

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Upon publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** as provided in 43 CFR 2720.1-1(b), the mineral interests within the legal description given above will be segregated to the extent that they will not be subject to appropriation under the mining and mineral leasing laws. The segregative effect of the application shall terminate upon issuance of a conveyance document, final rejection of the application, or 2 years from the date of filing of the application, July 31, 1998, whichever occurs first.

Dated: December 2, 1998.

Randy D. Heuscher,

Acting Deputy State Director, Division of Resources.

[FR Doc. 98-32861 Filed 12-9-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-DN-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[ID-040-1610-00]

Availability of the Challis Proposed Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Idaho.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and BLM Planning Regulations (43 CFR part 1600), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Upper Columbia—Salmon Clearwater Districts has prepared a Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (Proposed RMP/Final EIS) for the Challis Resource Area. The Challis Proposed RMP/Final EIS has been published and is available for public review by requesting a copy from the address indicated in the **ADDRESSES** section below.

The Challis Proposed RMP/Final EIS describes and analyzes the BLM's proposed plan for managing approximately 792,657 acres of BLM public lands in the Challis Resource Area, located in Custer and Lemhi counties of east-central Idaho. When implemented, the Challis RMP would replace the three Management Framework Plans currently used by the Challis Resource Area. The Challis RMP would also amend the Little Lost-Birch Creek Management Framework Plan (BLM 1981) by designating the Donkey Hills Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), which includes 4,714 acres managed by the Upper Snake

River District—BLM in Butte County, Idaho.

DATES: Written comments on the Final EIS for the Challis Proposed RMP must be submitted or postmarked no later than Tuesday, January 19, 1999. Written protests on the Challis Proposed RMP must also be submitted or postmarked no later than Tuesday, January 19, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the Challis Proposed RMP/Final EIS may be obtained upon request by contacting the Bureau of Land Management, Route 2, Box 610, Salmon, Idaho 83467; phone (208) 756-5400. Written comments on the Final EIS should be addressed to Kathe Rhodes, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, Bureau of Land Management, Route 2, Box 610, Salmon, Idaho 83467. Protests of the Challis Proposed RMP must be filed with the Director, Bureau of Land Management; Attention: Ms. Brenda Williams, Protests Coordinator; WO-210/LS-1075; Department of the Interior; Washington, DC 20240. A description of protest procedures may be obtained from Kathe Rhodes, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, Bureau of Land Management, Route 2, Box 610, Salmon, Idaho 83467; phone (208) 756-5440.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kathe Rhodes, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, Bureau of Land Management, Route 2, Box 610, Salmon, Idaho 83467; phone (208) 756-5440. Documents relevant to the Challis Proposed RMP/Final EIS planning process are available for public viewing at the Salmon BLM office on Highway 93 South, Salmon, Idaho.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Challis Proposed RMP/Final EIS describes and analyzes the BLM's proposed plan for addressing the planning issues and management concerns identified through public involvement and BLM input. The Proposed RMP proposes resource condition objectives, land use allocations, and management actions and direction to guide resource management of the Challis Resource Area on a long term, sustainable basis during the next 15 to 20 years.

The Proposed RMP/Final EIS describes changes from and corrections to the Challis Draft RMP/EIS (BLM, May 1996), updates the discussion of the affected environment, provides an analysis of environmental consequences for the Proposed RMP, records public comments on the Draft RMP/EIS, and documents the BLM's responses to those comments. The Proposed RMP is based on the Preferred Alternative (Alternative 2) described in the Challis Draft RMP/EIS, as modified in response to public

and tribal comments and internal BLM recommendations. When compared with the Preferred Alternative, the Proposed RMP increases the level of protection to aquatic, riparian, and upland resources by limiting off-highway vehicle use to existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails throughout the Resource Area. The Proposed RMP also clarifies numerous decisions, and thereby improves the BLM's ability to implement effective management in order to address resource concerns and improve resource conditions. Finally, the Proposed RMP includes an emphasis on integrated resource activity planning and watershed assessment, in order to ensure that individual project proposals are considered within the context of broader landscape issues.

The Proposed RMP includes decisions related to two types of designations: (a) The Proposed RMP describes the BLM's Wild and Scenic River suitability findings for rivers within the Challis Resource Area; and (b) the Proposed RMP designates public lands as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs). The Proposed RMP would continue to designate approximately 13,968 acres within existing ACECs, in order to highlight unique plant communities, paleontological resources, fragile soils and a bighorn sheep population for management and protection; these existing ACECs include 5,975 acres of existing Research Natural Areas (RNAs). The Proposed RMP would expand one existing ACEC by 322 acres. The Proposed RMP would also designate approximately 73,916 acres within seven additional ACECs, in order to highlight the following resources for management and protection: unique plant communities; fragile soils; a geologic area of interest; unique riparian habitats; fisheries habitats; roadless primitive and scenic values; crucial bighorn sheep and elk habitats; and unique cultural resources. Approximately 3,871 acres of Research Natural Areas would be designated within these seven additional ACECs.

