

## Public Involvement

Public involvement and comments have been requested, considered, and incorporated throughout the EIS process. The Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS for a proposed land exchange in the Refuge was published in the **Federal Register** on October 19, 2005 (70 FR 60845). The notice of public scoping meetings was published in the **Federal Register** on March 3, 2006 (71 FR 10988). Public scoping meetings were held in local communities within the Refuge and surrounding areas. The Service distributed newsletters with project updates discussing opportunities for public involvement and results of public input. Comments and concerns received during this time were used to identify issues and draft alternatives for evaluation in the Draft EIS.

The Notice of Availability for the Draft EIS was published in the **Federal Register** on January 25, 2008 (73 FR 4617). Public hearings were held in each local community affiliated with the Refuge, plus Fairbanks and Anchorage. From May to July 2008, government-to-government consultations were also held with Tribal Councils who requested them. In response to numerous requests for additional time to review and comment, the comment period was reopened and extended via a **Federal Register** notice published April 18, 2008 (73 FR 20931). We received more than 100,000 comments during the full comment period. The vast majority of comments, including those from several area tribal governments, opposed the proposed exchange. The Responses to Comments are contained in Volume 2 of the Final EIS.

The Notice of Availability for the Final EIS was published in the **Federal Register** on March 12, 2010 (75 FR 11905). Comments from tribal governments, Alaska Native and conservation organizations, and individuals expressed support for the Service's designation of the No Action Alternative as the preferred alternative.

## Findings and Basis for Decision

In making its decision, the Service reviewed and carefully considered the impacts identified in the draft and final *Environmental Impact Statement*; relevant issues and concerns; public input received throughout the EIS process, including comments on the draft and final *Environmental Impact Statement*; and other factors including refuge purposes and relevant laws, regulations, and policies. For the following reasons, the Service selected the No Land Exchange Alternative.

First, the Service has a limited understanding of the effects that oil and gas development would have on the hydrology of lands exchanged to Doyon and lands that would be retained by the Service. Second, the exchange would create a private lands corridor that would almost split the Refuge into two parcels, resulting in habitat fragmentation, and that could degrade the biological integrity, diversity, and environmental health of the Refuge. Third, the Service is concerned that the proposed land exchange could magnify projected changes to Refuge resources from climate change. Fourth, infrastructure associated with access corridors from the proposed exchange would increase human use of the Refuge. Fifth, there is concern that the lands proposed for acquisition by the Service are more likely to be adjacent to prospective areas of development (based on revised U.S. Geological Survey oil and gas data). Impacts from adjacent development would make those lands less desirable to the Service. This has cast doubts on the benefits of the exchange to all involved. The adoption of the No Land Exchange Alternative is effective immediately.

Dated: May 19, 2010.

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*Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Anchorage, Alaska.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

#### Special Resource Study and Environmental Impact Statement, Coltsville, Hartford, CT

**AGENCY:** National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of Termination of the Environmental Impact Statement for the Coltsville Special Resource Study in Hartford, Connecticut.

**SUMMARY:** As directed by the US Congress in Public Law 108-94, the National Park Service (NPS) undertook a special resource study (SRS) of the Coltsville Historic District in Hartford, Connecticut. In accordance with NPS policy, the Coltsville SRS was initially undertaken as an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA). A Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS was published in the **Federal Register** on September 4, 2004. The purpose of an SRS is to determine the degree and kind

of federal actions that may be desirable for the management and protection of an area considered to have potential for addition to the national park system. The EIS assesses the impacts of the management alternatives examined in the SRS.

The SRS examines a site in terms of:

- National significance of the resources;
- Determination of suitability of the site for inclusion within the national park system in comparison to other protected sites with similar resources or themes;
- Determination of feasibility for the NPS to own, manage or participate in conservation and interpretation in the study area;
- Need for NPS management measured against other alternatives.

This SRS examined the resources in the existing Coltsville Historic District, which preserves the history of precision manufacturing that developed at the Colt Fire Arms Company. All of the elements of the site are located within the City of Hartford, Connecticut. The study team concluded that the Coltsville Historic District NHL meets the criteria for national significance and suitability; however, the study concluded that the site does not meet the feasibility criterion for potential designation as a unit of the national park system. As a result, there is no need for NPS management and, therefore, no federal actions subject to the requirements of NEPA. Thus, the NEPA process has been terminated.

The Coltsville Special Resource Study is available for public review at:

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/nero>.

Public comments were received between November 13 and December 18, 2009. A summary of the public comments is also available at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/nero>.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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## DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

### Notice of Lodging of Consent Decree Under Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act

Under 28 CFR 50.7, notice is hereby given that on May 17, 2010, a proposed