

In accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (40 CFR 1506.6(b)) requirements, this notice announces the availability of the ROD for the final CCP and final EIS for San Luis Valley NWR Complex. We completed a thorough analysis of the environmental, social, and economic considerations associated with our actions. The ROD documents our selection of alternative B, the preferred alternative.

The CCP will guide us in managing and administering the Refuge Complex for the next 15 years. Alternative B, as we described in the final EIS/ROD, is the foundation for the CCP.

Background

The CCP Process

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 for 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. We will review and update the CCP at least

every 15 years in accordance with the Administration Act.

CCP Alternatives and Selected Alternative

Our final CCP and final EIS (80 FR 48328; August 12, 2015) addressed several issues. To address these, we developed and evaluated the following alternatives: Alternative A—No Action; Alternative B—Wildlife Populations, Strategic Habitat Restoration, and Enhanced Public Uses; Alternative C—Habitat Restoration and Ecological Processes; and Alternative D—Maximize Public Use Opportunities.

After consideration of the more than 1,000 comments that we received on the draft CCP and draft EIS, we have selected alternative B—Wildlife Populations, Strategic Habitat Restoration, and Enhanced Public Uses. It is the alternative that best meets the purposes of the refuges, the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System, and the vision and management goals set for the Refuge Complex; and it adheres to Service policies and guidelines. It considers the interests and perspectives of many agencies, organization, tribes, and the public. Additionally, it is the environmentally preferred alternative.

Under alternative B and in cooperation with our partners, we will maintain or restore the composition,

structure, and function of the natural and modified habitats within the Refuge Complex. We will consider the ecological site characteristics and wildlife species needs on our Refuge Complex lands by developing sound and sustainable management strategies that preserve and restore ecological (biological) integrity, productivity, and biological diversity. We will apply strategic habitat conservation principles (a structured, science-driven, and adaptive approach) in determining how to best manage our lands for native fish, wildlife, and plant species, with a particular emphasis on migratory birds, waterfowl, and declining species listed under the Endangered Species Act (listed species). Compatible wildlife-dependent public uses will be enhanced and expanded to include all three refuges. We will facilitate the protection, restoration, and conservation of important water resources through partnerships, public education, and stewardship.

Public Availability of Documents

In addition to any one method in ADDRESSES, you can view or obtain documents at the following locations:

- Our Web site: http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/refuges/refugesUpdate/alm_bac_mtv.php
- Public libraries:

Library	Address	Phone No.
Alamosa Public Library	300 Hunt Avenue, Alamosa, CO 81101	(719) 589–6592
Carnegie Public Library	120 Jefferson Street, Monte Vista, CO 81144	(719) 852–3931
Baca Grande Library	67487 County Road T, Crestone, CO 81131	(719) 256–4100
Saguache Public Library	702 Pitkin Ave., Saguache, CO 81149	(719) 655–2551

Dated: December 4, 2015.

Matt Hogan,

Acting Regional Director, Mountain-Prairie Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of the Secretary

[16XD4523WS DS10100000 DWSN00000.000000 DP10020]

Statement of Findings: Bill Williams River Water Rights Settlement Act of 2014

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) is publishing this notice in accordance with section 9 of the Bill

Williams River Water Rights Settlement Act of 2014 (P.L. 113–223) (Settlement Act). The publication of this notice causes the waivers and release of certain claims to become effective as required to implement the Settlement.

DATES: This notice is effective December 11, 2015.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Address all comments and requests for additional information to Ruth Thayer, Chair, Hualapai Tribe Water Rights Settlement Negotiation Team, Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Lower Colorado Region, P.O. Box 61470, Boulder City, NV 89006. (702) 293–8426.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Settlement Act directs the Secretary of the Interior to enter into the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Water Rights Settlement Agreement and the Hualapai Tribe Bill Williams River Water Rights

Settlement Agreement, to provide for the lease of certain land located within Planet Ranch on the Bill Williams River in the State of Arizona to benefit the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program, and to provide for the settlement of specific water rights claims in the Bill Williams River watershed in the State of Arizona. The non-federal settling parties submitted a signed settlement agreement to Congress prior to enactment of the Settlement Act (Pub. L. 113–223). The purposes of the Settlement Act are:

(1) To achieve a fair, equitable, and final settlement of certain claims among certain parties to water rights in the Bill Williams River watershed in the State of Arizona for

(A) the Hualapai Tribe (acting on behalf of the Tribe and members of the Tribe); and

(B) the Department of the Interior, acting on behalf of the Department and,

as specified, the United States as trustee for the Hualapai Tribe, the members of the Tribe, and the allottees;

