

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the BLM Planning Regulations (43 CFR 1600) this notice advises the public that the Arizona Strip Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, is proposing to amend the Arizona Strip Resource Management Plan to establish allowable resource uses on the Lee's Ferry Allotment. This notice supercedes and replaces a previous similar notice published in the **Federal Register** (Vol. 62, No. 247, page 67401) on December 24, 1997. In accordance with 43 CFR part 4100.0-8 "The authorized officer shall manage livestock grazing on public lands under the principle of multiple use and sustained yield, and in accordance with the applicable land use plans. Land use plans shall establish allowable resource uses (either singly or in combination), related levels of production or use to be maintained, areas of use, * * *". The Bureau of Land Management, in cooperation with the current holder of the grazing privileges associated with the Lee's Ferry Allotment, desires to retire some or all of the associated grazing privileges in order to enhance wilderness values and to alleviate conflicts between livestock and recreation use in the Paria River Canyon corridor.

The main issues anticipated in this plan amendment are: (1) Potential impacts on recreational opportunities; (2) and potential impacts on the socio-economics of Coconino County, Arizona.

This amendment is limited to the area contained within the Lee's Ferry Allotment on the Arizona Strip.

A land use plan amendment and environmental analysis will be prepared for the subject lands by an interdisciplinary team including range, wildlife, and recreation specialists.

DATES: Interested parties may submit comments to the Field Manager at the address shown below on or before April 12, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Phil Seegmiller, Arizona Strip Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, 345 E. Riverside Drive, St. George, Utah 84790, (435) 688-3222 to obtain additional information regarding this plan amendment. Existing land use plans and maps of the subject area are available for review at the Interagency Office in St. George, Utah.

Roger G. Taylor,
Field Manager.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Study Recommending a Timbisha Shoshone Tribal Homeland In and Around Death Valley National Park, Inyo County, California and Esmeralda and Nye Counties, Nevada; Notice of Intent To Prepare a Legislative Environmental Impact Statement

SUMMARY: Under the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190) and the California Desert Protection Act (P.L. 103-433, Title VII, § 705), the National Park Service has initiated an environmental impact analysis process for a Secretarial Report to Congress regarding a proposal to establish a permanent Timbisha Shoshone Tribal Homeland in and around Death Valley National Park. Furthermore, regulations created by the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR 1508) provide that any "proposal for legislation" must be accompanied by an environmental impact statement. (42 U.S.C.A. section 4332(2)c.). A Legislative Environmental Impact Statement (LEIS) is an abbreviated version of an Environmental Impact Statement which may be prepared on an expedited timetable to ensure proper consideration in Congressional hearings and deliberations.

Background

The U.S. Department of the Interior (Department) is considering the transfer of federal lands and acquisition of private lands to be held in trust for the Timbisha Shoshone Tribe. The transfers and acquisitions are for the purposes of creating a tribal homeland in and around Death Valley National Park.

The initial Notice of Scoping was published in the **Federal Register** on April 19, 1999 (V64, N74, PP19193-19194) announcing public meetings and other scoping activities so as to initiate an environmental impact analysis process for the Draft Secretarial Report to Congress. The Secretary of the Interior's draft report, The Timbisha Shoshone Tribal Homeland-A Draft Secretarial Report to Congress to Establish a Permanent Tribal Land Base and Related Cooperative Activities was released for public comment in May 1999.

Over 500 comments were received through July 1999, and the responses addressed a spectrum of regulatory, socio-economic and environmental issues. On September 20, 1999 the Final Scoping Summary Document was released to the public characterizing the nature of public response and comment

letters received on the Draft Secretarial Report.

In October 1999, the Department determined that the National Park Service would serve as the lead agency. The Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Indian Affairs, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Nye County, Nevada have been cooperators to this project.

Alternatives

In addition to a no-action alternative, the proposed action is primarily to recommend that Congress authorize the transfer of several parcels of lands as identified in the Draft Secretarial Report currently managed by NPS and BLM in California and Nevada. Authorization for the Department to expend appropriated funds for the purchase of several parcels of private land from willing sellers in California and Nevada is also being proposed. All transacted lands would be taken into trust for the Timbisha Shoshone Tribe by the Secretary of the Interior.

For Current Information

Written communications may be addressed to the Superintendent, Death Valley National Park, Post Office Box 579, Death Valley, California 92328. For current information about the ongoing LEIS effort, please contact: Joan DeGraff, Project Manager, (760) 255-8830, or utilize the park website (www.nps.gov/deva).

Approval Process

The Department officials responsible for approval are: the Assistant Secretary Fish, Wildlife and Parks; the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management; and the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs. If approved, the proposal would subsequently be submitted by the Secretary of the Interior to Congress for consideration. If enacted, the National Park Service officials responsible for implementation would be the Superintendent, Death Valley National Park and the Regional Director, Pacific West Region; as well as the State Directors, Bureau of Land Management, Nevada and California; the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs; and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Central California Agency. The draft LEIS is expected to be available for public review in spring, 2000. At this time it is anticipated that the final LEIS will be completed in summer, 2000.

