuel Luoma	Research Hydrologist.
Jane Lyder	Legislative Counsel.
Kathryn Lynn	Administrative Judge.
Julie MacDonald	Deputy Assistant Secretary—Fish and Wildlife and Parks.
Pamela Malam	Associate Director for Human Capital.
Stephen Martin	Deputy Director, Internal Management.
Sue Masica	Associate Director, Park Planning, Facilities and Lands.
Marilia Matos	Director, Office of Human Resources.
R. Bryan McDaniel	Administrative Judge, IBLA.
John McDonald	Regional Director.
Robert McKenna	Chief Information Officer.
Edward Meagher	Deputy Chief Information Officer.
David Medyner	Research Wildlife Biologist.
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Thomas Melius	Assistant Director—External Affairs.
Robert Middleton	Director, Indian Energy Resource Development.
Alan Mikuni	Regional Geographer.
Mary Jane Miller	Budget Officer.
Paul Milly	
Robert More	Director, Office of Hearings and Appeals.
Ralph Morgenweck	Fish and Wildlife Advisor.
Marvin Moriarty	Regional Director.
Lawrence Morrin	
Michael Nedd	
James Nichols	
Darrell Nordstrom	Research Hydrologist.
William Normark	Research Geologist.
Michael Olsen	Counselor to the Assistant Secretary.
Brian O'Neill	Park Manager.
Kameran Onley	Assistant Deputy Secretary.
Frederick Ore	Deputy Director, Operations.
Ronald Oremland	Research Hydrologist.
Glenda Owens	Deputy Director.
Emma Pawlicki	Associate Solicitor.
Larry Parkinson	Deputy Assistant Secretary, Law Enforcement and Security.
Mamie Parker	Assistant Director, Fisheries Habitat Conservation.
Edward Parisian	Deputy Director, OIEP.
Drue Pearce	Senior Advisor to the Secretary.
Jason Peltier	Deputy Assistant Secretary—Water and Science.
Zell Peterman	Research Geologist.
Lynn Peterson	Regional Solicitor.
Tim Petty	Deputy Assistant Secretary—Water and Science.
Neil Plummer	Research Hydrologist.
Stanley Ponce	
•	Senior Liaison for Interagency Programs.
Michael Pool	State Director.
Britt Price	Administrative Judge, IBLA.
Robert Quinn	Director, Washington Operations.
Ernest Quintana	Regional Director, Midwest Region.
William Ragsdale	Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs.
Thomas Rever	Director, Facilities, Environmental, Safety and Cultural Resources Man-
	agement.
Thomas Reynolds	Regional Fiduciary Trust Administrator.
Sterling Rideout	Assistant Director—Program Support.
James Roberts	Administrative Judge, IBLA.
Kirk Rodgers	Regional Director.

