

requirement and sets a course for successful implementation of the goals and objectives of the reserve.

The mission of the Padilla Bay Reserve is to provide leadership to promote informed management of estuarine and coastal habitats through scientific understanding and encourage good stewardship practices through partnerships, public education, and outreach programs. The management plan establishes three goals consistent with the Reserve's mission. These goals are (1) protect and improve habitat and biological diversity within the boundary of the Reserve, (2) increase the use of the Reserve and its research program to address priority coastal management issues of Washington State and (3) to support informed decision-making and responsible stewardship of coastal communities and ecosystems. Organized in a framework of programmatic goals and objectives, the Padilla Bay Reserve's management plan identifies specific strategies or actions for research, education/interpretation, public access, construction, land acquisition, and resource protection, restoration, and manipulation. Overall, the plan seeks to accomplish the mission of the Reserve by facilitating scientific research, encouraging stewardship, and addressing the local education and outreach needs.

Specifically, stewardship is encompassed under resource protection, habitat restoration, and resource conservation priorities. These priorities address reserve efforts to evaluate natural and anthropogenic processes that affect the reserve and its habitats, support for research and monitoring of important resources, restore and protect natural habitats and to actively educate the public to inform resource management.

Research and monitoring activities support independent research projects within the reserve and its vicinity with resources and background data. Staff and visiting researchers conduct monitoring and research within the boundaries of the reserve and Padilla Bay watershed and use GIS to map critical habitats. Research and monitoring results are made available to others and are translated to public and private users through education, training and outreach programs.

Education at the reserve targets a wide variety of audiences including students, teachers, adults, resource users and coastal decision-maker audiences. The reserve's comprehensive approach to education including a K-12 education program, outreach and a coastal training program are designed to increase knowledge of the target audiences about

Pacific Northwest estuaries. Public access at the Padilla Bay Reserve includes trails, an observation deck and boat launches.

Administration at the reserve includes supporting the staffing and budget necessary to carry out the goals and objectives of the plan. The administration of the Padilla Bay Reserve is a collective effort involving the Washington State Department of Ecology (WDOE), other state or local agencies and organizations, a Reserve oversight and programmatic advisory committee for research, education, coastal training, and stewardship, and the Padilla Bay Foundation. An established administrative framework implements and coordinates Reserve programs under the plan.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nina Garfield at (301) 563-1171 or Laurie McGilvray at (301) 563-1158 of NOAA's National Ocean Service, Estuarine Reserves Division, 1305 East-West Highway, N/ORM5, 10th floor, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Dated: September 17, 2008.

David M. Kennedy,

Director, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

[FR Doc. E8-22571 Filed 9-24-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Announcement of Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve Revised Management Plan

AGENCY: Estuarine Reserves Division, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of Approval and Availability of the Final Revised Management Plan for the Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Estuarine Reserves Division, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), U.S. Department of Commerce has approved the revised management plan for the Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve.

The Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve was designated as part of the National Estuarine Research

Reserve System in 1976 pursuant to Section 315 of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1461. The Reserve has been operating under a management plan approved in 1999. Pursuant to 15 CFR Section 921.33(c), a state must revise their management plan every five years. The submission of this plan brings the reserve into compliance and sets a course for successful implementation of the goals and objectives of the reserve. New facilities and updated programmatic objectives are notable revisions to the 1999 approved management plan.

The mission of the Sapelo Island Reserve is to perpetuate the protection of the Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve and to provide a platform for conservation-based research, education and stewardship through the Reserve. The revised management plan identifies priority resource issues that are addressed through active management. These priority issues include addressing public access and visitor impact on Reserve uplands and marsh areas, addressing impacts related to activities on the Reserve by the island's population and addressing the projected increase in development and population growth on the Georgia coast. By addressing these priority resource issues, the Sapelo Island Reserve aims to fulfill its mission.

The revised plan establishes goals and objectives for the Reserve's various programmatic activities, including scientific biological research; water quality monitoring; education, training, and outreach programs; and stewardship programs. It also outlines plans for future facility development to support reserve operations.

The reserve has realized some aspects of the 1999 plan, including contributions toward the completion of the Barrier Island Research and Learning Center, a joint research dormitory and lab shared with the University of Georgia.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Amy Clark at (301) 563-1137 or Laurie McGilvray at (301) 563-1158 of NOAA's National Ocean Service, Estuarine Reserves Division, 1305 East-West Highway, N/ORM5, 10th floor, Silver Spring, MD 20910. For copies of the Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve Management Plan revision, visit: <http://www.sapelonerr.org/>.

Dated: September 15, 2008.

Donna Wieting,

Deputy Director, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

[FR Doc. E8-22570 Filed 9-25-08; 8:45 am]

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COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Limitations of Duty- and Quota-Free Imports of Apparel Articles Assembled in Beneficiary ATPDEA Countries from Regional Country Fabric

AGENCY: Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA).

