

Species Council (Council), which is chaired by the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, and the Interior and includes the Departments of State, Treasury, Defense, and Transportation and the Environmental Protection Agency. The Order directed the Secretary of the Interior to establish an Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC) including diverse stakeholders to advise the Council. The Order applies to all Federal agencies whose actions may affect the status of invasive species and requires agencies to identify such actions and to the extent practicable and permitted by law (1) take actions specified in the Order to address the problem consistent with their authorities and budgetary resources; and (2) not authorize, fund, or carry out actions that they believe are likely to cause or promote the introduction or spread of invasive species in the United States or elsewhere unless, "pursuant to guidelines that it has prescribed, the agency has determined and made public its determination that the benefits of such actions clearly outweigh the potential harm caused by invasive species; and that all feasible and prudent measures to minimize risk of harm will be taken in conjunction with the actions." Although Executive Order 13112 applies to all Federal agencies, most of the duties required by the Executive Order are the responsibility of the eight Council Departments.

The Council was directed by the President to release the first edition of a National Invasive Species Management Plan (Plan) 18 months after the Order was issued, and to include performance-oriented goals and objectives and specific measures of success for Federal agency efforts concerning invasive species, update the Plan biennially, and evaluate and report on the success in achieving the goals and objectives of the Plan. The Plan is also to identify the personnel, other resources, and additional levels of coordination needed to achieve its goals and objectives. The purpose of the Plan is to provide a blueprint for Federal action in coordination with State, local, and private programs and international cooperation to prevent the introduction of invasive species, provide for their control, and minimize their economic, environmental, and human health impacts. The focus of the Plan is on those non-native species that cause or may cause significant negative impacts and do not provide an equivalent benefit to society.

In preparing the first edition of the Plan, the Council engaged in extensive consultation with many organizations and individuals with differing interests.

Valuable guidance came from ISAC and members of six working groups made up of both Federal and non-federal experts under the auspices of the Advisory Committee, including: (1) International, (2) communication, outreach, and education, (3) policy and regulation, (4) risk analysis and prevention, (5) management, and (6) research, information sharing, documentation, and monitoring. The Plan contains a number of actions recommended by the working groups and discussed in the reports of the groups which are posted on the Council's website. The Council also heard from a wide range of organizations and individuals at five public listening sessions held in July 2000 around the country and through numerous written comments.

A draft Plan was made available for comment on the Council's website in early August of 2000, before the deadline set by the Executive Order. However, due to extensive revisions made in response to public comment and delays in hiring Council staff, the final version was not issued until January 18, 2001. On October 2, 2000, a **Federal Register** notice (65 FR 58783–58784) announced the availability of the draft Plan. In that notice, the Council solicited comments on the Plan for 45 days ending on November 16, 2000. In response to a number of requests submitted by interested persons, the Council extended the comment period by 15 days in a second notice published in the **Federal Register** on November 16, 2000 (65 FR 69320).

By December 1, 2000, the close of the extended comment period, the Council had received a total of 181 written comments. The comments were from private citizens; a Native American association; businesses and industry groups; academic institutions; scientific, conservation, and other non-governmental organizations; State, local, and Federal Government agencies; and several public/private partnerships. The commenters generally supported the goals of the Executive Order and the Plan; however, nearly all of the commenters offered specific opinions, suggestions, or criticisms regarding the content of the draft Plan.

The Council carefully considered each of the comments received and made numerous changes to the Plan to reflect many of the points raised in the comments. In some cases, however, commenters brought up issues that were outside the scope of the Plan, made specific recommendations regarding detailed operational matters, or questioned why the activities of particular groups were either mentioned or overlooked. Other commenters

sought firm funding or action commitments that cannot be made until the implementation stage of the Plan. Wherever possible and appropriate, the Council will consider those comments that were not integrated into the final version of the Plan that deal with implementation issues during the implementation phase of the Plan.

The first edition of the Plan provides a general blueprint for action to deal with the threats posed by invasive species; however, many of the details of the actions called for will require further development in the implementation phase. At that point, specific measures of success, as well as the personnel and other resources needed to achieve the Plan's goals, will be described. The action items included in the Plan outline an array of prospective approaches for preventing the introduction and spread of invasive species. The Plan provides for development of an oversight mechanism to ensure agency accountability and calls on Council Departments to submit annual reports summarizing their progress in implementing the Plan.

The final version of the Plan was approved by the eight Council member agencies on January 18, 2001, and is now available to the public. The Plan is available on the Council's website; in addition, you may request a hard copy of the Plan by contacting the Council staff. In the near future, printed copies of the Plan will be made available and an order form will be posted on the Council's website.

Specific information regarding the availability of the Plan can be found in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice.

Lori Williams,

Executive Director, National Invasive Species Council.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Availability, Response to Comments on Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment for Natural Resources Injured by Releases of Pesticides From the United Heckathorn Superfund Site

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, on behalf of the Department of the Interior, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the

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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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.

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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