Following a 30-day public review period, a concurrent 30-day protest period, a concurrent 60-day Governor's review, and resolution of written protests or concerns raised during these protest and review periods, the BLM will prepare a Record of Decision for the approved RMP. The public will be notified in the **Federal Register** when the Record of Decision for the Challis RMP becomes available.

Comments on the protests of the Challis Proposed RMP/Final EIS, including the names and street addresses of respondents, will be

available for public review at the Salmon BLM Office on Highway 93 South in Salmon, Idaho during regular business hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment or protest. Such request will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Dated: December 4, 1998.

Fritz U. Rennebaum,
District Manager.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Alcatraz Island Historic Structure Preservation-Construction Program; Golden Gate National Recreation Area, San Francisco County; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement

SUMMARY: In accord with § 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act, Golden Gate National Recreation Area is undertaking a conservation planning and impact analysis process to identify alternatives for (and assess potential impacts of) construction activities necessary to rehabilitate and preserve structures and sites which contribute to the island's National Historic Landmark status. Enhancing visitor and employee safety is also an objective. Notice is hereby given that the National Park Service will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to aid planning for and implementation of this program.

Background

Alcatraz Island is within the boundary of Golden Gate National Recreation Area, a unit of the National Park System comprised of coastal lands in Marin, San Francisco, and San Mateo counties, California. Alcatraz Island, prominently located in San Francisco Bay, is a National Historic Landmark and an important breeding site for several waterbird species and western gulls in San Francisco Bay. Facilities and recreational opportunities on

Alcatraz Island attract more than 1.4 million visitors annually.

Recent management and use of Alcatraz Island has been guided by a Development Concept Plan (DCP) which was completed in 1993. An Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared to evaluate foreseeable effects of carrying out the DCP (among other considerations, potential impacts to historic resources, biological resources, human health and safety, and park visitation were addressed). A Finding of No Significant Impact was approved on August 3, 1993 by the Acting Regional Director, Western Region. Prescribed mitigations to safeguard breeding bird populations included timing and location restrictions for proposed construction activities foreseen at that time.

Although originally many elements of construction addressed in the DCP fit within the seasonal restrictions that were identified, several historic rehabilitation and related projects have recently been deemed necessary. These may require construction schedules which would extend beyond the seasonal restrictions. Also, the breeding and nesting seasons for Alcatraz avifauna have been found to fluctuate, sometimes extending as much as 2 months beyond previously known periods. Moreover, visitation has increased, and has the potential for further growth. The constrained construction periods, recently identified rehabilitation needs, possibility of undocumented archeological resources and artifacts, new information about avifaunal activity, and other factors necessitate undertaking a new conservation planning and impact analysis effort.

Alternatives Identified to Date

Proposed construction that would be outside the scope of the existing DCP will be detailed and evaluated. At this time it is anticipated that the impact analysis would focus primarily on the effects of proposed construction activities on the island's breeding bird populations. The construction required to rehabilitate National Landmark contributing structures and features is envisioned to be phased over a 3-5 year period. To date, 12 projects are foreseen that could necessitate some degree of activity outside the currently prescribed seasonal restrictions—these include rehabilitation of the cellhouse, water tower and guard tower from the federal prison era, two civil war era structures, and the dock. Installation of photovoltaic electrical panels on the roof of a prison era building, stabilization of a failing slope, and

reconstruction of a former greenhouse are also proposed.

In addition to the above construction needs, other alternatives currently envisioned include: no action; and adherence to existing mitigations and seasonal restrictions.

Scoping/Decision Process

The existing DCP/EA provides a useful baseline which must be corroborated or updated. The NPS encourages local and regional agencies, park partners, visitors, and other interested parties to assist in this effort. Anyone wishing to be incorporated on a mailing list may respond to: Alcatraz Preservation Construction Program EIS; Attn: Olivia Shinomoto; Golden Gate National Recreation Area; Building 201 Fort Mason; San Francisco, CA 94123.

As already highlighted in local and regional news media, a public scoping meeting will be held at park headquarters (Building 201 Fort Mason) on December 11 at 8:00 am; also on that date an information open house meeting will be held at the same location from 3-6 pm. For details about these meetings, contact Olivia Shinomoto at (415) 561-4821. Written comments conveying information or sharing issues and concerns are welcomed; these should be addressed to the Superintendent (address as above) and must be postmarked no later than January 9, 1999.

Availability of the Draft EIS (DEIS) for review and written comment will be announced by **Federal Register** notice, as well as via local and regional news media and direct mailing. At this time the DEIS is anticipated to be available for public review during winter 1999. In addition to written responses, a formal comment opportunity will be provided via public hearing held under the auspices of the GGNRA Advisory Commission (full details will be available after January 9, 1999 and may be obtained from the project contact noted above). If the focus of the EIS is substantiated through the public involvement and agency consultation process, then it is anticipated that a Final EIS (FEIS) could be released during summer 1999. Subsequently, Notice of any Record of Decision would be published in the **Federal Register** no sooner than thirty (30) days after the FEIS is distributed. The official responsible for the final decision is the Regional Director, Pacific West Region, National Park Service.