

identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses.

**Authority:** 43 CFR 2711.1-2(a).

**Thomas E. Rasmussen,**

*Manager, Lakeview Resource Area.*

[FR Doc. E6-3582 Filed 3-13-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-33-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[UT-060-06-1430; UTU-81536]

#### Notice of Realty Action; Noncompetitive Lease of Public Land; Grand County, UT

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

**ACTION:** Notice of realty action.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has determined that 2,808.67 acres of isolated public lands in Grand County, Utah, are suitable for lease pursuant to section 302 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) (90 Stat. 2762; 43 U.S.C. 1732) using noncompetitive (direct) lease procedures.

**DATES:** Interested parties may submit comments to the BLM Moab Field Manager, at the address below. Comments must be received by no later than April 28, 2006. Only written comments will be accepted.

**ADDRESSES:** Address all written comments concerning this notice to the BLM Moab Field Manager, 82 East Dogwood Avenue, Moab, Utah 84532.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mary von Koch, Realty Specialist, at the above address or at (435) 259-2128.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Green River Farms, a domestic corporation, has proposed to file with BLM an application to lease the following described public lands, located near Green River, Utah, the lands to be used, occupied and developed as a commercial agricultural farm in conjunction with adjoining lands leased to Green River Farms by the State of Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration:

Salt Lake Meridian

T. 20 S., R. 16 E.,

sec. 25, S $\frac{1}{2}$ ;

sec. 26, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , and SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;

sec. 27, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;

sec. 28, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;

sec. 34, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ .

T. 21 S., R. 16 E.,

sec. 1, lots 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, and 16.

T. 21 S., R. 17 E.,

sec. 4, lots 11, 12, 13, 14, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ ,

SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , and NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;

sec. 5, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;

sec. 6, lots 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, and 10;

sec. 7, lot 4, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , and SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;

sec. 8, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , and SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;

sec. 9, N $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , and S $\frac{1}{2}$

Containing 2,808.67 acres, more or less.

After review, the BLM has determined that the proposed use of the above described parcels is in conformance with the Grand Resource Area Resource Management Plan, and that the above described land is available for that use. Therefore, pursuant to section 302 (b) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1732 (b)) and the implementing regulations at 43 CFR part 2920, the BLM will accept for processing an application to be filed by Green River Farms, or its duly qualified designee, for a non-competitive lease of the above described lands, to be used, occupied, and developed as stated above.

A non-competitive lease may be employed in this case because all of the subject tracts of public land are adjacent to lands leased by Green River Farms from the State of Utah School and Institutional Trust Land Administration (SITLA) as part of the same proposed farming project. The subject lands are part of a BLM/SITLA legislative exchange package. It is therefore quite possible that these lands will be transferred to SITLA. SITLA has indicated in writing that it would have no objection to acquiring the lands if encumbered by the lease. As provided in 43 CFR 2920.5-4(b), land use authorizations may be offered on a negotiated, non-competitive basis, when, in the judgment of the authorized officer, equities, such as prior use of the lands, exist; if no competitive interest exists; or, where competitive bidding would represent unfair competitive and economic disadvantage to the originator of the unique land use concept that is compatible with the public interest. The non-competitive bid shall not be for less than fair market value. That is to say, rental value must be based on the fair market value of the land, acceptable to the BLM after taking into account a current, independent appraisal of, among other considerations, the highest and best use of the lands. The BLM will estimate the costs of processing the lease application. Before the BLM begins to process the application, the lease applicant must pay the full amount of the estimated costs to the United States. If a lease is not granted, the lease applicant must pay to the United States, in addition to the estimated costs, the reasonable costs

incurred by the BLM in processing the lease in excess of the estimated costs. Rent, payable annually or otherwise in advance, will be determined by the BLM, if and when a lease application is granted and periodically thereafter. If a lease is granted, the lessee shall reimburse the United States for all reasonable administrative and other costs incurred by the United States in processing the lease application and for monitoring construction, operation, maintenance and rehabilitation of the land and facilities authorized. The reimbursement of costs shall be in accordance with the provisions of 43 CFR 2920.6.

