

Scoping Process

To avoid duplication with State and local procedures, we plan to use the scoping process initiated by Western under CEQA. No additional public scoping meetings are planned at this time. The CEQA Notice of Preparation, comments received, and a map showing the proposed project and pipeline alignment alternatives are available at <http://www.usbr.gov/lc/socal/envdocs.html>. No known Indian trust assets or environmental justice issues are associated with the Proposed Action, although the proposed pipeline alignment may include areas of low income and minority populations.

Written comments are requested to help identify any additional alternatives and issues that should be analyzed in the EIS/EIR. Federal, State and local agencies, tribes, and the general public are invited to participate in the environmental review process.

Public Disclosure

Before including your name, address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, please 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.

Dated: February 18, 2010.

Jayne Harkins,

Deputy Regional Director, Bureau of Reclamation, Lower Colorado Region.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R7-R-2009-N288; 70133-1265-0000-U4]

Izembek National Wildlife Refuge, Cold Bay, Alaska

AGENCY: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Revised Notice

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), intend to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for a proposed land exchange of certain lands owned by the State of Alaska and certain lands owned by the King Cove Corporation and evaluation of a proposed road corridor through the Izembek National Wildlife

Refuge and the Izembek Wilderness Area. We published a notice in the **Federal Register** on August 6, 2009, inviting suggestions on the scope of issues to address in the EIS. We now provide a comment-period end date and announce the dates, times, and locations of upcoming public meetings. Special mailings, newspaper articles, and other media releases will announce additional opportunities to provide written and oral input.

DATES: *Meetings:* Public scoping meetings will be held in Anchorage, Alaska on March 4, 2010, 5–8 p.m. and on March 11, 2010, 1–4 p.m. in Washington, DC. In addition, we will hold public scoping meetings in King Cove, Cold Bay, Sand Point, and Nelson Lagoon in Alaska. We will announce these meeting dates, times, and locations locally, at least 10 days prior to each meeting.

Comments: Please provide any written comments, information, or suggestions on the scope of issues to address in the EIS by April 30, 2010.

ADDRESSES: Additional information concerning the proposed land exchange is at <http://izembek.fws.gov/EIS.htm>. Send your comments or requests for information by any of the following methods:

- *E-mail:* izembek_eis@fws.gov;
- *Fax:* Attn: Stephanie Brady, (907) 786-3965; or

- *U.S. Mail:* Stephanie Brady, Project Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1011 East Tudor Rd., MS-231, Anchorage, AK 99503.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Stephanie Brady, 907-246-1203 (phone), or at the addresses above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Izembek National Wildlife Refuge (417,533 acres) and the North Creek (8,452 acres) and Pavlof (1,447,264 acres) units of the Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge are located at the westernmost tip of the Alaska Peninsula. The 1,008,697-acre Unimak Island (the easternmost Aleutian Island of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge) lies across the Isanotski Strait. To the north of the Izembek Refuge is the Bering Sea; to the south is the Pacific Ocean. The Alaska Peninsula is dominated by the rugged Aleutian Range, part of the Aleutian arc chain of volcanoes. Landforms include mountains, active volcanoes, U-shaped valleys, glacial moraines, low tundra wetlands, lakes, sand dunes, and lagoons. Elevations range from sea level to the 9,372-foot Shishaldin Volcano. Shishaldin Volcano is a designated National Natural Landmark.

Several major lagoons are within the Izembek Refuge boundary. These lagoons contain some of the world's largest eelgrass beds. The lagoons are under the jurisdiction of the State of Alaska. Izembek Lagoon is designated as Izembek State Game Refuge. Birds from all over the Arctic funnel through Izembek Refuge in fall on their way to wintering grounds throughout the world. More than 98 percent of the world's Pacific black brant use Izembek Lagoon as a staging area for their fall migration to Mexico. Other birds that use the refuge include golden plovers, ruddy turnstones, western sandpipers, tundra swans, Steller's eiders, and emperor geese. The refuge also is home to large concentrations of brown bears and other large mammals, such as caribou and wolves. The red, pink, chum, and silver salmon that use the waters within the refuge enrich the entire ecosystem with the nutrients they bring from the sea. The refuge also has a rich human history, from ancient settlements of Alaska Natives, through the 18th and 19th century Russian fur traders, to a World War II outpost. The Izembek Wilderness covers much of the refuge and includes pristine streams, extensive wetlands, steep mountains, tundra, and sand dunes, and provides high scenic, wildlife, and scientific values, as well as outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge stretches from the Arctic Ocean to the southeast panhandle of Alaska and protects breeding habitat for seabirds, marine mammals, and other wildlife on more than 2,500 islands, spires, rocks, and coastal headlands. Sitkinak Island, which lies within the boundaries of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, is primarily owned by the State of Alaska, with two parcels owned by the Service.

The King Cove Corporation is an Alaska Native Village Corporation established under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (ANCSA; 43 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*). Under the authority of ANCSA, Congress granted King Cove Corporation land entitlements within and adjacent to Izembek Refuge. The State of Alaska also owns lands, submerged lands, shorelands, and tidelands within and adjacent to Izembek and Alaska Peninsula Refuges, including the Izembek State Game Refuge.

