

State of California, announces the availability of the response to public comments on the Final Tubbs Island Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment (Plan/Assessment) for a wetland restoration project at Lower Tubbs Island, Sonoma County, California. The Tubbs Island Restoration Project was selected by the United Heckathorn Natural Resource Trustee Council (Trustees), consisting of representatives of the agencies listed above, as the preferred alternative to compensate the public for impairment of fish and wildlife habitat resulting from releases of dichlorodiphenoltrichloroethane (DDT) at the United Heckathorn Superfund Site in Richmond, California. Funds to carry out the restoration program were obtained via Consent Decrees between the government and the responsible parties in July 1996, and the Final Tubbs Island Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment was completed in August 1998, along with a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The Plan/Assessment describes the approach, schedule, and budget for completing and monitoring the restoration project. A public hearing was held on March 22, 2000, to present the Trustees' proposal to fund the Tubbs Island Restoration Project with funds from the United Heckathorn settlement, and all interested parties were invited to submit comments on the proposal. Following a review of comments and consideration of additional proposals submitted by the City of Richmond and the East Bay Regional Parks District, the Council ratified its original decision to fund the project at Lower Tubbs Island.

ADDRESSES: Written requests for the Response to Comments or the Final Restoration Plan/Environmental Assessment should be sent to: Field Supervisor, Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office, 2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605, Sacramento, CA 95825 (facsimile 916/414-6713). Documents will also be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address. The Response to Comments and Plan/Assessment are also on file at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge P.O. Box 2012, 1404 Mesa Road, Mare Island, CA 94952; (707) 562-3000. They are available for public inspection during normal business hours, by appointment, at that address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James Haas, Fish and Wildlife Service,

Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office (see **ADDRESSES** section) at (916) 414-6604.

Author

The primary author of this notice is James Haas (see **ADDRESSES** section).

Authority

The authority for this action is the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended (42 U.S.C. 9601 *et seq.*).

Dated: February 15, 2001.

Elizabeth H. Stevens,

Acting Manager, California-Nevada Operations Office, Sacramento, California.

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BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NV-050-1050-FD]

Pedestrian and Vehicular Closure on Certain Public Lands Managed by the Bureau of Land Management, Las Vegas Field Office

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Pedestrian and vehicular closure on selected public lands in Clark County, Nevada.

SUMMARY: The Manager of the Las Vegas Field Office announces a pedestrian and vehicular closure on selected public lands under the Office's administration. The perimeter of the subject lands has been previously fenced to aid in the protection of sensitive heritage and traditional values. Closure will aid in law enforcement efforts to protect these lands. This action is being taken to ensure public safety, prevent unnecessary environmental degradation and prevent impacts from pedestrian or vehicular use of these lands. In the area subject to this closure, ongoing access-related damage to significant resources is adversely affecting their continuing importance to Indian tribes and the public.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The closure is effective immediately and will remain in effect for a period of one year.

Closure Area: Public lands affected are within the following described area: Township 15 South, Range 66 East, Sections 7 and 8. Maps depicting the area affected by this closure order are available for public inspection at the Las Vegas, Field Office, Bureau of Land Management at the address listed below.

Exceptions to Closure: Certain persons authorized or permitted by the Las Vegas Field Manager may be allowed within the selected lands.

Closure Restrictions: Unless otherwise authorized by the Las Vegas Field Office Manager, no person shall be allowed within the boundaries of the presently fenced enclosure legally described above. This applies to all types of access.

Definitions: "Authorized persons" refers to those groups or individuals specifically authorized for official business. This includes certain BLM employees and contractors, volunteers, tribal members, University personnel or any other persons authorized by the Las Vegas Field Manager."

This closure order is issued under the authority of 43 CFR 8364.1. Violation of any of the terms, conditions, or restrictions contained within this closure order, may subject the violator to citation or arrest, with a penalty of fine or imprisonment or both as specified by law.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Stanton D. Rolf, District Archaeologist, at the Bureau of Land Management, Las Vegas, Field Office, 4765 W. Vegas Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada 89108, telephone number (702) 647-5055.

Dated: February 20, 2001.

Mark T. Morse,

Field Manager.

[FR Doc. 01-6069 Filed 3-9-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CA-610-01-1610-DL]

Draft Northern & Eastern Colorado Desert Coordinated Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement: an Amendment to the California Desert Conservation Area Plan, 1980 and Sikes Act Plan With the California Department of Fish and Game

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, California Desert District Office, Riverside, California.

ACTION: Notice of availability of draft Northern & Eastern Colorado Desert Coordinated Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Draft Northern and Eastern Colorado Desert Coordinated Management Plan (Plan) and Environmental Impact Statement is available for public review and comment. The Plan will amend BLM's 1980 California Desert

Conservation Area Plan, complement the existing Joshua Tree National Park General Management Plan and Backcountry and Wilderness Management Plan, and serve as a basis for a biological resources management plan for the Chocolate Mountains Aerial Gunnery Range, managed by U.S. Marine Corps. The Plan also will provide for strategic, ecosystem-comprehensive management, including a programmatic biological opinion for the desert tortoise, provide for desert tortoise recovery, reduce the need to further species listings, and streamline the processing of land use permits on public land in the southeastern portion of the California Desert Conservation Area.