The lease application must include a reference to this notice and comply in all respects with the regulations pertaining to land use authorization applications at 43 CFR 2920.5-2 and 2920.5-5(b).

If authorized, the lease would be subject to valid existing rights.

On or before April 28, 2006, interested parties may submit comments to the BLM at the address stated above with respect to:

(1) The decision of the BLM regarding the availability of the lands described herein and

(2) The decision of the BLM to accept for processing an application from Green River Farms for a non-competitive lease.

Adverse comments will be evaluated by the BLM Field Manager, Moab, Utah, who may sustain, vacate or modify this realty action. In the absence of adverse comment, this realty action will become a final determination of the BLM as to each of the two decisions stated above.

**Authority:** 43 CFR 2920.4.

**A. Lynn Jackson,**

*Assistant Field Manager, Resources.*

[FR Doc. E6-3583 Filed 3-13-06; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

#### Special Resource Study on the Preservation and Interpretation of Historic Sites Associated With the Manhattan Project, New Mexico, Ohio, Tennessee and Washington; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that in accord with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and pursuant to the Council of Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR parts 1500-08), the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, in consultation

with the Department of Energy, is initiating the conservation planning and environmental impact analysis process for a Special Resource Study concerning the preservation and interpretation of historic sites associated with the Manhattan Project. The scope of the study includes the Los Alamos National Laboratory and townsite, New Mexico; the Hanford Site in Washington; the Oak Ridge Reservation in Tennessee; and Dayton-area sites in Ohio. Following completion of the scoping phase an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is to be prepared. The authority for publishing this notice is contained in 40 CFR 1506.6.

The Special Resource Study will assess the national significance, suitability, and feasibility of designating one or more of these sites as a unit of the National Park System according to the standards and criteria for such determinations established in the National Park Service (NPS) Management Policies. In addition, management alternatives for the protection and interpretation for each of the sites will be evaluated according to NPS standards and criteria, and the potential environmental impacts (and appropriate mitigation strategies) of each alternative will be analyzed in the Draft EIS. Through the preliminary scoping process, the NPS welcomes suggestions from the public regarding preservation, interpretation, and management of the sites.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Manhattan Project was a top-secret U.S. Government program implemented during World War II that was designed to beat Germany to the construction of the first nuclear bomb. The results of the Manhattan Project transformed the world of science and technology and ushered in the modern atomic and nuclear age.

Operating from December 1942 until September 1945, the Manhattan Project was a \$2.2 billion effort that employed some 130,000 persons at its peak, but was kept largely out of public view. The Manhattan Project was conducted in four principal locations including Oak Ridge, Tennessee, where the first uranium enrichment facilities and pilot scale nuclear reactor were built; Hanford, Washington, the location of the first large-scale reactor for producing plutonium; Los Alamos, New Mexico, where the first atomic bombs were designed and assembled; and the Trinity Site, New Mexico, where the first nuclear device was detonated.

Three of these sites have been designated as National Historic Landmarks and all are listed in the

National Register of Historic Places. A panel of experts convened by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation reported in 2001 that the development and use of the atomic bomb during World War II has been called "the single most significant event of the 20th century." The Advisory Council recommended that the sites of the Manhattan Project be formally established as a collective unit and be administered for preservation, commemoration, and public interpretation in cooperation with the NPS.

On October 18, 2004 President George W. Bush approved Public Law 108-340 "The Manhattan Project National Historical Park Study Act". This legislation directed the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Department of Energy, to conduct a special resource study to assess the national significance, suitability, and feasibility of designating one or more of three sites named in the study as a unit of the National Park System. The three sites include the Los Alamos National Laboratory and townsite in New Mexico; the Hanford Site in Washington; and the Oak Ridge Reservation in Tennessee. The Secretary of the Interior, in conducting the study, was directed: to one or more of these sites as a unit of the National Park System with maintaining certain goals of the Department of Energy; and to consider previous research done by the Department of Energy on these sites. Consistent with Public Law 108-340, Eayton, Ohio, area sites where polonium-based triggers were designed and produced for the first atomic bombs will also be included in the study.

