

chemical contamination at the Jack's Creek/Sitkin Smelting Site.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before August 31, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Requests for copies of the Draft NRRP may be made to: Mark Roberts, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pennsylvania Field Office, 315 South Allen Street, Suite 322, State College, Pennsylvania 16801.

Written comments or materials regarding the Draft NRRP should be sent to the same address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Mark Roberts, Environmental Contaminants Branch, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pennsylvania Field Office, 315 South Allen Street, Suite 322, State College, Pennsylvania 16801. Interested parties may also call (814) 234-4090 or send e-mail to mark\_roberts@fws.gov for further information.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under the authority of the Comprehensive Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, as amended (CERCLA), "natural resource trustees may assess damages to natural resources resulting from a discharge of oil or a release of a hazardous substance \* \* \* and may seek to recover those damages." Natural resource damage assessments are separate from the cleanup actions undertaken at a hazardous waste site, and provide a process whereby the natural resource trustees can determine the proper compensation to the public for injury to natural resources. At the Jack's Creek/Sitkin Smelting Site in Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, DOI was the sole natural resource trustee involved in the federal government's settlement with de minimus responsible parties. The Service determined that contamination at the Site had degraded habitat and injured trust resources (migratory birds). The injuries resulted from the exposure of migratory birds (such as killdeer, eastern bluebird, song sparrow, purple finch, American goldfinch, American robin, eastern phoebe, mourning doves, wood thrush, yellow warbler, and various species of waterfowl and shorebirds) to cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, mercury, selenium, silver, and zinc contamination in at least 5 acres of wetlands and 37 acres of upland habitat on the site.

As part of a Consent decree requiring remedial actions at the Jack's Creek/Sitkin Smelting Site, DOI agreed to a monetary settlement with de minimus responsible parties for natural resource damages. The settlement of \$128,908 was designated for restoration, replacement, or acquisition of the

equivalent natural resources injured by the release of contaminants at the site, and included reimbursement for costs related to assessing the damages.

The Draft NRRP is being released in accordance with the Natural Resource Damage Assessment Regulations found at Title 43, Part 11 of the Code of Federal Regulations. The Draft NRRP describes habitat restoration and protection alternatives identified by the DOI, and evaluates each of the possible alternatives based on all relevant considerations. The DOI's Preferred Alternative entails the use of the settlement funds to restore several acres of wetlands and upland habitat located within the Jack's Creek watershed. Details regarding the proposed project is contained in the Draft NRRP.

The Final Revised Procedures for the Service in implementing the National Environmental Protection Act were published in the **Federal Register** on January 16, 1997. That publication provides for a categorical exclusion for natural resource damage assessment restoration plans prepared under CERCLA when only minor or negligible change in the use of the affected areas is planned. The DOI has determined that the Preferred Alternative will result in only minor change in the use of the affected area. Accordingly this Restoration Plan qualifies for a categorical exclusion under NEPA.

Interested members of the public are invited to review and comment on the Draft NRRP. Copies of the Draft NRRP are available from the Service's Pennsylvania Field Office at 315 South Allen Street, Suite 322, State College, Pennsylvania 16801. Additionally the Draft NRRP is available for review at the Mifflin County Library located at 123 North Wayne Street, Lewistown, Pennsylvania. All comments received on the Draft NRRP will be considered and a response provided either through revision of this Draft Plan and incorporation into the Final Natural Resource Restoration Plan, or by letter to the commentator.

**Author:** The primary author of this notice is Mark Roberts, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pennsylvania Field Office, 315 South Allen Street, Suite 322, State College, Pennsylvania 16801.

**Authority:** The authority for this action is the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, as amended ("CERCLA"), 42 U.S.C.

Dated: July 24, 2000.

**John R. Lemon,**

*Acting Deputy Regional Director, Region 5, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310-55-M**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Bureau of Indian Affairs**

**St. Croix Meadows Racing Park, Draft Environmental Assessment; Notice of Availability**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of the Interior (DOI) announces the availability for public review and comment the draft environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed acquisition of the St. Croix Meadows Racing Park in trust for the Sokaogon Chippewa Community of Wisconsin, Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa and Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa (Tribes), located in Hudson, St. Croix County, Wisconsin.

**DATES:** DOI invites all interested parties to submit comments on the draft EA during a comment period ending August 30, 2000. Written comments must be postmarked by August 30, 2000 to ensure consideration. Comments postmarked after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments on the draft EA should be directed to: Nancy Pierskalla, Office of Indian Gaming Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, 1849 C Street NW, MS 2070 MIB, Washington, DC 20240; by telefax at (202) 273-3153, or via the Internet: nancypierskalla@bia.gov. The draft EA is available electronically through the Internet at [www.doi.gov/bia/gaming/hudson.htm](http://www.doi.gov/bia/gaming/hudson.htm). Copies of the draft EA are also available for review at the Hudson Public Library, 911 4th Street, Hudson, Wisconsin 54016, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Midwest Regional Office, One Federal Drive, Room 550, Fort Snelling, Minnesota 55111, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Great Lakes Agency, 615 West Main, Ashland, Wisconsin 54806.