(2) to approve, ratify, and confirm

(A) the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Water Rights Settlement Agreement (Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement) entered into among the Hualapai Tribe, the United States as trustee for the Tribe, the members of the Tribe and allottees, the Secretary of the Interior, the Arizona department of water resources (ADWR), Freeport Minerals Corporation, the Arizona Game and Fish Commission, to the extent the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement is consistent with the Settlement Act;

(B) the Hualapai Tribe Bill Williams River Water Rights Settlement Agreement (Hualapai Tribe Agreement) entered into among the Tribe, the United States as trustee for the Tribe, members of the Tribe, the allottees, and the Freeport Minerals Corporation, to the extent the Hualapai Tribe Agreement is consistent with the Settlement Act;

(3) to authorize and direct the Secretary

(A) to execute the duties and obligations of the Secretary under the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement, the Hualapai Tribe Agreement, and the Settlement Act;

(B)(i) to remove objections to the applications for the severance and transfer of certain water rights, in partial consideration of the agreement of the parties to impose certain limits on the extent of the use and transferability of the severed and transferred water rights and other water rights; and

(ii) to provide confirmation of those water rights; and

(C) to carry out any other activity necessary to implement the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement and the Hualapai Tribe Agreement in accordance with the Settlement Act;

(4) to advance the purposes of the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (Conservation Program);

(5) to secure a long-term lease for a portion of Planet Ranch, along with appurtenant water rights primarily along the Bill Williams River corridor, for use in the Conservation Program;

(6) to bring the leased portion of Planet Ranch into public ownership for the long-term benefit of the Conservation Program; and

(7) to secure from the Freeport Minerals Corporation non-Federal contributions

(A) to support a tribal water supply study necessary for the advancement of a settlement of the claims of the Tribe for rights to Colorado River water; and

(B) to enable the Tribe to secure Colorado River water rights and appurtenant land, increase security of the water rights of the Tribe, and facilitate a settlement of the claims of the Tribe for rights to Colorado River water.

Statement of Findings

In accordance with section 9 of the Settlement Act, section 11.12(i) of the Amended and Restated Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Water Rights Settlement Agreement, and section 10.13(i) of the Amended and Restated Hualapai Tribe Bill Williams River Water Rights Settlement Agreement, I find as follows:

(1)(A) To the extent that the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement or the Hualapai Tribe Agreement conflict with the Settlement Act, the applicable agreement has been revised to eliminate the conflict; and

(B) the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement, as revised, and the Hualapai Tribe Agreement, as revised, have been executed by all parties to those agreements;

(2) Freeport Minerals Corporation has submitted to the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) a conditional amendment of the sever and transfer applications for the Lincoln Ranch water right and amendments to sever and transfer applications for Planet Ranch and Lincoln Ranch water rights consistent with section 4.2.1(ii)(a) of the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement;

(3) the Secretary and the Arizona Game and Fish Commission have executed and filed with ADWR a conditional withdrawal of each objection described in section 4(b)(3) of the Settlement Act and as provided in subsections 4.2.1(ii)(b) and 4.2.1(ii)(c) of the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement;

(4)(A) ADWR has issued a conditional order approving the sever and transfer applications of Freeport Minerals Corporation; and

(B) all objections to the sever and transfer applications have been (i) conditionally withdrawn; or (ii) resolved in a decision issued by ADWR that is final and nonappealable;

(5) notice has been provided to the parties to the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement and the Hualapai Tribe Agreement that the Department has completed the legally required environmental compliance described in section 8;

(6) the steering committee for the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program has approved and authorized the manager of the Conservation Program to execute the

lease in the form as set forth in exhibit 2.33 to the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement; and

(7) the waivers and releases authorized by section 6 have been executed by the Tribe and the Secretary.

Dated: December 7, 2015.

Sally Jewell,

Secretary of the Interior.

[FR Doc. 2015-31301 Filed 12-10-15; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

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Notice of Public Meeting; Central Montana Resource Advisory Council

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) Central Montana Resource Advisory Council (RAC) will meet as indicated below.

DATES: The Central Montana Resource Advisory Council Meeting will be held January 26–27, 2015 in Great Falls, Montana. The January 26 meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. with a 30-minute public comment period and will adjourn at 5:00 p.m. The January 27 meeting will begin at 8:00 a.m. with a 30-minute public comment period beginning at 10:00 a.m. and will adjourn at 12:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be in the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center Conference Room at 4201 Giant Springs Road, Great Falls, Montana.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mark Albers, HiLine District Manager, Great Falls Field Office, 1101 15th Street North, Great Falls, MT 59401, (406) 791-7789, malbers@blm.gov.

Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-677-8339 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This 15-member council advises the Secretary of the Interior, through the BLM, on a variety of management issues associated