Michael Roluti	Senior Advisor, Power Liaison.
Hedy Rossmeissl	Senior Advisor, Info Policy and Services.
Barry Roth	Deputy Associate Solicitor.
Lawrence Ruffin	Chief Information Security Officer.
Catherine Rugen	Regional Fiduciary Trust Administrator.
Linda S. C. Rundell	State Director.
David Russ	Regional Geologist.
Barbara Ryan	Associate Director for Geography.
Michael Ryan	Regional Director, Great Plains.
Robert Rye	Research Geologist.
Carol Sampson	Associate Director for Financial Policy and Operations.
Charles Sandberg	Regional Director.
Daud Santosa	Chief Technical Officer.
Christine Schabacker	Director, Office of Policy Analysis.
Carl Schreck	Research Fishery Biologist.
Paul Schmidt	Assistant Director, Migratory Birds and State Program.
James Scott	Research Wildlife Biologist.
Mary G. Scott	Park Manager (Superintendent).
William Sexton	Regional Hydrologist.
William Shapiro	Research Hydrologist.
David Shearer	Project Director—FBMS.
Denise Sheehan	Assistant Director, Budget, Planning and Human Resources.
Edward Shepard	State Director, Oregon.
Daniel Shillito	Regional Solicitor.
Karen Siderelis	Associate Director for Geographic Information.
Selma Sierra	State Director.
Shayla Simmons	Senior Counsel for CADR.
Jerry Simpson	Assistant Director, Human Capital.
Gary Smith	Director, External and Intergovernmental Affairs.
Gregory Smith	Program Director for RIK.
Michael Smith	Deputy Director, Field Operations.
Paul Smyth	Deputy Associate Solicitor, Land & Water.
Michael Snyder	Regional Director.
Debra Sonderman	Director, Acquisition and Property Management.
Laurence Soderblom	Research Geophysicist.
Michael Soukup	Associate Director, Natural Resources.
Stanley Speaks	Regional Director.
Kenneth Stansell	Assistant Director, International Affairs.
Ross Stein	Research Geophysicist.
Katherine Stevenson	Heritage Education Advisor.
E. Melodee Stith	Associate Director, Acquisition and Financial Asst.
James Tate	Science Advisor to the Secretary.
Willie Taylor	Director, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance.
Willie TaylorKaren Taylor-Goodrich	Director, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance. Associate Director, Visitors & Resource Protection.
Willie Taylor Karen Taylor-Goodrich Wayne Thatcher	Director, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance. Associate Director, Visitors & Resource Protection. Research Geophysicist.
Willie Taylor	Director, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance. Associate Director, Visitors & Resource Protection. Research Geophysicist. Director, Office of Law Enforcement and Security.
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Willie Taylor	Director, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance. Associate Director, Visitors & Resource Protection. Research Geophysicist. Director, Office of Law Enforcement and Security. Regional Director. Chief Information Officer & Director, Office of IRM.
Willie Taylor	Director, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance. Associate Director, Visitors & Resource Protection. Research Geophysicist. Director, Office of Law Enforcement and Security. Regional Director. Chief Information Officer & Director, Office of IRM. Deputy Commissioner, Policy, Administration & Budget.
Willie Taylor	Director, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance. Associate Director, Visitors & Resource Protection. Research Geophysicist. Director, Office of Law Enforcement and Security. Regional Director. Chief Information Officer & Director, Office of IRM. Deputy Commissioner, Policy, Administration & Budget. Superintendent.
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Willie Taylor Karen Taylor-Goodrich Wayne Thatcher Kim Thorsen Robyn Thorson Whitney H. Tipton Larry Todd Michael Tollefson John Trezise George Triebsch Deborah Tschudy Randall Updike Janine Velasco David Verhey	Director, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance. Associate Director, Visitors & Resource Protection. Research Geophysicist. Director, Office of Law Enforcement and Security. Regional Director. Chief Information Officer & Director, Office of IRM. Deputy Commissioner, Policy, Administration & Budget. Superintendent. Co-Director, Office of Budget. Associate Director for Policy. Deputy Associate Director for Minerals Revenue Management. Regional Geologist. Assistant Director, Human Capital. Deputy Assistant Secretary—Fish and Wildlife and Parks.
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Willie Taylor Karen Taylor-Goodrich Wayne Thatcher Kim Thorsen Robyn Thorson Whitney H. Tipton Larry Todd Michael Tollefson John Trezise George Triebsch Deborah Tschudy Randall Updike Janine Velasco David Verhey Terrance Virden Brent Wahlquist Barbara Wainman A. Wesley Ward Jess Weaver Sandra Weisman Ronald Wenker Kathleen Wheeler Arthur White Byron Williams Margaret Williams Richard Williams Richard Williams Thomas Winter Sarah Wisely	Director, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance. Associate Director, Visitors & Resource Protection. Research Geophysicist. Director, Office of Law Enforcement and Security. Regional Director. Chief Information Officer & Director, Office of IRM. Deputy Commissioner, Policy, Administration & Budget. Superintendent. Co-Director, Office of Budget. Associate Director for Policy. Deputy Associate Director for Minerals Revenue Management. Regional Geologist. Assistant Director, Human Capital. Deputy Assistant Secretary—Fish and Wildlife and Parks. Regional Director—Midwest. Regional Director. Director, Office of Communication and Outreach. Regional Geologist. Regional Hydrologist. Chief Financial Advisor. State Director. Deputy Chief Human Capital Officer. Research Physical Scientist. Senior Science Advisor—Coop Research. Deputy Special Trustee—Trust Accountability. Research Geologist. Research Hydrologist. State Director.
Willie Taylor	Director, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance. Associate Director, Visitors & Resource Protection. Research Geophysicist. Director, Office of Law Enforcement and Security. Regional Director. Chief Information Officer & Director, Office of IRM. Deputy Commissioner, Policy, Administration & Budget. Superintendent. Co-Director, Office of Budget. Associate Director for Policy. Deputy Associate Director for Minerals Revenue Management. Regional Geologist. Assistant Director, Human Capital. Deputy Assistant Secretary—Fish and Wildlife and Parks. Regional Director—Midwest. Regional Director. Director, Office of Communication and Outreach. Regional Geologist. Regional Hydrologist. Chief Financial Advisor. State Director. Deputy Chief Human Capital Officer. Research Physical Scientist. Senior Science Advisor—Coop Research. Deputy Special Trustee—Trust Accountability. Research Geologist. Research Hydrologist. State Director. Director, Program and Budget.
Willie Taylor	Director, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance. Associate Director, Visitors & Resource Protection. Research Geophysicist. Director, Office of Law Enforcement and Security. Regional Director. Chief Information Officer & Director, Office of IRM. Deputy Commissioner, Policy, Administration & Budget. Superintendent. Co-Director, Office of Budget. Associate Director for Policy. Deputy Associate Director for Minerals Revenue Management. Regional Geologist. Assistant Director, Human Capital. Deputy Assistant Secretary—Fish and Wildlife and Parks. Regional Director—Midwest. Regional Director. Director, Office of Communication and Outreach. Regional Geologist. Regional Hydrologist. Chief Financial Advisor. State Director. Deputy Chief Human Capital Officer. Research Physical Scientist. Senior Science Advisor—Coop Research. Deputy Special Trustee—Trust Accountability. Research Geologist. Research Hydrologist. State Director.
Willie Taylor Karen Taylor-Goodrich Wayne Thatcher Kim Thorsen Robyn Thorson Whitney H. Tipton Larry Todd Michael Tollefson John Trezise George Triebsch Deborah Tschudy Randall Updike Janine Velasco David Verhey Terrance Virden Brent Wahlquist Barbara Wainman A. Wesley Ward Jess Weaver Sandra Weisman Ronald Wenker Kathleen Wheeler Arthur White Byron Williams Margaret Williams Thomas Winter Sarah Wisely Robert Wolf	Director, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance. Associate Director, Visitors & Resource Protection. Research Geophysicist. Director, Office of Law Enforcement and Security. Regional Director. Chief Information Officer & Director, Office of IRM. Deputy Commissioner, Policy, Administration & Budget. Superintendent. Co-Director, Office of Budget. Associate Director for Policy. Deputy Associate Director for Minerals Revenue Management. Regional Geologist. Assistant Director, Human Capital. Deputy Assistant Secretary—Fish and Wildlife and Parks. Regional Director—Midwest. Regional Director. Director, Office of Communication and Outreach. Regional Geologist. Regional Hydrologist. Chief Financial Advisor. State Director. Deputy Chief Human Capital Officer. Research Physical Scientist. Senior Science Advisor—Coop Research. Deputy Special Trustee—Trust Accountability. Research Geologist. State Director. Director, Program and Budget. Director, Law Enforcement, Security and Protection.