**Public Scoping:** Public scoping meetings will be an important foundation for this study. At this time its anticipated that during March-April 2006 a meeting will be held in each of the areas where sites are located. Representatives of the NPS will be available at each of the meetings to discuss issues, resource concerns, and the conservation planning and environmental impact analysis process. When confirmed, full details about the meetings will be widely announced via local and regional media and direct mailings. In addition, project newsletters will be periodically prepared and distributed to all interested parties.

Responses to this Notice (and various media releases) will serve as the basis for developing a project mailing list. Persons who may be interested in or affected by any possible site designations are invited to participate in the scoping process by responding to

this Notice with written comments. The scoping process for the EIS will help define issues or problems facing the Special Resource Study. All interested individuals and organizations are encouraged to provide any concerns, suggestions, or relevant information which should be considered in undertaking the Manhattan Project Sites Special Resource Study. Respondents may also address evaluation of significance, suitability, and feasibility, development of management alternatives, identification and analysis of environmental issues, and related matters.

All written comments should be directed to Carla McConnell, Project Manager and NPS Community Planner, Denver Service Center, PO Box 25287, 12795 West Alameda Parkway, Denver, Colorado 80225-0287, (303) 969-2287. All written comments must be postmarked not later than June 30, 2006. All respondents are advised that individual names and addresses may be included as part of the public record, and will be available for public review during regular business hours. There may be circumstances in which a person prefers to have his/her name and other information withheld from the public record. Any person wishing to do this must state this prominently at the beginning of any comment or correspondence, and the request will be honored to the extent allowable by law. As always, all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be included in the public record and are open to public inspection in their entirety; and, anonymous comments may not be considered.

**Decision Process:** The officials responsible for the preparation of the Draft and Final EIS and completion of the Special Resource Study process are as follows:

Patricia A. Hooks, Regional Director, Southeast Region, National Park Service, 1924 Building, 100 Alabama Street, SW, Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8701;

Ernest Quintana, Regional Director, Midwest Region, National Park Service, 1709 Jackson Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68102;

Michael D. Snyder, Regional Director, Intermountain Region, National Park Service, P.O. Box 25287, 12795 West Alameda Parkway, Denver, Colorado 80225-0287;

Jonathan B. Jarvis, Regional Director, Pacific West Region, National Park Service, 1111 Jackson Street, Suite 700, Oakland, California 94607.

Subsequently the Director, National Park Service will be responsible for amending or ratifying the recommendations and transmitting the completed Special Resource Study to the Secretary of the Interior. The Secretary determines the final recommended actions to be submitted for Congress' consideration.

Dated: January 13, 2006.

**George J. Turnbull,**

*Acting Regional Director, Pacific West Region.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

#### Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision for the Environmental Impact Statement on the Backcountry Management Plan and General Management Plan Amendment, Denali National Park and Preserve, AK

**AGENCY:** National Park Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision for the Environmental Impact Statement on the Backcountry Management Plan and General Management Plan Amendment, Denali National Park and Preserve, Alaska.

**SUMMARY:** The National Park Service (NPS) announces the availability of the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Environmental Impact Statement on the Backcountry Management Plan and General Management Plan Amendment, Denali National Park and Preserve, Alaska.