Dated: March 6, 2000.

John J. Reynolds,

Regional Director, Pacific West Region.

[FR Doc. 00-6112 Filed 3-10-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

General Management Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement, Glen Echo Park, Maryland; Notice of Intent

In accordance with Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the National Park Service (NPS) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to assess the impacts of alternative management strategies for the General Management Plan (GMP) for Glen Echo Park, Maryland, which is a unit within the George Washington Memorial Parkway.

The GMP/EIS will evaluate a range of alternatives which address cultural and natural resources protection, socioeconomic concerns, traffic circulation and visitor use and will incorporate findings from studies prepared on transportation issues and financial aspects of managing the park.

Public involvement will be a key component in preparation of the General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

NPS held a public scoping meeting/open house on February 3, 1998 at the Clara Barton Community Center. Through a workshop format, the meeting provided an overview of the planning effort and an opportunity for the public to discuss their concerns with park staff and provide oral and written comments. Those unable to attend submitted their comments through the mail or over the Internet.

The draft GMP and EIS are expected to be completed and available for public review by the winter of 2000. After public and interagency review of the draft document, comments will be considered and a final GMP and EIS will be prepared for release by the summer, 2000, which will be followed by a record of decision. The responsible official is the Regional Director, National Capital Region, National Park Service. Written comments should be submitted to the Superintendent of George Washington Memorial Parkway, c/o Turkey Run Park, McLean, Virginia 22101 or via e-mail at GWMP_Superintendent@nps.gov.

Joseph M. Lawler,

Acting, Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 00-6113 Filed 3-10-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Saratoga National Historical Park, Saratoga County, New York; Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Notice of Public Meetings

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P. L. 91-109 section 102(c)), the National Park Service (NPS) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Saratoga National Historical Park (NHP), located in the towns of Stillwater, and Saratoga, Saratoga County, New York. The purpose of the EIS is to assess the impacts of alternative management strategies that will be described in the general management plan for Saratoga NHP. A range of alternatives will be formulated for natural and cultural resource protection, visitor use and interpretation, facilities development, and operations.

The NPS will hold two (2) public meetings during the week of March 27, 2000 which will provide an opportunity for public input into the scoping for the GMP/EIS. On Tuesday, March 28, 2000 at 4 p.m., a meeting will be held at the Stillwater Community Center, Community Room, 19 Palmer Street in Stillwater, New York. On Wednesday, March 29 at 7:00 PM, a meeting will be held at the Schuylerville School Administration Office, 18 Spring Street (Route 29) in Schuylerville, New York. The purpose of these meetings is to obtain both written and verbal comments concerning the future direction and development of Saratoga NHP. Those persons who wish to comment verbally or in writing or who require further information should contact Doug Lindsay, Superintendent, Saratoga NHP, 648 Route 32, Stillwater, NY 12170, (518) 664-9821.

The draft GMP/EIS is expected to be completed and available for public review in late 2001. After public and interagency review of the draft document comments will be considered, and a final EIS will be prepared, followed by a Record of Decision.

Dated: February 22, 2000.

Douglas Lindsay,

Superintendent, Saratoga National Historical Park.

[FR Doc. 00-6111 Filed 3-10-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

Bay-Delta Advisory Council's Ecosystem Roundtable Issues Subcommittee Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Bay-Delta Advisory Council's (BDAC) Ecosystem Roundtable will meet to discuss the 2001 proposal solicitation package, water acquisition, and other topics. This meeting is open to the public. Interested persons may make oral statements to the Ecosystem Roundtable or may file written statements for consideration.

DATES: The BDAC's Ecosystem Roundtable meeting will be held from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm on Thursday, March 30, 2000.

ADDRESSES: The Ecosystem Roundtable will meet at the Resources Building, Room 1131, 1416 Ninth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Wendy Halverson Martin, CALFED Bay-Delta Program at (916) 657-2666. If reasonable accommodation is needed due to a disability, please contact the Equal Employment Opportunity Office at (916) 653-6952 or TDD (916) 653-6934 at least one week prior to the meeting.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Bay-Delta system) is a critically important part of California's natural environment and economy. In recognition of the serious problems facing the region and the complex resource management decisions that must be made, the state of California and the Federal government are working together to stabilize, protect, restore, and enhance the Bay-Delta system. The State and Federal agencies with management and regulatory responsibilities in the Bay-Delta system are working together as CALFED to provide policy direction and oversight for the process.

One area of Bay-Delta management includes the establishment of a joint State-Federal process to develop long-term solutions to problems in the Bay-Delta system related to fish and wildlife, water supply reliability, natural disasters, and water quality. The intent is to develop a comprehensive and balanced plan which addresses all of the resource problems. This effort, the CALFED Bay-Delta Program (Program), is being carried out under the policy