ACTION: Publishing the New 12-Month Cap on Duty and Quota Free Benefits.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2008.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Richard Stetson, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-3400.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority: Section 3103 of the Trade Act of 2002, P.L. 107-210; Title VII of the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006 (TRHCA 2006), P.L. 109-432; H.R. 1830, 110th Cong. (2007) (H.R. 1830); Presidential Proclamation 7616 of October 31, 2002 (67 FR 67283, November 5, 2002).

Section 3103 of the Trade Act of 2002 amended the Andean Trade Preference Act (ATPA) to provide for duty and quota-free treatment for certain textile and apparel articles imported from designated Andean Trade Promotion and Drug Eradication Act (ATPDEA) beneficiary countries. Section 204(b)(3)(B)(iii) of the ATPA, as amended, provides duty- and quota-free treatment for certain apparel articles assembled in ATPDEA beneficiary countries from regional fabric and components. More specifically, this provision applies to apparel articles sewn or otherwise assembled in one or more ATPDEA beneficiary countries from fabrics or from fabric components formed or from components knit-to-shape, in one or more ATPDEA beneficiary countries, from yarns wholly formed in the United States or one or more ATPDEA beneficiary countries (including fabrics not formed from yarns, if such fabrics are classifiable under heading 5602 and 5603 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) and are formed in one or more ATPDEA beneficiary countries). Such apparel articles may also contain certain other

eligible fabrics, fabric components, or components knit-to-shape.

The TRHCA of 2006 extended the expiration of the ATPA to June 30, 2007. See section 7002(a) of the TRHCA 2006. H.R. 1830 further extended the expiration of the ATPA to February 29, 2008. H.R. 5264 further extended the expiration of the ATPA to December 31, 2008.

For the period beginning on October 1, 2008 and extending through December 31, 2008, preferential tariff treatment is limited under the regional fabric provision to imports of qualifying apparel articles in an amount not to exceed 5 percent of the aggregate square meter equivalents of all apparel articles imported into the United States in the preceding 12-month period for which data are available. For the purpose of this notice, the 12-month period for which data are available is the 12-month period that ended July 31, 2008. In Presidential Proclamation 7616 (published in the Federal Register on November 5, 2002, 67 FR 67283), the President directed CITA to publish in the Federal Register the aggregate quantity of imports allowed during each period.

For the period beginning on October 1, 2008 and extending through December 31, 2008, the aggregate quantity of imports eligible for preferential treatment under the regional fabric provision is 1,222,785,719 square meters equivalent. Apparel articles entered in excess of this quantity will be subject to otherwise applicable tariffs.

This quantity is calculated using the aggregate square meter equivalents of all apparel articles imported into the United States, derived from the set of Harmonized System lines listed in the Annex to the World Trade Organization Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC), and the conversion factors for units of measure into square meter equivalents used by the United States in implementing the ATC.

Dated: September 22, 2008.

R. Matthew Priest,

Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

[FR Doc. E8-22575 Filed 9-24-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Army Growth and Force Structure Realignment at Fort Bliss, Texas and New Mexico

AGENCY: Department of the Army, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of Intent (NOI).

SUMMARY: This announces the intention of the U.S. Army to prepare an EIS analyzing the impacts of Army Growth and Force Structure Realignment at Fort Bliss. The Fort Bliss Army Growth EIS will tier from the Final Programmatic EIS for Army Growth and Force Structure Realignment, for which a Record of Decision (ROD) was signed in December 2007. That ROD directed stationing of two Infantry Brigade Combat Teams (IBCTs) at Fort Bliss, and the stationing of Heavy Brigade Combat Teams (HBCTs) (returning from Germany) at Fort Bliss and White Sands Missile Range (WSMR). Army BCTs consist of approximately 3,500–4,000 soldiers. The HBCT at WSMR will leverage training infrastructure and range modernization that has taken place at Fort Bliss. These actions are scheduled over the next five years.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be forwarded to: Mr. Walter J. Christensen, Attention: FB GTA EIS; IMWE-BLS-PWE; Fort Bliss, TX 79916 6812; or faxed to (915) 568-3548.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jean Offutt, Fort Bliss Public Affairs Office; IMWE-BLS-PA; Fort Bliss, Texas, 79916-6812; phone: (915) 568-4505.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Actions proposed to be taken at Fort Bliss in support of Army growth have the potential to significantly impact the natural and human environment in and around Fort Bliss as a result of facility construction and new and different uses of the Fort Bliss Training Complex (FBTC). The study area for the environmental analysis will be the Fort Bliss installation and surrounding communities. The objective of this analysis is to provide a comprehensive EIS that will serve as a planning tool and public information source. Several categories of alternatives will be considered:

(1) *Stationing/Training:* Known and reasonably foreseeable stationing and training actions will be analyzed. This includes additional units and use of any element of the Army's equipment inventory (e.g., Stryker).

(2) *Land Use:* Various land use changes in support of the Fort Bliss