

Availability of the DEIS was announced in the **Federal Register** in May 1997. A public hearing to present the DEIS was held on May 21, 1997 in Palau. The DEIS was subsequently revised to incorporate the results of additional studies and to address public and agency comments on the original DEIS. After receipt of comments on the revised DEIS, a Final EIS will be prepared. The Notice of Availability of the revised DEIS was announced in the **Federal Register** on February 19, 1998. Comments on the Revised DEIS have been considered in preparing the Final EIS.

The Proposed Action calls for construction of a safe, high-quality, all-weather, two-lane paved vehicular road system on the island of Babeldaob. This roadway has been configured as a loop system with a northern spur to serve as a direct transportation and communication link between the 10 states on Babeldaob Island. Additionally, the road would provide access through, or be near known areas having potential for agriculture, forestry, mining and quarrying, industry and tourism, and water resource and port development. It would also provide a land-based transportation corridor to and from the proposed site of the Republic of Palau's new capital in Melekeok State.

The Final EIS will be used by the Department of the Interior in reaching a final decision and developing a final array of measures to avoid, or mitigate adverse impacts. The Record of Decision will be approved at least 30 days after publication of the Final EIS to allow for public review and comment on the Final EIS.

Copies of the Final EIS are also available for review at the following locations: Republic of Palau Ministry of Resources and Development, Palau Environmental Quality Protection Board, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Palau Compact Road Field Office, on the third floor of the WCTC building in Koror.

Dated: July 17, 1998.

**Willie R. Taylor,**

*Director, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance, Department of the Interior.*  
[FR Doc. 98-19711 Filed 7-23-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-RK-M

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Notice of Intent to Prepare a Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Associated Environmental Impact Statement

**SUMMARY:** This notice advises the public that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is preparing a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and an Environmental Impact Statement for Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge, Stevens County, Washington. The Service is furnishing this notice in compliance with Service CCP policy and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and implementing regulations for the following purposes: (1) to advise other agencies and the public of our intentions; (2) to obtain suggestions and information on the preliminary alternatives which have been drafted for the EIS; and (3) to announce public open house meetings.

**DATES:** Submit comments on or before August 24, 1998. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for meeting dates and locations.

**ADDRESSES:** Address comments and requests for more information to: Refuge Manager, Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge, 1310 Bear Creek Road, Colville, Washington 99114.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Lisa Langelier, Refuge Manager (509) 684-8384.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Service started the process of developing a management plan for Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge (Little Pend Oreille NWR) in 1995. Open houses and public meetings were held in 1995, 1996, and 1997. A previous notice was published in the **Federal Register** (61 FR 65591, Dec. 13, 1996).

Persons and organizations involved in the scoping process include: the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service; U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service; Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife; U.S. Air Force; members of national, state and local conservation organizations; timber industry representatives; grazing permittees; inholders and neighboring landowners; and other interested citizens. Comments and concerns received have been used to identify issues and draft preliminary alternatives.

Major issues to be addressed in the plan include grazing; management of degraded aquatic and riparian habitats; overstocked forest habitats; military training; and various recreational public uses. The plan will include the

following topics: (a) an assessment of existing biological, physical, and cultural resources, and their condition; (b) identification of the long term goals and objectives of the refuge, consistent with the National Wildlife Refuge System mission; (c) strategies for habitat management, including actions for forests, riparian areas, water courses, reservoirs, wetlands, and old farm fields; (d) strategies for management of public access and uses, including hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, environmental education and interpretation, camping, horseback riding, mountain-bike riding, and snowmobiling; and (e) strategies for management of other special uses including military training and grazing.

Draft management goals are intended to guide the future management of Little Pend Oreille NWR. They are: (1) Conserve, enhance and restore native forest, riparian, in-stream, and wetland habitats and associated migratory birds, other wildlife, fish and plants. (2) Monitor, protect and recover plants and animals that are threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species and species of special concern. (3) Provide opportunities for wildlife-dependent recreation, education, and research to enhance public appreciation, understanding, and enjoyment of refuge, wildlife, fish and their habitats.

A range of preliminary alternatives are being considered in the plan:

(A) The No Action Alternative—Make no changes to the prevailing practices and uses at the refuge.

(B) Restore Wildlife Habitat While Managing Existing public Uses—This alternative combines an active forest and riparian restoration program with minimal change to existing public uses.

(C) Restore Wildlife Habitat While Emphasizing Priority Uses—This alternative adopts a greater emphasis on priority uses identified under the Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (PL 105-57) and eliminates or reduces non-priority uses. This alternative also incorporates a strong forest and riparian restoration program.

(D) Manage the Refuge as an Ecological Reserve and Reduce Human Disturbances—This alternative minimizes human access and use of the refuge while conducting a moderate restoration program, with a greater emphasis on hydrologic restoration than other alternatives.

(E) The Caretaker Strategy With Minimal Public Services Alternative—This alternative minimizes management, reduces public uses, and would minimize staffing needs.

