

stormwater control features, haul roads, and an access road), and continued surface exploration. Mill grade mined material will be processed at Barrick's Betze Mine Project located 8 miles south-southeast of the Project. Mined material will be transported using highway approved haul trucks. Dewatering is not proposed for this project. The Project would create approximately 2,347 acres of surface disturbance on public lands administered by the BLM. The project life is approximately 11 years. The Project is located approximately 45 miles northwest of Elko, Nevada in Elko County.

The purpose of the public scoping process is to determine relevant issues that will influence the scope of the environmental analysis, including alternatives, and guide the process for developing the EIS. The Draft EIS will address impacts to transportation, public safety, cultural resources, recreational opportunities, wildlife, threatened and endangered species, visual resources, air quality, wilderness characteristics, and other relevant issues. At present, the BLM has identified the following preliminary issues: grazing, wildlife, Native American concerns, cultural resources, and water resources.

The BLM will use and coordinate the NEPA comment process to satisfy the requirements for public involvement under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470(f)) as provided for in 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3). Native American Tribal consultations will be conducted in accordance with policy, and tribal concerns will be given due consideration, including impacts on Indian trust assets. Federal, state, and local agencies, along with other stakeholders that may be interested or affected by the BLM's decision on this project are invited to participate in the scoping process and, if eligible, may request or be requested by the BLM to participate as a cooperating agency. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Authority: 40 CFR 1501.7.

Kenneth E. Miller,
Manager, Elko District Office.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R4-R-2009-N165; 40136-1265-0000-S3]

Tampa Bay Refuges, FL

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability: final comprehensive conservation plan and finding of no significant impact.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce the availability of our final comprehensive conservation plan (CCP) and finding of no significant impact (FONSI) for the environmental assessment for Egmont Key, Pinellas, and Passage Key National Wildlife Refuges. These three refuges, known as the Tampa Bay Refuges, are managed as part of the Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) Complex. In the final CCP, we describe how we will manage these refuges for the next 15 years.

ADDRESSES: You may obtain a copy of the CCP by writing to: Mr. Michael Lusk, Refuge Manager, 1502 S.E. Kings Bay Drive, Crystal River, FL 34429. You may also access and download the document from the Service's *Web site*: <http://southeast.fws.gov/planning>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Michael Lusk; *telephone*: 727/570-5417; *e-mail*: michael_lusk@fws.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Introduction

With this notice, we finalize the CCP process for the Tampa Bay Refuges. We started this process through a notice in the **Federal Register** on December 3, 2004 (69 FR 70276). For more about the process, please see that notice.

Egmont Key NWR includes 392 acres and was established in 1974 to protect the Key's significant natural, historical, and cultural resources from the impending threats of development. Of the three Tampa Bay Refuges, it is the only refuge island open to the public and has been traditionally visited for many years as a primary recreation destination. Egmont Key NWR seeks to provide nesting habitat for brown pelicans and other waterbirds, as well as to conserve and protect barrier island habitat and to preserve historical

structures of national significance (*i.e.*, historic lighthouse, guardhouse, gun batteries, and brick roads). Presently, the island's approximately 244 acres of beach and coastal berm support more than 110 species of nesting, migrating, and wintering birds. The island is designated as critical habitat for endangered piping plovers and provides habitat and protection for endangered manatees and sea turtles. Egmont Key NWR has an unusually high population of gopher tortoises and box turtles. Two wildlife sanctuaries, one on the east side of the island and one at the south end of the island, comprise about 97 acres and are closed to public use. Cooperative management agreements between the Service, the U.S. Coast Guard, and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection entrust daily management activities of Egmont Key NWR to the Florida Park Service, which manages the island to protect and restore the historic structures and for swimming, sunbathing, shelling, and picnicking.

Pinellas NWR was established in 1951 as a breeding ground for colonial bird species. It contains 7 mangrove islands encompassing about 394 acres. The refuge is comprised of Little Bird, Mule, Jackass, Listen, and Whale Island Keys and leases Tarpon and Indian Keys from Pinellas County. A Pinellas County seagrass sanctuary is located around Tarpon and Indian Keys, and the use of internal combustion engines within this zone is prohibited to protect the seagrass beds. Hundreds of brown pelicans and double-crested cormorants and dozens of herons, egrets, and roseate spoonbills nest within Tarpon and Little Bird Keys. Pinellas NWR provides important mangrove habitat for most long-legged wading species, especially the reddish egret. All of the mangrove islands of Pinellas NWR are closed to all public use year-round to protect the migratory birds.

