

encouraged to participate in the planning process by sending written comments on management actions that the Service should consider. The Service is also furnishing this notice in compliance with the Service CCP policy to obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues to include in the CCP and EA. Opportunities for public input will be announced throughout the CCP/EA planning and development process.

DATES: To ensure that the Service has adequate time to evaluate and incorporate suggestions and other input into the planning process, comments should be received on or before August 1, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments or requests to be added to the mailing list to the following address: Winnie Chan, Refuge Planner, Farallon Refuge CCP, San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex, P.O. Box 524, Newark, California 94560. Written comments may also be faxed to (510) 792-5828, or sfbaynwrc@fws.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Winnie Chan, Refuge Planner, or Joelle Buffa, Refuge Manager, at (510) 792-0222.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, mandates that all lands within the National Wildlife Refuge System are to be managed in accordance with an approved CCP. The CCP will guide management decisions for approximately the next 15 years and identify Refuge goals, long-range objectives, and management strategies for achieving these objectives. The planning process will consider many elements, including habitat and wildlife management, habitat protection, compatible wildlife-dependent recreation, and environmental effects. Public input into this planning process is very important. The CCP will provide other agencies and the public with a clear understanding of the desired conditions for the Refuge and how the Service will implement management strategies.

Comments received will be used to develop goals, key issues evaluated in the NEPA document, and habitat management strategies. All comments received, including names and addresses, will become part of the administrative record and may be made available to the public. Opportunities for public participation will occur throughout the process.

The Service will send Planning Updates to people who are interested in the CCP process, and the updates will also be available on the planning website at <http://pacific.fws.gov/planning>. These mailings will provide information on how to participate in the CCP process. Interested federal, state, and local agencies, organizations, and individuals are invited to provide input. The Service expects to complete the CCP in 2007.

Background

The Farallon National Wildlife Refuge is located offshore in the Pacific Ocean, approximately 28 miles west of San Francisco, California. The 211 acre Refuge is an archipelago made up of four major islands and several small islands. The Refuge was initially established by Theodore Roosevelt in 1909 under Executive Order 1043; it is also designated as a State Ecological Reserve and a Golden Gate Biosphere Reserve. The Refuge serves “ * * * as a preserve and breeding ground for native birds” (Executive Order 1043, dated February 27, 1909).

The Refuge was established to provide wintering and nesting habitat for migratory seabirds and pinnipeds. In 1974, Congress enacted Public Law 93-550 which designated all the islands, except for Southeast Island, as the Farallon Wilderness, totaling 141 acres.

The Service anticipates a draft CCP and EA to be available for public review and comment in late 2006.

Dated: May 24, 2005.

Ken McDermond,

*Acting Manager, CA/NV Operations,
Sacramento, California.*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[O-200-0777-XX-241A]

Notice of Meeting, Front Range Resource Advisory Council (Colorado)

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Front Range Resource Advisory Council (RAC), will meet as indicated below.

DATES: The meeting will be held July 6, 2005 from 9:15 a.m. to 4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Holy Cross Abbey Community Center, 2951 E. Highway 50, Canon City, Colorado 81212.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ken Smith, (719) 269-8500.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The 15 member Council advises the Secretary of the Interior, through the Bureau of Land Management, on a variety of planning and management issues associated with public land management in the Royal Gorge Field Office and San Luis Valley, Colorado. Planned agenda topics include: Manager updates on current land management issues, and travel management planning. All meetings are open to the public. The public is encouraged to make oral comments to the Council at 9:30 a.m. or written statements may be submitted for the Councils consideration. Depending on the number of persons wishing to comment and time available, the time for individual oral comments may be limited. Summary minutes for the Council Meeting will be maintained in the Royal Gorge Field Office and will be available for public inspection and reproduction during regular business hours within thirty (30) days following the meeting. Meeting Minutes and agenda (10 days prior to each meeting) are also available at: http://www.blm.gov/rac/co/frnac/co_fr.htm.

Dated: May 23, 2005.

Roy L. Masinton,

Royal Gorge Field Manager.

[FR Doc. 05-10716 Filed 5-27-05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Revised Draft Backcountry Management Plan, General Management Plan Amendment and Environmental Impact Statement, Denali National Park and Preserve, AK

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Announcement of public meetings and public comment date change.

SUMMARY: The National Park Service (NPS) announces public meetings to obtain public comment on the Revised Draft Backcountry Management Plan, General Management Plan Amendment and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Denali National Park and Preserve. The document describes and analyzes the environmental impacts of a preferred alternative and four action alternatives for managing the park and preserve's backcountry. A no action

alternative also is evaluated. This announcement provides public meeting dates and locations, and corrects the closing date for receipt of public comments and the e-mail address for electronic comments.

DATES: Written comments on the revised draft plan and EIS must be received no later than June 30, 2005. This corrects the date published in the **Federal Register** with the Notice of Availability on April 26, 2005.