With the publication of this notice, the public is encouraged to attend

public open houses and/or submit written comments on the preliminary management alternatives. Comments already received are on record and need not be resubmitted.

Two public open houses will be held as follows:

July 29, 4pm–8pm, Colville High School, 154 Highway 20 East, Colville, Washington. (Presentation on alternatives at 6:30 pm)

July 30, 4pm–8pm, Inland NW Wildlife Council Building, 616 North Market St., Spokane, Washington. (Presentation on alternatives at 6:30 pm)

All comments received from individuals on Environmental Assessments and Environmental Impact Statements become part of the official public record. Requests for such comments will be handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA regulations [40 CFR 1506.6(f)], and other Service and Departmental policy and procedures. When requested, the Service generally will provide comment letters with the names and addresses of the individuals who wrote the comments. However, the telephone number of the commenting individual will not be provided in response to such requests to the extent permissible by law. Additionally, public comment letters are not required to contain the commentator's name, address, or other identifying information. Such comments may be submitted anonymously to the Service.

The environmental review of this project will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), NEPA Regulations (40 CFR 1500–1508), other appropriate Federal laws and regulations, the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, and Service policies and procedures for compliance with those regulations.

We estimate that the draft CCP / Environmental Impact Statement will be available in November, 1998.

Dated: July 10, 1998.

**Don Weathers,**

*Acting Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.*

[FR Doc. 98–19727 Filed 7–23–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–55–P

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Bureau of Land Management**

[AK–962–1410–00–P]

**Alaska Native Claims Selection**

In accordance with Departmental regulation 43 CFR 2650.7(d), notice is hereby given that a decision approving lands for conveyance under the provisions of Sec. 14(h)(8) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of December 18, 1971, 43 U.S.C. 1601, 1613(h)(8), will be issued to the Bering Straits Native Corporation for 3,840 acres. The lands involved are in the vicinity of Marys Igloo, Alaska, and are within T. 5 S., R. 30 W., Kateel River Meridian, Alaska.

A notice of the decision will be published once a week, for four (4) consecutive weeks, in the Nome Nugget. Copies of the decision may be obtained by contacting the Alaska State Office of the Bureau of Land Management, 222 West Seventh Avenue, #13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513–7599 ((907) 271–5960).

Any party claiming a property interest which is adversely affected by the decision, an agency of the Federal government, or regional corporation, shall have until August 24, 1998, to file an appeal. However, parties receiving service by certified mail shall have 30 days from the date of receipt to file an appeal. Appeals must be filed in the Bureau of Land Management at the address identified above, where the requirements for filing an appeal may be obtained. Parties who do not file an appeal in accordance with the requirements of 43 CFR Part 4, Subpart E, shall be deemed to have waived their rights.

**Heather A. Coats,**

*Land Law Examiner, ANCSA Team, Branch of 962 Adjudication.*

[FR Doc. 98–19782 Filed 7–23–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–55–P

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Bureau of Land Management**

[CO–030–08–1010–00–1784]

**Southwest Resource Advisory Council Meeting.**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior

**ACTION:** Notice; Resource Advisory Council Meeting

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 USC), notice is hereby given that the Southwest Resource Advisory Council

(Southwest RAC) will meet in Gunnison, Colorado.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Thursday, August 13, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** For additional information, contact Roger Alexander, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Montrose District Office, 2465 South Townsend Avenue, Montrose, Colorado 81401; telephone 970–240–5335; TDD 970–240–5366; e-mail r2alexan@co.blm.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The August 13, 1998, meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. in the Aspinall-Wilson Center, South Room, 909 Escalante Drive, Gunnison, Colorado. The agenda will include discussions on the Montrose District's Fiscal Year 1999 Annual Work Plan priorities and updates on implementation of the Gunnison Sage Grouse Plan, the recreation guidelines, and on-going exchange efforts in the Montrose District. Time will be provided for public comments at 9:30 a.m.

All Resource Advisory Council meetings are open to the public. Interested persons may make oral statements to the Council, or written statements may be submitted for the Council's consideration. If necessary, a per-person time limit may be established by the Montrose District Manager.

Summary minutes for Council meetings are maintained in the Montrose District Office and on the World Wide Web at [http://www.co.blm.gov/mdo/mdo\\_sw\\_rac.htm](http://www.co.blm.gov/mdo/mdo_sw_rac.htm) and are available for public inspection and reproduction within thirty (30) days following each meeting.

Dated: July 20, 1998.

**Roger Alexander,**

*Public Affairs Specialist.*

[FR Doc. 98–19776 Filed 7–23–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–JB–P

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Bureau of Land Management**

[AZ–020–08–A155; AZA–29932]

**Notice of Realty Action Noncompetitive Sale of Public Lands in Maricopa County, Arizona**

**AGENCY:** City of Glendale, BLM, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of Realty Action, Noncompetitive Sale.

**SUMMARY:** The following public lands have been found suitable for direct sale under Section 203 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (90 Stat. 2750; 43 U.S.C. 1713), at not less