In the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (H.R. 146, Subtitle E; the Act), Congress directed us to prepare an EIS under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), and

its implementing regulations (40 CFR parts 1500–1508) to evaluate the impacts of a proposed land exchange with the State of Alaska and the King Cove Corporation for the purpose of constructing a single-lane gravel road between the communities of King Cove and Cold Bay, Alaska. The land exchange would involve the removal of approximately 206 acres within the Izembek Wilderness portion of Izembek National Wildlife Refuge for the road corridor and approximately 1,600 acres of Federal land within the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge on Sitkinak Island. In exchange, we would receive approximately 43,093 acres of land owned by the State of Alaska and approximately 13,300 acres of land owned by the King Cove Corporation. These lands are located around Cold Bay and adjacent to the North Creek Unit of Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge.

The Act directed us to begin our preparation of this EIS not later than 60 days after the Secretary received notification by the State and the King Cove Corporation of their intention to exchange lands. The Secretary received notification from the King Cove Corporation on May 19, 2009, and from the State of Alaska on June 19, 2009. Our notice of August 6, 2009 (74 FR 39336), initiated the process and opened the period for public scoping. This revised notice informs the public of the dates for the public scoping meetings in Washington, DC, and Anchorage, Alaska, and also notifies the public of the comment-period end date (see **DATES**). We will also hold public scoping meetings at King Cove, Cold Bay, Sand Point, and Nelson Lagoon, Alaska; we will announce the dates, times, and locations locally, at least 10 days prior to each meeting.

In accordance with Section 6402(b)(2)(B) of the Act, the EIS will analyze the proposed land exchange and the potential construction and operation of a road between the communities of King Cove and Cold Bay, Alaska, and will evaluate a specific road corridor through the Izembek Refuge that will be identified in consultation with the State of Alaska, the City of King Cove, and the Agdaagux Tribe of King Cove. The alternatives anticipated at this time include the existing situation (no land exchange or road construction) and the proposed land exchange and road construction and operation as outlined in the Act. In preparing the EIS, we will request comments from the public locally, regionally, and nationally. As required in the Act, subsequent to the

preparation of the EIS and in conjunction with the Record of Decision, the Secretary of the Interior will determine whether the land exchange (including the construction of the proposed road) is in the public interest. We anticipate release of the Draft EIS in the spring of 2011, followed by a 90-day public review period.

Public Availability of Comments

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 to withhold it from public review, we cannot guarantee we will be able to do so.

Dated: February 16, 2010.

Geoffrey L. Haskett,

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

[FR Doc. 2010–3642 Filed 2–23–10; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLUT91000–L11400000–PH0000–24–1A]

Notice of Utah's Resource Advisory Council (RAC)/Recreation RAC Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Utah's Resource Advisory Council (RAC)/Recreation RAC 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's (BLM) Utah Resource Advisory Council (RAC)/Recreation RAC will meet as indicated below.

DATES: The Utah Resource Advisory Council (RAC)/Recreation RAC will meet March 24, 2010, (8:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m.) and March 25, 2010, (8 a.m.—5 p.m.) in St. George, Utah.

ADDRESSES: The Council will meet at the Hilton Garden Inn (Indigo meeting room), 1731 South Convention Center Drive, St. George, Utah.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Contact Sherry Foot, Special Programs Coordinator, Utah State Office, Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box 45155,

Salt Lake City, Utah, 84145–0155; phone (801) 539–4195.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The 15-member Council advises the Secretary of the Interior, through the Bureau of Land Management, on a variety of planning and management issues associated with public land management in Utah. In conformance with the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (Title 16 of the United States Code, Part 6801 *et seq.*), the U.S. Forest Service and the BLM will present the following recreation fee proposals on March 24: The BLM Moab Field Office proposal to begin charging Expanded Amenity fees at the Moab Skyway Group Site and the Entrada Bluffs, Bartlett, and Courthouse Rock camping areas; the BLM Fillmore Field Office proposal to increase Special Recreation Permit fees at the Little Sahara Recreation Area; the Dixie National Forest proposal to begin charging Expanded Amenity fees at the Pine Valley Guard Station; and the Fishlake National Forest proposals to increase Expanded Amenity fees at the Adelaide, Gooseberry, Lebaron, Maple Grove, and Oak Creek campgrounds. Planned agenda topics for the March 24 session also include a welcome and introduction of new Council members. A half-hour public comment period, where the public may address the Council, is scheduled to begin from 2:15 p.m.—2:45 p.m. Written comments may be sent to the Bureau of Land Management address listed above.

On March 25, topics will include an implementation overview of Subtitle O of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, and the Washington County Commissioners' and School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration's perspectives on the Act. Randy Johnson, consultant, will address the Council on the status of ongoing land use bills from other counties. A field tour of the Red Cliffs National Conservation Area is planned from 1:15 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. All meetings are open to the public; however, transportation, lodging, and meals are the responsibility of the participating public.

Dated: February 16, 2010.

Approved:

Selma Sierra,

State Director.

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