

existing Swan River National Wildlife Refuge. The conservation area is a component of the broader landscape-scale Crown of the Continent initiative to ensure the continued function of one of the only ecosystems in the United States which still contains essentially the full suite of species that were present during the Lewis and Clark expedition. The prioritization for land protection will incorporate the elements of strategic habitat conservation (SHC) to ensure effective conservation. SHC entails strategic biological planning and conservation design, integrated conservation delivery, monitoring, and research at ecoregional scales.

This conservation area allows the Service to purchase conservation easements using the acquisition authority of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742a–j) and the Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 1929 (16 U.S.C. 715–715d, 715e, 715f–r). The Federal money used to acquire conservation easements is from the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, as amended (16 U.S.C. 4601–4 through 11; funds received under this act are derived primarily from oil and gas leases on the Outer Continental Shelf, motorboat fuel taxes, and the sale of surplus Federal property), and the sale of Federal Duck Stamps [Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act (16 U.S.C. 718–718j, 48 Stat. 452)]. Additional funding to acquire lands, water, or interests for fish and wildlife conservation purposes could be identified by Congress or donated by nonprofit organizations. The purchase of easements or fee title from willing sellers will be subject to available money.

The Service has involved the public, agencies, partners, and legislators throughout the planning process for the easement program. At the beginning of the planning process, the Service initiated public involvement for the proposal to protect habitats primarily through acquisition of wetland and grassland conservation easements for management as part of the Refuge System. The Service spent time discussing the proposed project with landowners; conservation organizations; Federal, State, and county governments; tribes; and other interested groups and individuals. Open house meetings were held on May 18 and June 2, 2010, in Condon, Montana. These meetings were announced in local and regional media.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321), the Service prepared an environmental assessment (EA) that evaluated two alternatives and their potential impacts on the project area.

The Service released the draft environmental assessment (EA) and LPP on July 26, 2010, for a 30-day public review period. The draft documents were made available to Federal elected officials and agencies, State elected officials and agencies, Native American tribes with aboriginal or tribal interests, local media, and other members of the public that were identified during the scoping process. The Service received six written comments from agencies, organizations, and members of the public. After all comments were received, they were reviewed, added to the administrative record, and, if substantial, incorporated into the environmental assessment (EA).

Based on the documentation contained in the environmental assessment (EA), a Finding of No Significant Impact was signed on September 24, 2010, for the authorization of the Swan Valley Conservation Area.

Dated: August 24, 2012.

Steve Guertin,

*Regional Director, Mountain-Prairie Region,
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

**[LLAZC03000.L51050000.EA0000
LVRCA13SA040.241A, AZ–SRP–030–10–04
and AZ–SRP–030–10–05]**

Notice of Temporary Closures of Public Lands in La Paz County, AZ

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Lake Havasu Field Office will close certain public lands during the Best in the Desert (BITD) Racing Association “BITD PARKER 250” and “BITD 425” events.

DATES: These closures will be in effect from 2 p.m., January 11, 2013, through 6 p.m., January 12, 2013, and 2 p.m., February 1, 2013, through 11:59 p.m., February 2, 2013, Mountain Standard Time.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Dodson, Field Staff Ranger, BLM Lake Havasu Field Office, 2610 Sweetwater Avenue, Lake Havasu City, AZ 86406, 928–505–1200. 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. FIRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question for the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The closures affect public lands administered by the Lake Havasu Field Office in La Paz County, Arizona. This action is being taken to help ensure public safety, prevent unnecessary environmental degradation, and to protect natural and cultural resources adjacent to the event site during the Best in the Desert (BITD) Racing Association “BITD Parker 250” and “BITD 425” official permitted off-highway vehicle (OHV) events.

The closure orders are issued under the authority of 43 CFR 8340 subpart 8341; 43 CFR 8360, subpart 8364.1; and 43 CFR 2932 which allow the BLM to establish closures for the protection of persons, property, and public lands and resources. Violation of any of the terms, conditions, or restrictions contained within this closure order may subject the violator to citation or arrest with a penalty or fine or imprisonment or both as specified by law.

Penalties: Violation of any regulations in this part by a member of the public is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000 and/or imprisonment not to exceed 12 months.

Description of Race Course Closed Area: Beginning at the eastern boundary of the Colorado River Indian Tribe (CRIT) Reservation, the closed area runs east along Shea Road, then east into Osborne Wash on the Parker-Swansea Road to the Central Arizona Project (CAP) Canal, then north on the west side of the CAP Canal, crossing the canal on the county-maintained road, running northeast into Mineral Wash Canyon, then southeast on the county-maintained road, through the four-corners intersection to the Midway (Pit) intersection, then east on Transmission Pass Road, through State Trust Land located in Butler Valley, turning north into Cunningham Wash to North Tank; continuing south to Transmission Pass Road and east (reentering public land) within 2 miles of Alamo Dam Road. The course turns south and west onto the wooden power line road, onto the State Trust Land in Butler Valley, turning southwest into Cunningham Wash to the Graham Well, intersecting Butler Valley Road, then north and west on the county-maintained road to the “Bouse Y” intersection, 2 miles north of Bouse, Arizona. The course proceeds north, paralleling the Bouse-Swansea Road to the Midway (Pit) intersection, then west

along the north boundary (power line) road of the East Cactus Plain Wilderness Area to Parker-Swansea Road. The course turns west into Osborne Wash crossing the CAP Canal, along the north boundary of the Cactus Plain Wilderness Study Area; it continues west staying in Osborne Wash and crossing Shea Road along the southern boundary of Gibraltar Wilderness, rejoining Osborne Wash at the CRIT Reservation boundary.

