

Declared Disaster Assistance to Individuals and Households—Other Needs.)

W. Craig Fugate,

Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency.

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R1-R-2012-N171; 1265-0000-10137-S3]

#### Rose Atoll National Wildlife Refuge, American Samoa; Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability; announcement of meetings; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce the availability of our Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment (Draft CCP/EA) for the Rose Atoll National Wildlife Refuge (NWR/refuge) for public review and comment. In the Draft CCP/EA, we present two alternatives for managing this refuge for the next 15 years, as well as related compatibility determinations for the preferred alternative.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, please send your written comments by November 9, 2012. We will hold public meetings; see *Public Meetings* under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for dates, times, and locations.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments or view or obtain copies of the Draft CCP/EA by any of the following methods. You may request a hard copy or CD-ROM.

Agency Web site: [www.fws.gov/pacific/planning](http://www.fws.gov/pacific/planning) or <http://www.fws.gov/roseatoll/planning.html>.

Email:

[FW1PlanningComments@fws.gov](mailto:FW1PlanningComments@fws.gov).

Include "Rose Atoll National Wildlife Refuge Draft CCP/EA" in the subject line of the message.

Mail: Rose Atoll National Wildlife Refuge/Marine National Monument, c/o National Park Service, Pago Pago, AS 96799.

Fax: Attn: Refuge/Monument Manager, 684-699-3986.

In-Person Viewing or Pickup: Rose Atoll National Wildlife Refuge/Marine National Monument, c/o National Park Service, Pago Pago, AS 96799.

For more information on locations for viewing or obtaining documents, see

*Public Availability of Documents* under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Frank Pendleton, Refuge/Monument Manager, (684) 633-7082, ext. 15.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

#### Introduction

With this notice, we announce the availability of our Draft CCP/EA for Rose Atoll NWR. We started this process through a notice of intent (NOI) in the **Federal Register** (74 FR 57701; November 9, 2009).

Rose Atoll NWR is located in American Samoa and was established in 1973 to conserve and protect fish and wildlife resources.

#### Background

##### *The CCP Process*

The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (together referred to as the Refuge Administration Act), 16 U.S.C. 668dd-668ee, requires us to develop a CCP for each national wildlife refuge. The purpose for developing a CCP is to provide refuge managers with a 15-year plan for achieving refuge purposes and contributing toward the National Wildlife Refuge System mission, consistent with sound principles of fish and wildlife management, conservation, legal mandates, and our policies. We will review and update the CCP at least every 15 years in accordance with the Administration Act.

##### *Public Outreach*

We began the public scoping phase of the CCP planning process by publishing the NOI, which was followed by a series of public open houses in November 2009. Simultaneously, we released Planning Update 1, which identified initial issues for scoping. Planning Update 2 was released in May 2011 and identified the issues raised during public scoping that would be considered in the CCP process. We also met individually with partner agencies, elected officials, and others in the community. We considered all of the public comments received to date during development of the Draft CCP/EA.

#### Draft CCP Alternatives We Are Considering

During our CCP planning process, we identified several issues. To address these issues, we developed and evaluated the following alternatives in our Draft CCP/EA.

#### *Alternative A (No Action)*

Under Alternative A, existing refuge management activities would continue, including protection, maintenance, and restoration of habitats that support priority species, such as seabirds, shorebirds, turtles, native plants, reef fish, invertebrates, and coralline algae. Management activities include monitoring, pest species management, and restoration projects, such as the removal of debris from a 1993 shipwreck. The refuge is closed to the general public, and entry is limited to those who have been issued a special use permit (SUP).

#### *Alternative B (Preferred Alternative)*

Under Alternative B, enhanced habitat restoration, monitoring, and outreach are proposed. Increasing the frequency of management trips to the refuge and fortifying close partnerships with the American Samoa Government, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Park Service, U.S. Geological Survey, and other partners are key to this alternative. A remote sensing system would be set up to monitor nesting seabirds, turtles, and other wildlife. Restoration of the littoral forest on Rose Island by extirpating introduced ants and the scale insect (*Pulvenaria urbicola*), and propagating native forest trees would be explored. More frequent visits would allow for improved law enforcement oversight and compliance, and remote sensing would also provide better management and documentation of any unauthorized entry into the refuge. The refuge would remain closed to the general public, with entry only allowed via SUP.

Refuge staff would provide outreach and interpretation opportunities and develop an environmental education program focusing on "bringing the refuge to the people." Appropriate cultural practices would also be facilitated through expanding refuge management activities related to cultural resources (e.g., working with the American Samoa Historical Preservation Office and other partners to conduct archaeological surveys at Rose Atoll NWR, integrating cultural resources into interpretation, and increasing dialogue with the Office of Samoan Affairs and local villagers).