Passage Key NWR was originally designated as a Federal bird reservation by President Roosevelt in 1905, when it consisted of a 60-acre island with a freshwater lake and lush vegetation. However, erosion and hurricanes have virtually destroyed the key, and it is now a meandering sand bar varying in size from 0.5 to 10 acres, depending on weather. In 1970, Passage Key NWR was designated a Wilderness Area. The refuge's objective is to provide habitat for colonial waterbirds. Hundreds of brown pelicans, laughing gulls, black skimmers, and royal terns, and small numbers of herons and egrets, nested annually until the island was destroyed by a hurricane in 2005. The key once hosted the largest royal tern and

sandwich tern nesting colonies in the State of Florida. Because of its fragility, small size, and to protect the migratory birds that use the island, it is now closed to all public use year-round.

We announce our decision and the availability of the final CCP and FONSI for the Tampa Bay Refuges in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) [40 CFR 1506.6(b)] requirements. We completed a thorough analysis of impacts on the human environment, which we included in the Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment (Draft CCP/EA). The CCP will guide us in managing and administering the Tampa Bay Refuges for the next 15 years. Alternative B is the foundation for the CCP.

The compatibility determinations for beach uses, bicycling, boating, camping, competitive sporting events, concessions, geocaching, hiking/walking, military uses, mosquito management, picnicking, photography/video/filming/audio recording, research and surveys, snorkeling and SCUBA diving, and wildlife observation and photography are available in the CCP.

Background

The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd–668ee) (Administration Act), as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, requires us to develop a CCP for each national wildlife refuge. The purpose in developing a CCP is to provide refuge managers with a 15-year plan for achieving refuge purposes and contributing toward the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System, consistent with sound principles of fish and wildlife management, conservation, legal mandates, and our policies. In addition to outlining broad management direction on conserving wildlife and their habitats, CCPs identify wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities available to the public, including opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, wildlife photography, and environmental education and interpretation. We will review and update the CCP at least every 15 years in accordance with the Administration Act.

Comments

Copies of the Draft CCP/EA for the Tampa Bay Refuges were made available for a 30-day public review and comment period as announced in the **Federal Register** on April 24, 2009 (74 FR 18744). We held two meetings to present the Draft CCP/EA to the public

and to solicit comments. Approximately 57 persons attended the two meetings. A total of 23 comment letters was received by mail or e-mail from 12 persons and 8 organizations. All comments were considered and thoroughly evaluated. Responses to the comments are contained in Appendix D of the CCP.

Selected Alternative

After considering the comments we received and based on the professional judgment of the planning team, we selected Alternative B for implementation. Under Alternative B, we will continue the cooperative agreement with the State to manage Egmont Key NWR and will establish monthly communications and quarterly meetings to better coordinate our efforts. A visitors center will be established at the Egmont Key NWR Guardhouse, and interpretive signs and information distribution will be increased. Our primary mission will continue to be providing habitat and protection for wildlife. We will assume more of a leadership role in coordinating, directing, and conducting bird and other wildlife surveys; monitoring and conducting research on gopher tortoises; and identifying, mapping, and protecting State-listed plant species with partners.

Authority

This notice is published under the authority of the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, Public Law 105–57.

Dated: August 24, 2009.

Patrick Leonard,

Acting Regional Director.

Editorial Note: This document was received in the Office of the Federal Register on June 16, 2010.

[FR Doc. 2010–14876 Filed 6–18–10; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLNM910000 L1020000.PH0000]

Notice of Intent To Establish and Call for Nominations for the New Mexico Resource Advisory Councils

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The BLM is publishing this notice in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and the Federal Advisory

Committee Act (FACA). The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) gives notice that the Secretary of the Interior is establishing four resource advisory councils in New Mexico to represent the four BLM districts in the State. This notice is also to solicit public nominations for each of the four New Mexico Resource Advisory Councils (RAC). The RACs provide advice and recommendations on land use planning and management of the public lands within their geographic area.

DATES: All nominations must be received no later than August 5, 2010.

ADDRESSES: See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for the address of BLM New Mexico District Offices accepting nominations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Theresa Herrera, Public Affairs Specialist, New Mexico State Office, Bureau of Land Management, 301 Dinosaur Trail, Santa Fe, NM 87508, telephone (505) 954–2021; or e-mail Theresa_Herrera@blm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) (43 U.S.C. 1739) directs the Secretary of the Interior to involve the public in planning and issues related to management of lands administered by the BLM. Section 309 of FLPMA directs the Secretary to establish 10- to 15-member citizen-based advisory councils that are consistent with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). The rules governing RACs are found at 43 CFR subpart 1784. As required by FACA, RAC membership must be balanced and representative of the various interests concerned with the management of the public lands. These include three categories:

Category One—Holders of Federal grazing permits and representatives of organizations associated with energy and mineral development, timber industry, transportation or rights-of-way, developed outdoor recreation, off-highway vehicle use, and commercial recreation;

Category Two—Representatives of nationally or regionally recognized environmental organizations; archaeological and historic organizations, dispersed recreation activities, and wild horse and burro organizations; and

Category Three—Representatives of State, county, or local elected office; representatives and employees of a State agency responsible for managing natural resources; representatives of Indian tribes within or adjacent to the area for which the council is organized;