

monitoring programs while continuing to provide habitats for the benefit of migratory birds. The refuge would also continue to furnish benefits to federally threatened and endangered species.

Land acquisition and resource protection efforts at Wolf Island National Wildlife Refuge would be intensified. Efforts to control invasive species would commence and efforts would be made to reduce beach erosion. In the Service's Private Lands Program, staff would work with private landowners of adjacent properties to manage and improve habitats. Staff would also explore opportunities with partners to expand land and habitat protection efforts.

The refuge would develop and begin to implement a Cultural Resources Management Plan (CRMP). Until such time as the CRMP is completed and implemented, the refuge would follow standard Service protocols and procedures in conducting cultural resource surveys by qualified professionals in consultation with the Regional Historic Preservation Officer (RHPO) and the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO).

*Alternative C—Ecosystem Management (Proposed Action)*

Under Alternative C, the refuge would practice ecosystem management, recognizing the ecological role of Wolf Island National Wildlife Refuge within the interrelated Altamaha River Basin and coastal barrier island ecosystem. Human activities and natural processes within these ecosystems influence the refuge in a variety of ways. Alternative C explicitly commits the Service to acknowledge these influences and cooperate with other stakeholders in ways that will ensure the continued protection and enhancement of the ecosystem's natural resources.

As with Alternative B, the refuge would strive to optimize its biological program, recognizing that there may be tradeoffs and opportunity costs between the various elements of the biological programs envisioned. However, Alternative C emphasizes a broader ecosystem approach than Alternative B, which is narrowly focused on the refuge.

The refuge would conduct baseline inventorying and monitoring programs with several partners to investigate threats and opportunities within the ecosystem as they may impact refuge goals and objectives. The Service and our partners would continue to furnish benefits to the ecosystem's native flora and fauna under Alternative C. The refuge would also continue to furnish

benefits to federally threatened and endangered species.

Under Alternative C, land acquisition and resource protection within the ecosystem would be intensified. Control of invasive species would commence and efforts would be made to reduce beach erosion. Service staff would work with partners to manage and improve habitats within the ecosystem. Staff would also explore opportunities with partners to expand land and habitat protection efforts.

The refuge would develop and begin to implement a CRMP. Until such time as the CRMP is completed and implemented, the refuge would follow standard Service protocol and procedures in conducting cultural resource surveys by qualified professionals in consultation with the RHPO and the SHPO.

**Next Step**

After the comment period ends, we will analyze the comments and address them in the form of a final CCP and Finding of No Significant Impact.

**Public Availability of Comments**

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

**Authority:** This notice is published under the authority of the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, Public Law 105-57.

Dated: April 24, 2008.

**Cynthia K. Dohner,**

*Acting Regional Director.*

[FR Doc. E8-13166 Filed 6-11-08; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-55-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Bureau of Land Management**

**[F-14839-A, F-14839-A2; AK-965-1410-KC-P]**

**Alaska Native Claims Selection**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of decision approving lands for conveyance.

**SUMMARY:** As required by 43 CFR 2650.7(d), notice is hereby given that an appealable decision approving lands for

conveyance pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act will be issued to Kongnikilnomuit Yuita Corporation. The lands are in the vicinity of Bill Moores Slough, Alaska, and are located in:

U.S. Survey No. 10963, Alaska.  
Containing 5.67 acres.

**Seward Meridian, Alaska**

T. 33 N., R. 74 W.,

Secs. 2, 10, 11, and 14;

Secs. 15, 22, 23, and 26;

Secs. 27, 34, and 35.

Containing approximately 5,661 acres.

T. 32 N., R. 75 W.,

Secs. 1, 2, 11, and 12;

Secs. 13, 14, and 23;

Containing approximately 4,336 acres.

T. 31 N., R. 76 W.,

Secs. 6, 7, and 10.

Containing approximately 1,800 acres.

T. 31 N., R. 77 W.,

Sec. 1.

Containing approximately 540 acres.

T. 32 N., R. 77 W.,

Secs. 2, 23, and 26.

Containing approximately 1,694 acres.

T. 33 N., R. 77 W.,

Secs. 12 and 36.

Containing approximately 908 acres.

Aggregating approximately 14,944.67 acres.

A portion of the subsurface estate in these lands will be conveyed to Calista Corporation when the surface estate is conveyed to Kongnikilnomuit Yuita Corporation. The remaining lands lie within Clarence Rhode National Wildlife Range, established January 20, 1969. The subsurface estate in the refuge lands will be reserved to the United States at the time of conveyance. Notice of the decision will also be published four times in the Tundra Drums.

**DATES:** The time limits for filing an appeal are:

1. Any party claiming a property interest which is adversely affected by the decision shall have until July 14, 2008 to file an appeal.

2. Parties receiving service of the decision by certified mail shall have 30 days from the date of receipt to file an appeal.

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.

