

Dated: October 29, 2001.

Michael Liu,

Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing.

[FR Doc. 01-27490 Filed 11-1-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-4644-N-44]

Federal Property Suitable as Facilities To Assist the Homeless

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development, HUD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice identifies unutilized, underutilized, excess, and surplus Federal property reviewed by HUD for suitability for possible use to assist the homeless.

EFFECTIVE DATE: November 2, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Clifford Taffet, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Room 7262, 451 Seventh Street SW, Washington, DC 20410; telephone (202) 708-1234; TTY number for the hearing- and speech-impaired (202) 708-2565, (these telephone numbers are not toll-free), or call the toll-free Title V information line at 1-800-927-7588.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with the December 12, 1988 court order in *National Coalition for the Homeless v. Veterans Administration*, No. 88-2503-OG (D.D.C.), HUD publishes a notice, on a weekly basis, identifying unutilized, underutilized, excess and surplus Federal buildings and real property that HUD has reviewed for suitability for use to assist the homeless. Today's notice is for the purpose of announcing that no additional properties have been determined suitable or unsuitable this week.

Dated: October 24, 2001.

Mark R. Johnston,

Deputy Director, Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs.

[FR Doc. 01-27314 Filed 11-1-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Availability of Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment for Antioch Dunes National Wildlife Refuge, Contra Costa County, California

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announces that a Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment (CCP/EA) for Antioch Dunes National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) is available for review and comment. This CCP/EA, prepared pursuant to the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, describes how the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service intends to manage the Refuge for the next 15 years. Also available for review with the CCP/EA are draft compatibility determinations for environmental education, interpretation, wildlife observation, and photography, and research.

DATES: Please submit comments on the Draft CCP/EA on or before December 3, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Comments of the Draft CCP/EA should be addressed to: Mark Pelz, Planning Team Leader, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California/Nevada Refuge Planning Office, 2800 Cottage Way, Room W-1916, Sacramento, CA 95825. Comments may also be submitted via electronic mail to FW1PlanningComments@fws.gov. Please type "Antioch Dunes NWR" in the subject line.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mark Pelz, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California/Nevada Refuge Planning Office, Room W-1916, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, California, 95825; 916-414-6500; fax 916-414-6512.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Availability of Documents

Copies of the Draft CCP/EA may be obtained by writing to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Attn: Mark Pelz, California/Nevada Refuge Planning Office, Room W-1916, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, California, 95825. Copies of the plan may be viewed at this address or at the San Francisco Bay NWR Complex Headquarters, #1 Marshlands Road, Fremont, California. The Draft CCP/EA will also be available online for viewing and download at <http://pacific.fws.gov/planning>.

Background

The Antioch Dunes Refuge was the first National Wildlife Refuge in the country established to protect endangered plants and insects. Created in 1980 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), this riverside Refuge provides protection and critical habitat for three endangered species: Lange's metalmark butterfly (*Apodemia mormo langei*) (Lange's), Contra Costa wallflower (*Erysimum capitatum* ssp. *angustatum*) (wallflower), and Antioch Dunes evening primrose (*Oenothera deltoides* ssp. *howellii*) (primrose). The Refuge, 55-acres of former dunes, in addition to the adjacent 12 acres of Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) land, is an isolated patch of what was once a larger dune system that hosted a unique assemblage of plants, insects, and reptiles. A major effort is currently underway to restore and improve dune habitat on the Refuge. The Refuge staff is based in the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex office in Fremont, California.

This Draft CCP/EA identifies and evaluates four alternatives for managing the Refuge for the next 15 years. Alternative D is the Service's preferred alternative.

Under Alternative A (No Action), current management and public use would continue unchanged. The Refuge would continue its current weed control program. Various control methods would be used, including hand weeding, treating with herbicide, and prescribed fire. As opportunities arise, the Refuge would recontour existing sand dunes at the Refuge by using heavy equipment to reshape existing sand substrate into steep dunes and by importing sand from offsite. The Service would continue to outplant primrose, wallflower, and buckwheat on an as-needed basis. Annual surveys of the three endangered species would continue. The Refuge boundary would remain the same. The Service would continue to work to finalize a Cooperative Agreement with PG&E to manage its adjacent lands. The Refuge would continue to be closed to public use except for occasional staff guided tours for schools and other groups.

Under Alternative B, the Refuge would be restored and managed to pre-industrial natural conditions (oak woodland on sandy soils) with limited and controlled public access. Most of the Refuge would be managed as upland habitat and blowout areas along the shore would be allowed and encouraged to erode and to be colonized by endangered species. Nonnative weeds would continue to be controlled using

the same measures described in Alternative A. Weed control research would be expanded. As in Alternative A, the Service would continue to recontour existing dunes to make them steeper, as opportunities arise. Under this alternative, the Service would plant oak seedlings and native grasses in addition to the primrose, wallflower, and buckwheat. The Service would continue monitoring the primrose, wallflower, and Lange's populations and encouraging research on the Refuge. The Refuge boundary would remain the same as under Alternative A. Regularly scheduled tours of the Refuge would be conducted by Refuge staff. An outreach program would be developed to help expand the Refuge's presence and support in the community. Interpretive programs and facilities would be developed, including an automobile pull-out with an interpretive kiosk and a parking area for school and other groups. The Service would also promote the Refuge with teachers and develop an educator-led curriculum for Refuge resources.

