

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service****Notice of Availability of the Final Comprehensive Management Plan and Environmental Assessment for the Tijuana Slough National Wildlife Refuge**

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is proposing to implement the Comprehensive Management Plan for the Tijuana Slough National Wildlife Refuge. Based on an evaluation of an Environmental Assessment, it was determined that the implementation of the Comprehensive Management Plan is not a major Federal action which would significantly affect the quality of the human environment within the meaning of section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Accordingly, preparation of an environmental impact statement on the proposed action is not required.

The purpose of the Comprehensive Management Plan is to guide Refuge management decisions and to identify strategies to meet the goals and objectives of the Tijuana Slough Refuge and National Wildlife Refuge System. The Comprehensive Management Plan addresses the following management issues, functions, and programs: administrative framework; resources protection, management, and restoration; research and monitoring; education and interpretation; public involvement, use, and access; facilities development; appropriate and compatible Refuge uses determination; and watershed coordination between the United States and Mexico.

The Environmental Assessment evaluates the alternatives and analyzes the environmental effects of implementing the Comprehensive Management Plan. The two alternatives evaluated in the Environmental Assessment provide different levels of wildlife management and visitor services opportunities. The Service selected Alternative A which would implement the Comprehensive Management Plan to provide increased levels of wildlife management and visitor services and determined that implementation of this alternative would not have a significant impact upon the quality of the human environment.

ADDRESSES: Documents are available for public inspection at the San Diego National Wildlife Refuge Complex, 2736

Loker Avenue West, Suite A, Carlsbad, CA 92008, phone (760) 930-0168, Tijuana Slough National Wildlife Refuge, 301 Caspian Way, Imperial Beach, CA 91932, phone (619) 575-2704, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Refuges and Wildlife, Division of Refuge Planning, 911 NE 11th Avenue, Portland, OR 97232, phone (503) 231-2231. These documents are also available at www.r1.fws.gov/planning/plnhome.html/.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background Information**

The Tijuana Slough Refuge provides habitat for several endangered, threatened, and migratory species. The salt marsh, tidal channels, mudflats, sand beaches, and dunes provide habitat for the endangered light-footed clapper rail, endangered California least tern, endangered brown pelican, endangered salt marsh bird's beak, threatened western snowy plover, State-endangered Belding's savannah sparrow, and many species of migratory shorebirds and waterfowl. The riparian woodlands provide habitat for the endangered least Bell's vireo, endangered southwestern willow flycatcher, and many species of migratory birds.

Two alternatives are analyzed in the Environmental Assessment. Alternative A (selected alternative) would implement increased levels of both wildlife management and visitor services at the Tijuana Slough Refuge. Alternative B (no action) would implement existing levels of wildlife management and visitor services at the Tijuana Slough Refuge. The Environmental Assessment also analyzes the environmental effects of (1) predator management, (2) construction of new office and classroom space, (3) acquisition of additional lands along Sea Coast Drive, (4) annual sand dune maintenance, (5) relocation of damaged trails in the Tijuana River Floodplain, and (6) emergency dredging of the mouths of Oneonta Slough and Tijuana River.

The environmental review of the Refuge Comprehensive Management Plan and associated Environmental Assessment was conducted in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), NEPA regulations (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 668dd *et seq.*), other appropriate Federal laws and regulations, and Service policies and procedures for compliance with those regulations.

Dated: October 5, 1999.

Elizabeth H. Stevens,
Acting Manager, California/Nevada Operations.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Land Management**

[CA-320-1820-XQ]

Notice of Resource Advisory Council Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Northeast California Resource Advisory Council, Cedarville, California.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the authorities in the Federal Advisory Committees Act (Public Law 92-463) and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (Public Law 94-579), the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's Northeast California Resource Advisory Council will meet Friday, Nov. 12, 1999, at the Fellowship Hall of the Cedarville Community Church, corner of Center and Bonner Streets, Cedarville, California.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting begins at 10 a.m. Agenda items include an update on Grass Banking, a status report on a proposal to list the sage grouse under the Endangered Species Act, and a report from the council's off highway vehicle working group. The council will also hear reports on the status of a proposal to designate a National Conservation Area in parts of the Black Rock Desert and High Rock Canyon, and discuss possible work on developing land use guidelines for rangeland uses other than livestock grazing. Time will be set aside at 1 p.m. for public comments. Depending on the number of persons wishing to speak, a time limit may be established.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: BLM Alturas Field Manager Tim Burke at (530) 257-4666.

Joseph J. Fontana,
Public Affairs Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Reclamation****Bay-Delta Advisory Council Meeting**

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.