This Record of Decision documents the decision by the NPS to adopt a Backcountry Management Plan for Denali National Park and Preserve and to amend the park's General Management Plan. The Backcountry Management Plan addresses management of all park and preserve lands, except the park road corridor and adjacent development zones and backcountry day use areas, which were addressed in the 1997 *Entrance Area and Road Corridor Development Concept Plan*. Winter management of the park road corridor west of park headquarters is also addressed. The plan includes management area zoning, access, wilderness management, commercial services, backcountry facilities, administrative and research uses, and boundary changes. The plan also serves as a *Soundscape Preservation and Noise Management Plan* as required by NPS Director's Order 47, a *Wilderness Management*

*Plan* as required by NPS Director's Order 41, and a *Commercial Services Plan* for the backcountry.

The NPS selected the modified version of Alternative 4, as described in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIS). Of the four action alternatives, this alternative best meets the objectives of the plan for park resource protection and recreational use, and has a high degree of implementation feasibility.

The ROD briefly discusses the background for the planning effort, summarizes public involvement during the planning process, states the decision and discusses the basis for it, describes other alternatives considered, specifies the environmentally preferable alternative, identifies measures adopted to minimize potential environmental harm, and provides a non-impairment determination.

**ADDRESSES:** The ROD can be found online at the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment Web site at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/index.cfm>. Copies of the ROD are available on request from: Adrienne Lindholm, National Park Service, Alaska Regional Office, 240 West 5th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99501. Telephone: (907) 644-3613.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mike Tranel, Chief of Planning, National Park Service, Denali National Park and Preserve, 240 West 5th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99501. Telephone: (907) 644-3611.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The NPS prepared an EIS, as required, under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and Council of Environmental Quality regulations (40 *Code of Federal Regulations* [CFR] 1500).

A Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental impact statement, published in the **Federal Register** on August 31, 1999 (64 FR 49503), formally initiated the NPS planning and EIS effort. A Draft EIS was issued in February 2003 (68 FR 8782). Following a 90-day public comment period, a Revised Draft EIS was prepared and issued for a 75-day public comment period in April 2005 (70 FR 21440). A **Federal Register** (FR) notice announcing the availability of the Final EIS was published by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on January 20, 2006, commencing the required 30-day no-action period (71 FR 3290). The Final EIS describes and analyzes the environmental impacts of four action alternatives and a no-action alternative.

The NPS selected the modified version of Alternative 4, as described in

the Final EIS. The overview of the selected alternative is as follows:

This backcountry management plan will guide the NPS in providing opportunities for a variety of wilderness recreational activities and experiences while recognizing and protecting the premier wilderness resource values of the entire backcountry. Areas in the Dunkle Hills and around the Ruth and Tokositna Glaciers on the south side of the Alaska Range will be managed for those visitors who want to experience the wilderness resource values or other resource values of the Denali backcountry but require services or assistance, or who are unable to make a lengthy time commitment. Areas along the park road in the Old Park and the Kantishna Hills will provide accessible opportunities for short- or long-duration wilderness recreational activities with only limited options for guidance or assistance the farther one gets from the park road. The remainder of the backcountry will be managed for dispersed, self-reliant travel, and will include opportunities for extended expeditions in very remote locations.

Major actions of the selected alternative include:

- Subdivision of the "Natural" zone in the 1986 *General Management Plan* into a variety of management areas that are designed for different types of backcountry experiences: The management areas are defined by indicators and standards for resource and social conditions, which establish a carrying capacity for the area. These management areas include a few areas of relatively dense use and higher levels of impacts. These high use areas accommodate transportation into the backcountry and visitors who want to experience the wilderness resource values or other resource values of the Denali backcountry but require services or assistance, or who are unable to make a lengthy time commitment.

- Management of visitor access through adaptive management: Resource and social conditions will be monitored and access management tools will be used to achieve the standards for each management area. This approach is consistent with the Visitor Experience and Resource Protection framework used by the NPS to address carrying capacity.

- Establishment of wilderness management criteria, group size limits, restrictions on use of climbing tools, and a strategy for preventing social trail formation: The entire park and preserve backcountry will be managed to preserve wilderness resource values and provide wilderness recreational opportunities.