Under Alternative C, the Refuge would be managed as a mosaic of dune habitat at varying successional stages with unrestricted public access. Nonnative weeds would continue to be controlled using the same measures as described in Alternative A. The Service would create a cycle of disturbance by scraping the soil in a mosaic pattern. In addition, the Service would construct additional dunes using imported sand in the areas that currently do not provide good habitat for endangered species. The Refuge's outplanting program would be expanded to include other native plant species, especially plants that are either locally significant and/or were historically present. The Service would continue monitoring the primrose, wallflower, and Lange's populations and encouraging research on the Refuge. Additional studies would be undertaken to assess the effects of management actions on other plants and animals, including reptiles and invertebrates, at the Refuge. Under this alternative, the Refuge would remove nonnative species such as *Ailanthus* and oleander from the river shore to the extent possible. Native species would be planted in their place. Parts of the river bank would be allowed to experience erosion and blowouts so that the endangered plants could colonize them. Under this alternative, the Refuge would initiate the Service's land acquisition planning process to investigate riparian easement and dune habitat acquisition from adjacent land owners. The Refuge would be opened to unrestricted access

by the public. Environmental education, interpretation, wildlife observation, photography, and fishing would be allowed on the Refuge. Public use facilities and programs would be developed and staffed as described under Alternative B except that there would be fewer guided tours. In addition, the Refuge would construct a nature trail with interpretive signs, a fishing pier, and a restroom.

Under Alternative D, the Service's preferred alternative, the Refuge would be managed as a mosaic of dune habitat at habitat at varying successional stages with limited and controlled public access. Nonnative weeds would be controlled using the same measures as described in Alternative C. Also, nonnative weeds would be removed in some places after spraying by mechanical means to reduce biomass and woody nonnative plants would also be removed. Under this alternative, restoration and dune construction would be implemented as in Alternative C. However, Alternative D, would require more soil scraping to create disturbance than Alternative C. Outplanting, riparian restoration, monitoring, and land protection planning under this alternative would be the same as under Alternative C. Public use services and facilities would be similar to those under Alternative B.

Dated: October 26, 2001.

Steve Thompson,

Acting Manager, California/Nevada Operations Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento, California.

[FR Doc. 01-27519 Filed 11-1-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Marine Mammals; Finding on Petition To List the Alaska Stock of Sea Otters as Depleted

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Finding on petition.

SUMMARY: On August 21, 2001, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) received a petition under section 115 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) from the Center for Biological Diversity. The petition requests that FWS list the Alaska stock of sea otters as depleted. The FWS finds that the petition does not present substantial information that the petitioned action is warranted. The FWS has determined that the statewide population of sea otters in Alaska is larger than presented

in the petition. Furthermore, the best available scientific information indicates that multiple stocks of sea otters exist in Alaska.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Douglas Burn, Wildlife Biologist, Marine Mammals Management Office, 1011 East Tudor Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99503, or telephone 907/786-3800 or facsimile 907/786-3816.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The sea otter, *Enhydra lutris*, is the smallest species of marine mammal. Sea otters occur primarily in shallow, nearshore marine habitats (Rotterman and Simon-Jackson 1988). They eat a wide variety of benthic (i.e., bottom dwelling) invertebrates, including bivalves, molluscs, gastropods, crustaceans, echinoderms, and occasionally octopus and fish. This dependence on nearshore benthic invertebrates greatly influences sea otter distribution, and as a result, they are seldom found in deep water. Sea otters seem to prefer areas with kelp beds, but this is not an essential habitat requirement (Riedman and Estes 1990). Although predominantly marine, they will occasionally haul out on shore to rest.

Taxonomically, three subspecies of sea otter have been identified (Wilson *et al.* 1991). The northern sea otter contains two subspecies: *Enhydra lutris kenyoni*, which occurs from the Aleutian Islands to Oregon, and *Enhydra lutris lutris*, which occurs in the Kuril Islands, Kamchatka Peninsula, and Commander Islands in Russia. The third subspecies, *Enhydra lutris nereis*, occurs in California and is known as the southern sea otter.

Historically, sea otters occurred around the North Pacific rim from Hokkaido, Japan, through the Kuril Islands, Kamchatka Peninsula, the Commander Islands, the Aleutian Islands, peninsular and south coastal Alaska, and southward to Baja California (Kenyon 1969). Extensive commercial hunting of sea otters began following the arrival in Alaska of Russian explorers in 1741 and continued during the 18th and 19th centuries. By the time sea otters were afforded protection from commercial harvests by international treaty in 1911, the species was nearly extinct throughout its range, and may have numbered only 1,000-2,000 individuals (Kenyon 1969).

The remaining sea otters were distributed as 13 isolated remnant populations scattered throughout the historic range. Once commercial harvests ceased, 11 of the 13 remaining