If you prefer to send your comments through the Internet, use the following address: [nancypierskalla@bia.gov](mailto:nancypierskalla@bia.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Nancy Pierskalla, Office of Indian Gaming Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, 1849 C Street NW, MS 2070 MIB, Washington, DC 20240; by telephone at (202) 219-4066; or by telefax at (202) 273-3153.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** By letter dated March 23, 2000, Roger McGeshick, Jr, Chairman, Sokaogon Chippewa Community of Wisconsin, gaiashkibos, Chairman, Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, and Jean Buffalo-Reyes, Chairwoman, Red

Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin (collectively referred to as the Tribes), submitted to the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs (AS-IA), the Tribes application for a two-part Secretarial determination that a gaming establishment on a 55.82 acre parcel of land to be acquired in trust for the benefit of the Tribes in Hudson, St. Croix County, Wisconsin, is in the best interest of the Tribe and its members, and not detrimental to the surrounding community, in accordance with Section 20(b)(1)(A) of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA), 25 U.S.C. § 2719(b)(1)(A).

The Tribes intend to use the Hudson Property for Class III gaming purposes. The main building of the St. Croix Meadows Racing Facility consists of a two story grandstand with a mezzanine level. The grandstand has two full floors, an intermediate mezzanine and a small rooftop booth area. The enclosed area of the grandstand is approximately 160,000 square feet. The ground floor area is 64,000 square feet, the mezzanine area is 32,000 square feet, the upper "grandstand" floor is 62,000 square feet, and a booth area of 2,600 square feet is at the roof level. A transitional plan has been developed for the retrofitting of the facility. The first phase will include the opening of the temporary casino in the clubhouse area on the second floor. The temporary facility will contain approximately 1,000 gaming machines and 15 table games. Pari-mutual areas will be maintained in the terrace areas adjacent to the structural glass wall overlooking the racetrack. There are existing food and beverage and lounge areas on this floor which will service both the temporary casino and pari-mutual operations.

The second phase of the operation is the development of the permanent casino which is expected to utilize approximately 50,000 square feet of the ground floor and contain 1,500 gaming machines and 30 table games. After the permanent casino is operating, the third floor temporary casino will be closed and converted into an upscale dining area and an extensive buffet restaurant area. Pari-mutual wagering will be offered along the glass on both the first and third floor gaming areas and in the sports bar area on the first floor.

The Bureau has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) under the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. 4321, *et seq.*, to evaluate the potential impacts of the trust acquisition and to assist it in determining whether an environmental impact statement is required for the proposed acquisition. In the EA, the BIA analyzes the impacts of

the proposed acquisition and the no action alternative (not acquiring the property in trust). Under the Settlement Agreement in Paragraph 10 in the case *Sokaogon Chippewa Community, et al., v. Babbitt, et al.*, Case No. 95-C-0659-C, the BIA is releasing the draft EA for a thirty-day public comment period. Comments will be accepted at the address listed in the ADDRESSES section of this notice.

Dated: July 25, 2000.

**Nancy Jemison,**

*Acting Deputy Commissioner of Indian Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 00-19275 Filed 7-28-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-02-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[OR-110-0777-30-24- 1A; HAG0-0303]

#### Notice of Intent to Prepare a Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement and Initiation of Public Scoping

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

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the National Environmental Policy Act, the Bureau of Land Management, Medford District, Ashland Resource Area will be preparing a Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument located in Jackson County, Oregon. The Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument was established by William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, on June 9, 2000. As a result of the national monument designation on federal land previously identified as the Cascade Siskiyou Ecological Emphasis Area, a supplemental draft environmental impact statement (SDEIS) to the Cascade Siskiyou Ecological Emphasis Area Draft Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (USDI/BLM March, 2000) will be prepared. Upon completion of the SDEIS and a 90 day public review period, a Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared. The planning process for the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument will follow the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) planning process found in 43 Code of Federal Regulations 1610. This notice amends the Notice of Intent [OR-110-0777-30-24-1A; HAG99-0298] to Prepare a Cascade-Siskiyou Ecological

Emphasis Area Plan/Environmental Impact Statement published in the **Federal Register** (Vol. 64, No. 166) on Friday, August 27, 1999.

**DATES:** Written scoping comments for the supplemental draft environmental impact statement will be accepted through August 31, 2000. Comments previously received on the Cascade Siskiyou Ecological Emphasis Area Draft Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement will be used in preparing the supplemental draft environmental impact statement. No public scoping meetings are scheduled.

The tentative project schedule is as follows:

1. Analyze comments, identify and address additional issues and develop appropriate alternative(s), if necessary.

2. File Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement—December 2000 (90 day public review period).

3. File Final Environmental Impact Statement—July 2001 (30 day public review period).

4. Record of Decision—October 2001.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument consists of the federal and managed by the Bureau of Land Management previously identified as the analysis area in the Cascade Siskiyou Ecological Emphasis Area (CSEEA) Draft Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (USDI/BLM March, 2000), with the addition of appropriately 290 acres and the exclusion of all lands in California. The National Monument is an ecological wonder, with biological diversity unmatched in the Cascade Range. This rich enclave of natural resources is a biological crossroads—the interface of the Cascade, Klamath, and Siskiyou ecoregions, in an area of unique geology, biology, climate, and topography. The Monument is home to a spectacular variety of rare and beautiful species of plants and animals, whose survival in this region depends upon its continued ecological integrity.

The Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument encompasses the following special designated areas on land managed by the Bureau of Land Management in Oregon.

- Soda Mountain Wilderness Study Area recommended for wilderness designation (5,867 ac.);
- Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail;
- Four Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, including two Research Natural Areas;
- Portions of land previously recognized as a Late-Successional Reserve before the monument designation.