#### Public Availability of Documents

In addition to any methods in **ADDRESSES**, you can view or obtain documents at the Feleti Barstow Public Library, Ofu Community Center, and other places of public access (e.g., stores on Ta'ū) in American Samoa.

## Public Meetings

We will hold the following public meetings: October 16, 2012, at Sadie's by the Sea at 2 p.m.; October 23, 2012, at the Ofu Community Center at 9 a.m.; October 23, 2012, at the Ta'u High School gym at 2 p.m. For more information on the meeting(s), contact the person under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

## Next Steps

After this comment period ends, the planning team will evaluate your comments and consider their incorporation into the final CCP.

## Public Availability of Comments

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

Dated: August 9, 2012.

### Richard Hannan,

*Acting Regional Director, Pacific Region, Portland, Oregon, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[LLAK927000 L54200000 FR0000 LVDIL110470; AA-92408]

### Notice of Application for a Recordable Disclaimer of Interest for Lands Underlying the Kisaralik River System, Alaska

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The State of Alaska has filed an application with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for a Recordable Disclaimer of Interest from the United States in those lands underlying the Kisaralik River System (including Kisaralik Lake) in western Alaska. The State asserts that the Kisaralik River System was navigable and unreserved at the time of statehood; therefore, title to the submerged lands passed to the State at the time of statehood (1959). This river system is within the exterior boundaries of the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, created by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation

Act of 1980, and administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

**DATES:** All comments to this action should be received on or before January 7, 2013.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments on the State of Alaska's application or the BLM Draft Summary Report must be filed with the BLM Chief, Branch of Survey Planning and Preparation (AK-9270), Division of Cadastral Survey. You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- *Email:* [cfrichtl@blm.gov](mailto:cfrichtl@blm.gov);
- *Fax:* 907-271-4193; or
- *Mail:* 222 W. 7th Avenue, #13,

Anchorage, AK 99513-7504

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Angie Nichols, Program Manager, telephone: 907-271-3359; address: 222 W. 7th Avenue, #13, Anchorage, AK 99513-7504; Email: [anichols@blm.gov](mailto:anichols@blm.gov); or visit the BLM Recordable Disclaimer of Interest Web site at <http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/prog/rdi.html>. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On November 30, 2010, the State of Alaska filed an application for a Recordable Disclaimer of Interest pursuant to Section 315 of the Federal Lands Policy and Management Act of 1976 and the regulations contained in 43 CFR subpart 1864 for the lands underlying the Kisaralik River (AA-92408). A Recordable Disclaimer of Interest, if issued, will confirm that the United States has no valid interest in the subject lands. The notice is intended to notify the public of the pending application and the State's grounds for supporting it. The State asserts that this river system was navigable and unreserved at the time of statehood; therefore, under the Equal Footing Doctrine, the Submerged Lands Act of 1953, the Alaska Statehood Act, the Alaska Right of Way Act of 1898, and other title navigability law, ownership of these lands underlying the river automatically passed from the United States to the State at the time of statehood in 1959.

The State's application, AA-92408, is for "submerged lands and bed up to and including the ordinary high water line of Kisaralik Lake within Township 3 North, Range 58 West, Seward Meridian and for the submerged lands and bed of

the Kisaralik River lying between the ordinary high water lines of the right and left banks of that river from the outlet of Kisaralik Lake within Township 3 North, Range 58 West, Seward Meridian, Alaska, downstream to the location where the river enters the Kuskokuak Slough within Township 9 North, Range 67 West, Seward Meridian, Alaska. This includes the submerged lands and beds of all sloughs, braids, and channels that carry water from the navigable Kisaralik River and thus are part of the navigable river and all lands within the river system permanently or periodically covered by tidal waters up to the line of mean high tide." The State identified the Kokarmiut Corporation, Calista Corporation, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as possible interested parties of the affected lands.

A final decision on the merits of the application will not be made before January 7, 2013. During the 90-day period, interested parties may comment on the State's application, AA-92408, and supporting evidence. The State's application and the BLM Draft Summary Report may be viewed on the BLM's Recordable Disclaimer of Interest Web site at <http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/prog/rdi.html>, or in the BLM Public Room located at 222 West 7th Avenue, #13, Anchorage, AK 99513-7504. Interested parties may also comment during this time on the BLM's Draft Summary Report by using one of the methods listed in the **ADDRESSES** section above.

Comments filed with the Division of Cadastral Survey, including names and street addresses of commenters, will be available for public inspection at the Alaska State Office (see **ADDRESSES** above), during regular business hours from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Before including your address, phone number, email 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.

If no valid objection is received, a Disclaimer of Interest may be approved, if all else is proper, stating that the