See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for public meeting dates and locations.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on the revised draft plan and EIS should be submitted to the Superintendent, Denali National Park and Preserve, Post Office Box 9, Denali Park, Alaska 99755.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mike Tranel, Chief of Planning, Denali National Park and Preserve. Telephone: (907) 644-3611.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Meetings

The public meeting dates and locations are as follows:

June 8. Cantwell Community Center. Denali Highway. Cantwell, Alaska.

June 9. Alaska Public Lands Information Center. 605 W. 4th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska.

June 13. Upper Susitna Valley Senior Center. Helena Drive, Sunshine, Alaska.

June 14. Tri-Valley Community Center. Healy Spur Road, Healy, Alaska.

June 15. Noel Wien Library. 1215 Cowles Street, Fairbanks, Alaska.

Each meeting will last from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. and each will follow the same format. There will be an opportunity for informal explanation, discussion, and individually recorded testimony from 5 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. At 6:30 p.m. there will be a brief presentation followed by a formal public hearing. All comments recorded at these meetings will become a part of the comment record.

Electronic Access and Filing Addresses

Submit electronic comments to dena_bc_plan_comment@nps.gov. The revised draft EIS may be viewed online by following the Revised Draft Backcountry Management Plan link on the Denali homepage at <http://www.nps.gov/dena>. Hard copies or CDs of the Revised Draft Backcountry Management Plan and General Management Plan Amendment and EIS are available by request from the aforementioned address.

Dated: May 12, 2005.

Marcia Blaszak,

Regional Director, Alaska.

[FR Doc. 05-10733 Filed 5-27-05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Mountain Lakes Fishery Management Plan; North Cascades National Park Service Complex; Whatcom, Skagit and Chelan Counties, WA; Notice of Availability

Summary: Pursuant to section 102(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Pub. L. 91-190, as amended), the National Park Service in cooperation with the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and Mountain Lakes Fishery Management Plan. The DEIS identifies and evaluates four alternatives for management of non-native fish in the natural mountain lakes within North Cascades National Park Service Complex and the Stephen Mather Wilderness. Appropriate mitigation strategies are assessed, and an "environmentally preferred" alternative is also identified. When approved, the Mountain Lakes Fishery Management Plan (Plan) will govern all fishery management actions, including potential removal of self-sustaining populations of non-native fish and fish stocking.

Background: The National Park Service (NPS) manages North Cascades National Park, Lake Chelan National Recreation Area, and Ross Lake National Recreation Area collectively as the North Cascades National Park Service Complex (hereafter referred to as "North Cascades"). The Congressionally designated Stephen Mather Wilderness covers ninety-three percent of North Cascades. The rugged, wilderness landscape of North Cascades contains 240 natural mountain lakes. The lakes are naturally fishless due to impassable topographic barriers. Though naturally barren of fish, these lakes contain a rich array of native aquatic life including plankton, aquatic insects, frogs and salamanders.

In the late 1800's, settlers began stocking lakes within the present-day boundaries of North Cascades with various species of non-native trout for food and recreation. By the 20th century, fish stocking was a routine lake enhancement practice for the U.S. Forest Service, various counties, and

individuals. Then upon its inception in 1933, the Washington Department of Game (WDG; now the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, or WDFW) assumed responsibility for stocking mountain lakes throughout the state to create and maintain a recreational fishery. The state's involvement grew largely out of the need to prevent haphazard stocking by individuals without biological expertise. With particular emphasis on systematic assessment of fish species and stocking rates, the WDG conducted the first high lakes fisheries research and developed many principles central to fisheries management today.

After North Cascades was established in 1968, a conflict over fish stocking emerged between the NPS and WDFW. The conflict was driven by fundamental policy differences: NPS policies prohibited stocking so as to protect native ecosystems; WDFW policies encouraged stocking to enhance recreation. To reconcile the conflict and foster cooperative management, the NPS and WDFW entered into a fisheries management agreement in 1988 with the purpose of "establishing a mutually agreed to list of lakes within the boundaries of North Cascades National Park which the department [would] stock with fish as part of its fish management program." The agreement identified 40 lakes for stocking and specified that "research results [would] be considered in future decisions".

Shortly thereafter, the NPS initiated a long-term research effort through Oregon State University to evaluate the ecological effects of fish stocking on native biota in mountain lakes. To ensure objectivity and scientific merit, an independent peer review panel of subject matter experts was established to evaluate research results. The final phase of this research effort was completed in July, 2002. The complete research results are posted on the Plan/DEIS Web site (<http://www.nps.gov/noca/highlakes.htm>), however key conclusions include:

- Lakes with high densities of self-sustaining (*i.e.*, reproducing) trout populations had significantly fewer salamanders and zooplankton than fishless lakes;
- There was no significant difference in salamander or zooplankton abundance between fishless lakes and lakes with stocked (*i.e.*, non-reproducing) fish;
- Native biota (*e.g.*, salamanders, zooplankton) appeared to be at greatest risk in lakes with (1) relatively high nitrogen concentrations, (2) relatively warm water and (3) self-sustaining trout populations present in high densities.