

project area for the creation of nesting habitat for the California least tern; (5) construct levees within the river's effective flow area in order to maintain the existing sediment flows within the river and to the beach; (6) identify appropriate sites for dredge disposal; (7) restore native habitat to non-tidal areas surrounding the wetland restoration project; and (8) create public access trails and opportunities for interpretation.

#### Alternatives

Over the past several years various informal meetings have been held involving local, state, and federal agencies, as well as members of the public, to discuss various alternatives for achieving the overall project goal of restoring the coastal wetlands at the San Dieguito Lagoon. As a result of that effort, a number of alternatives have been developed which include "No Action," Reduced Levee, Mixed Habitat, Maximum Tidal Basin, and Maximum Salt Marsh. The Mixed Habitat Alternative is the SCE proposed alternative. As a result of the scoping process, it is possible that these preliminary project alternatives will be further refined and/or additional alternatives considered. Once identified, the final alternatives will be carried forward into detailed analysis pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 432 et seq.) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970, as amended (Public Resources Code, Section 21000-21177).

#### Scoping Process

The Service and the JPA are preparing a joint Environmental Impact Statement/Report (EIS/R) to address potential impacts associated with implementing their respective discretionary actions for the proposed project. The Service is the Lead Federal Agency for compliance with NEPA for the Federal aspects of the project, and the JPA is the Lead State Agency for compliance with CEQA for the non-Federal aspects of the project. The Draft EIS/R (DEIS/R) document will incorporate public concerns in the analysis of impacts associated with the Proposed Action and associated project alternatives. The DEIS/R will be sent out for a minimum 45-day public review period, during which time both written and verbal comments will be solicited on the adequacy of the document. The Final EIS/R (FEIS/R) will address the comments received on the DEIS/R during public review, and will be furnished to all who commented on the DEIS/R, and made available to anyone

that requests a copy during a minimum 30-day period following publication of the FEIS/R. The final step involves, for the Federal EIS, preparing a Record of Decision (ROD) and, for the State EIR, certifying the EIR and adopting a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan. The ROD is a concise summary of the decisions made by the Service (in cooperation with the Corps) from among the alternatives presented in the FEIS/R. A certified EIR indicates that the environmental document has been completed in compliance with CEQA, that the decision-making body of the lead agency reviewed and considered the FEIR prior to approving the project; and that the FEIR reflects the lead agency's independent judgment and analysis.

A public scoping meeting to solicit public comment on the proposed action and alternatives will be held on Monday, June 15, 1998 at 7:00 pm, in the Solana Beach City Council Chambers, 635 South Highway 101, Solana Beach, California.

Dated: May 28, 1998.

**Thomas Dwyer,**

*Acting Regional Director.*

[FR Doc. 98-14661 Filed 6-1-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[MT-020-08-1310-00]

#### Notice of Intent To Plan

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Montana, Miles City Field Office, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** An Environmental Assessment and Resource Management Plan Amendment is being prepared for the proposed Makoshika Area of Management Concern in Big Dry Resource Area, Montana. The document will amend the Big Dry Resource Management Plan, approved April 22, 1996. It will be based on existing statutory requirements and will meet the requirements of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. The document will guide future management decisions for BLM-administered lands and minerals in Makoshika State Park and is scheduled for completion by August, 1998.

**DATES:** Any nominations, issues, concerns, alternatives, or comments should be submitted to BLM by July 2, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** All submissions should be sent to the following address: BLM, Aden Seidlitz, Associate Field Office Manager, 111 Garryowen Road, Miles City, MT, 59301.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Aden Seidlitz, (406) 233-2816.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Big Dry Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement analyzed the impacts of managing the Makoshika Area of Management Concern under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between BLM and the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks. In the Record of the Decision for the RMP, BLM approved Makoshika's management for surface and mineral resources. The MOU expires in June, 1998. BLM would like to consider applying more restrictions to oil and gas in the area in a new MOU between BLM, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and the State of Montana. If approved, these new restrictions would be an amendment to the Big Dry Resource Area Management Plan. A preliminary environmental assessment and MOU is being prepared and will be available for public review.

The public is asked to assist BLM in the identification of issues (problems, concerns). Alternatives developed will present a range of feasible management actions. The "No Action" alternative will be included in accordance with 43 CFR 1502.14(d) and will represent the continuation of existing management.

Meetings for management of the area are not yet scheduled. If meetings are scheduled, the public will be notified through the local media.

Development of this document will require involvement from professionals from these disciplines: archaeology, economics, forestry, realty, geology, petroleum engineering, recreation, soil science and wildlife management. The public will be provided an opportunity to protest BLM's proposed decision when the Environmental Analysis and RMP Amendment are issued. Availability of this document will be announced in local newspapers.

The BLM is seeking information and comments from individuals, organizations and agencies who may be interested or affected by BLM's proposals. Specifically, we request any issues, concerns or alternatives that should be addressed in the plan.

This notice meets the requirements of 43 CFR 1610.2 and 43 CFR 1610.5-5.

Dated: May 22, 1998.

**Aden Seidlitz,**

*Associate Field Office Manager.*

[FR Doc. 98-14555 Filed 6-1-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-DN-P