DATES: The 90-day public review and comment period for the draft Plan and EIS will begin February 26, 2001. Written statements on the Draft Plan and EIS must be submitted and postmarked no later than May 26, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the document should be mailed to the Bureau of Land Management, Attn: Northern & Eastern Colorado Desert Coordinated Management Plan, 6221 Box Springs Blvd., Riverside, CA 92507. Comments on the draft Plan and the EIS will be considered in preparing the Proposed Plan and Final EIS. Public meetings also will be held in various cities in and around the planning area to receive comments. The dates, times, and locations of these meetings will be announced later.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dick Crowe, California Desert District, 6221 Box Springs Blvd., Riverside, California 92507; phone (909) 697-5216.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A bound or CDROM copy of the draft is available at the California District Office in Riverside (address above) and offices listed below. The Draft Plan also is available online at <http://www.ca.blm.gov/cdd/landuseplanning.html>. Reading copies are available at most local libraries and the following BLM and Park Service offices: BLM California Desert District Office, 6221 Box Springs Blvd., Riverside, CA (909) 697-5200; BLM Barstow Field Office, 2601 Barstow Road, Barstow, CA (760) 252-6000; BLM El Centro Field Office, 1661 S. 4th Street, El Centro, CA (760) 337-4400; BLM Needles Field Office, 101 West Spikes Road, Needles, CA (760) 326-7000; BLM Palm Springs Field Office, 690 West Garnet, North Palm Springs, CA (760) 251-4800; BLM Ridgecrest Field Office, 300 S. Richmond Road, Ridgecrest, CA (760) 384-5400; Joshua Tree National Park 54485 Joshua Tree

National Park, Twentynine Palms, CA (760) 367-5502.

The planning area covers 5.5 million acres in the southeastern California Desert. The document describes and analyzes four alternatives for managing species and habitats on federal lands administered by the BLM, Joshua Tree National Park, and the U.S. Marine Corps Chocolate Mountains Aerial Gunnery Range. The alternatives address issues identified during public scoping: (1) recovery of the desert tortoise, a listed (threatened) species under both federal and state endangered species acts; (2) conservation of the variety of other species and habitats; and (3) public lands access and uses. BLM is the lead agency for the Plan.

Dated: February 22, 2001,

Alan Stein,

Acting District Manager.

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BILLING CODE 4310-40-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[UT-080-1610-DH]

Environmental Impact Statement; Vernal Resource Management Plan, Utah

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to plan, prepare an environmental impact statement, and call for information. The public is invited to nominate potential areas of critical environmental concern (ACEC) and river segments for wild and scenic river consideration during the planning process.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Vernal Field Office, Utah, is initiating a planning effort to prepare the Vernal Resource Management Plan (RMP). Sections 201 and 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA, 43 U.S.C. 1711) and the regulations in 43 CFR 1600 direct this planning effort. Involved is preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Upon completion, the Vernal RMP will replace the existing Book Cliffs and Diamond Mountain RMPs. The Vernal RMP will establish land use management policy for multiple resource uses on approximately 1.8 million acres of public land and 2.1 million acres of federal mineral resources in the Vernal Field Office.

Scoping information on potential issues and nominations for the Vernal

RMP may be submitted at this time. Other public participation activities will be announced in the local news media, or in letters sent to interested and potentially affected parties. Persons desiring to participate in the scoping and issue identification process for the RMP, and that would like to be placed on mailing lists, must notify the Vernal Field Office at the address listed below, or by calling (435) 781-4400. Another **Federal Register** Notice will be published identifying the dates and locations of future scoping meetings, which are anticipated to be held in the fall of 2001.

Freedom of Information Act

Considerations: Public comments submitted for this planning effort, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Vernal Field Office during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law.

ADDRESSES: Please submit scoping information and nominations to: Vernal Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, Attn: David E. Howell, 170 South, 500 East, Vernal, Utah 84078.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Resource Management Plan Project Manager, Vernal Field Office, Vernal, Utah, (435) 781-4400.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The planning area will include all of the public land and federal mineral ownership managed by the Vernal Field Office, in Daggett, Duchesne, and Uintah Counties in northeastern Utah, and about 3,000 acres in Grand County. The planning area will encompass the public lands currently managed under the Diamond Mountain and Book Cliffs RMPs. This area includes approximately 1.8 million acres of BLM administered surface lands and 2.1 million acres of federal mineral lands under federal, state, private, and Ute Tribal surface in the three county area.

A list of preliminary issues that could be addressed during development of the Vernal RMP include, but is not limited