Closure Restrictions: The following acts are prohibited during the temporary land closures:

1. Being present on, or driving on, the designated race course or the adjacent lands described above. Spectators must stay within the designated spectator areas. The spectator areas have protective fencing and barriers. This does not apply to race participants, race officials, nor emergency vehicles authorized or operated by local, State, or Federal government agencies. Emergency medical response shall only be conducted by personnel and vehicles operating under the guidance of the La Paz County Emergency Medical Services and Fire, the Arizona Department of Public Safety, or the Bureau of Land Management.

2. Vehicle parking or stopping in areas affected by the closures, except where such is specifically allowed (designated spectator areas).

3. Camping in the closed area described above, except in the designated spectator areas.

4. Discharge of firearms.

5. Possession or use of any fireworks.

6. Cutting or collecting firewood of any kind, including dead and down wood or other vegetative material.

7. Operating any vehicle (except registered race vehicles), including off-highway vehicles, not registered and equipped for street and highway operation.

8. Operating any vehicle in the area of the closure or on roads within the event area at a speed of more than 35 mph. This does not apply to registered race vehicles during the race, while on the designated race course.

9. Failure to obey any official sign posted by the BLM, La Paz County, or the race promoter.

10. Parking any vehicle in a manner that obstructs or impedes normal traffic movement.

11. Failure to obey any person authorized to direct traffic or control access to event area including law enforcement officers, BLM officials, and designated race officials.

12. Failure to observe Spectator Area quiet hours of 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.

13. Failure to keep campsite or race viewing site free of trash and litter.

14. Allowing any pet or other animal to be unrestrained. All pets must be restrained by a leash of not more than 6 feet in length.

Exceptions to Closure: The restrictions do not apply to emergency or law enforcement vehicles owned by the United States, the State of Arizona, or La Paz County, and designated race officials, participants, pit crews, or persons operating on their behalf. Persons who violate these closure orders are subject to arrest and may be taken before a United States Magistrate and upon conviction, may be fined not more than \$1,000 and/or imprisoned for not more than 12 months. Such violations may also be subject to the enhanced fines provided for by 18 U.S.C. 3571.

Authority: 43 CFR 8364.1.

Kimber Liebhauser,

Field Manager.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[NPS-SERO-BLRI-11177; 2031-A048-409]

Final Environmental Impact Statement for General Management Plan, Blue Ridge Parkway, Virginia and North Carolina

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Availability.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, 42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C), the National Park Service (NPS) announces the availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the General Management Plan (GMP) for Blue Ridge Parkway (parkway). Consistent with NPS laws, regulations, and policies and the purpose of the parkway, the FEIS/GMP will guide the management of the parkway over the next 20+ years.

DATES: The NPS will execute a Record of Decision (ROD) no sooner than 30 days following publication of the Environmental Protection Agency of its Notice of Availability of the FEIS/GMP in the **Federal Register**.

ADDRESSES: Electronic copies of the FEIS/GMP will be available online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/BLRI>. To request a copy, contact Superintendent Phil Francis, Blue Ridge Parkway, 199 Hemphill Knob Road, Asheville, NC 28803.

A limited number of compact disks and printed copies of the FEIS/GMP

will be made available at Blue Ridge Parkway Headquarters, 199 Hemphill Knob Road, Asheville, NC 28803.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Superintendent Phil Francis, Blue Ridge Parkway, 199 Hemphill Knob Road, Asheville, NC 28803; telephone (828) 271-4779.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FEIS/GMP responds to, and incorporates, agency and public comments received on the draft plan/EIS, which was available for public review from October 7, 2011, through December 16, 2011. Four public meetings were held from November 2, 2011, through November 10, 2011, to gather input on the draft plan/EIS. There were 3,360 pieces of correspondence received during the public review period. The NPS responses to substantive agency and public comments are provided in Chapter 5, Consultation and Coordination section, of the FEIS/GMP.

The FEIS/GMP evaluates three alternatives for managing use and development of the parkway. The NPS preferred alternative is Alternative B, which emphasizes the original parkway design and traditional driving experience, while enhancing outdoor recreation opportunities and regional natural resource connectivity, and providing modest improvements to visitor services. In essence, it seeks to reinvest in the parkway's aging infrastructure, update inadequate visitor services and facilities and protect a natural environment that is only surpassed in biological diversity by two other units in the national park system. When approved, the plan will guide the management of the parkway over the next 20+ years.

The responsible official for this FEIS/GMP is the Regional Director, NPS Southeast Region, 100 Alabama Street SW., 1924 Building, Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

Dated: January 9, 2013.

Shawn T. Bengé,

Acting Regional Director, Southeast Region.

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