[FR Doc. E6–20117 Filed 11–27–06; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 4310–10–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report for the Habitat Conservation Plan for the Occidental of Elk Hills, Inc., Elk Hills Oil and Gas Field, Kern County, CA

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service,

Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), we, the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), are issuing this notice to advise the public that we intend to gather information necessary to prepare, in coordination with the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and Occidental of Elk Hills, Inc. (OEHI), a joint Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) on the Habitat Conservation Plan for the Elk Hills Oil and Gas field (Plan).

OEHI intends to apply for a 50-year Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 10 incidental take permit from the Service. The permit is needed to authorize the incidental take of threatened and endangered species that could occur as a result of future operations of the Elk Hills Oil and Gas Field.

The Service provides this notice to (1) describe the proposed action and possible alternatives; (2) advise other Federal and State agencies, affected Tribes, and the public of our intent to prepare an EIS/EIR; (3) announce the initiation of a public scoping period; and (4) obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues to be included in the EIS/EIR.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before December 28, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be submitted to Lori Rinek, Chief, Conservation Planning and Recovery Division, Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office, 2800 Cottage Way, W–2605, Sacramento, California 95825. Comments may also be sent by facsimile to 916–414–6713.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Joseph Terry, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, or Lori Rinek, Chief, Conservation Planning and Recovery Division, Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office, at 916–414–6600 [see ADDRESSES].