**ADDRESSES:** A copy of the decision may be obtained from: Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Office, 222 West Seventh Avenue, #13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7504.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** The Bureau of Land Management by phone at 907-271-5960, or by e-mail at [ak.blm.conveyance@ak.blm.gov](mailto:ak.blm.conveyance@ak.blm.gov). Persons who use a telecommunication device

(TTD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8330, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to contact the Bureau of Land Management.

**Robert Childers,**

*Land Law Examiner, Land Transfer Adjudication II.*

[FR Doc. E8-13172 Filed 6-11-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-JA-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

#### Notice of Availability for the Draft Elk Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for Wind Cave National Park, South Dakota

**AGENCY:** National Park Service.

**ACTION:** Notice of Availability for the Draft Elk Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for Wind Cave National Park, South Dakota.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)), the National Park Service (NPS) announces the availability of a draft Elk Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Wind Cave National Park, South Dakota (Park).

**DATES:** The draft EIS will remain available for public review for 60 days following the publishing of the notice of availability in the **Federal Register** by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Public meetings will be held during the 60-day review period, but the specific dates and locations will be announced in local and regional media sources of record and on the Park's Web site.

You may submit your comments by any one of several methods. You may comment via the Internet through the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment Web site (<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/wica>); simply click on the link to Elk Management Plan. You may mail comments to Superintendent Davila, Wind Cave National Park, 26611 U.S. Highway 385, Hot Springs, South Dakota 57747-9430. You may send comments to the Superintendent by facsimile at 605-745-4207. Finally, you may hand-deliver comments to the Park headquarters at the address above.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the draft EIS are available from the Superintendent, Wind Cave National Park, 26611 U.S. Highway 385, Hot Springs, South Dakota 57747-9430.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Park is proposing to manage its elk

population, primarily to prevent impacts to other natural resources in the park, which would occur as the herd size increases. The principal tool the Park had been using to keep population numbers in line with its historic management goals, translocation of live elk, is no longer an option because chronic wasting disease (CWD) is present in the elk population. Therefore, this planning process and the EIS were needed to examine alternatives to translocation. The purpose of this EIS is to identify elk management strategies for the Park that will help achieve elk population levels that are in balance with other native species in the Park, including wildlife and vegetation communities, natural ecosystem functions, and other Park resources.

Several alternative actions, including the No Action, were considered in the development of the draft EIS. These are summarized briefly here. Other alternatives were explored but dismissed; these are discussed in some detail in the draft EIS.

- **Alternative A—No Action:** No new management actions beyond those utilized as of the commencement of the EIS analysis would be undertaken to manage elk.

- **Alternative B (Preferred)—Hunting Outside the Park:** Wildlife "gates" would be installed along the boundary fence to allow elk but not bison movement. The gates would be closed during hunting seasons to minimize elk reentry into the Park. Hazing may be used to ensure the appropriate number of elk leave the Park.

- **Alternative C—Roundup/Live Ship or Euthanasia within Park:** The preferred method in this alternative is capture elk and ship them for slaughter and donation, assuming a partner(s) can be found to be responsible for the transport, slaughter/processing and donation of meat. Donations would be in accordance with the NPS Public Health Program guidelines and no CWD-positive carcasses would be donated. If no partner can be found, the elk would be killed at the park and the carcasses incinerated.

- **Alternative D—Sharpshooting:** Authorized agents (which include skilled volunteers) would reduce and maintain elk numbers in the Park. Carcasses would be removed from the backcountry and incinerated, or left in place if managers believe their breakdown is environmentally preferred. The CWD test samples will be taken from adult carcasses.

The following alternatives (E and F) are analyzed solely for maintenance of the elk population after initial reduction. At this time, the use of these

methods not been proven through science to effectively manage wildlife populations. The park would not use either of these alternatives unless future scientific studies prove these methods to be effective and efficient means of elk population control, and the preferred and adaptive management efforts fail to maintain elk population within the target range. Should this occur alternatives B and F may be carried out as follows.

- **Alternative E—Sterilization:** Reproductive cow elk would be surgically sterilized to reduce recruitment and growth of the herd. Because these techniques have not been used on free-ranging elk, this option would be used to maintain target population after initial reduction efforts. Sterilized cows would be marked (ear tag, freeze branding, etc.) to reduce the risk of these animals being hunted outside the Park or recaptured for sterilization inside the Park.

- **Alternative F—Fertility Control Agents:** Cow elk would be treated with chemical fertility control agents to limit calving. It is considered a population maintenance tool after initial reduction efforts. No chemical contraceptives meeting Park needs are currently available; however, future agents may become available and would be considered for use if they are: Effective with a single treatment, at least 85 percent effective, have appropriate approvals and certifications, safe for treated animals, without recognizable behavioral effects, safe for non-target animals, and effective for more than 1 year.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Contact Superintendent Davila at the address above or by telephone at 605-745-4600.

Before including your address, telephone number, electronic mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comments, you should be aware that your entire comment (including your personal identifying information) may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comments to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials, of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.