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Reasonable Accommodation

Persons needing reasonable accommodations in order to attend and participate in the public meeting should contact Lori Rinek at 916–414–6600 as soon as possible. In order to allow sufficient time to process requests, please call no later than one week before the public meeting. Information regarding this proposed action is available in alternative formats upon request.

Background

Section 9 of the ESA and Federal regulations prohibit the "take" of wildlife species listed as endangered or threatened (16 U.S.C. 1538). The ESA defines the term "take" as: to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect listed species, or to attempt to engage in such conduct (16 U.S.C. 1532). Harm includes significant habitat modification or degradation that actually kills or injures listed wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding, and sheltering [50 CFR 17.3(c)]. Pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA, the Service may issue an "incidental take permit" to take listed species if such taking is incidental to, and not the purpose of, otherwise lawful activities. Regulations governing permits for threatened species and endangered species, respectively, area at 50 CFR 17.32 and 50 CFR 17.22.

Although take of listed plant species is not prohibited under the ESA, and therefore cannot be authorized under an incidental take permit, plant species may be included on a permit in recognition of the conservation benefits provided to them under a habitat conservation plan. All species included on an incidental take permit would receive assurances under the FWS' "No Surprises" regulation [50 CFR 17.22(b)(5) and 17.32(b)(5)].

Species proposed for coverage in the HCP are species that are currently listed as federally threatened or endangered or have the potential to become listed during the life of this HCP and have some likelihood to occur within the project area. Should unlisted covered wildlife species become listed under the ESA during the term of the permit, take authorization for those species would become effective upon listing. The specific federally listed endangered species proposed for coverage in this HCP are: the giant kangaroo rat (Dipodomys ingens), San Joaquin kit fox

(Vulpes macrotis mutica), Tipon kangaroo rat (Dipodomys nitratoides nitratoides), Buena Vista shrew (Sorex ornatus relictus), blunt-nosed leopard lizard (Gambelia sila), Kern mallow (Eremalche kernensis), and San Joaquin woolly-threads (Lembertia congdonii). The specific unlisted species proposed for coverage in the HCP are: the San Joaquin antelope squirrel (Ammospermophilus nelsoni), shortnosed kangaroo rat (Dipodomys nitratoides brevinasus, San Joaquin LeConte's thrasher (Toxostoma lecontei macmillanoura), western burrowing owl (Athene cunicularia hypugea), Tejon poppy (Eschscholzia lemmonii ssp. kernensis), oil nestraw (Stylocline citroleum, and heartscale (Atriplex cordulata). Species may be added or deleted during the course of the development of the Plan based on further analysis, new information, ageny consultation, and public comment.

The Federal government established the Elk Hills Oil and Gas Field in 1912 for national defense purposes as part of the Naval Petroleum Reserves (NPR). It was then referred to as "NPR-1" and operated by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Given the potential effects of operating NPR-1 on listed species, DOE engaged in several formal consultations with the Service under section 7 of the ESA, resulting in the issuance by the Service of several Biological Opinions (the most recent opinion was completed in 1995). Congress directed DOE to sell NPR-1 in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal year 1996 and authorized DOE to transfer the Incidental Take Statement contained in the 1995 Biological Opinion to the purchase of NPR-1. OEHI (the purchaser) is approaching the limit to take authorized in the 1995 Biological Opinion and therefore has applied for authorization for additional incidental take through this HCP.

The Plan area is located in the Elk Hills, 26 miles southwest of Bakersfield. California, and includes oil and gas reserves on the 47,729-acre Elk Hills Oil and Gas Field and a contiguous 2-milewide HCP Permit Area around the perimeter of the oil and gas field. The HCP would result in the permanent disturbance of up to 4,000 acres and the temporary disturbance of up to 3,000 acres of presently undisturbed land in the Elk Hills. The proposed duration of the HCP and the incidental take permit would be 50 years. The HCP would establish a 7,801-acre conservation area and habitat management program located on the northern and southern edges of the Elk Hills.