

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-4901-N-26]

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: June 25, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kathy Burruss, 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: June 17, 2004.

Mark R. Johnston,

Director, Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs.

[FR Doc. 04-14129 Filed 6-24-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Availability of the Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment for Kern and Pixley National Wildlife Refuges

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces that a Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment (Draft CCP/

EA) for Kern and Pixley National Wildlife Refuges (Refuges) is available for review and comment. This Draft CCP/EA, prepared pursuant to the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act, as amended, and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, describes the Service's proposal for managing the Refuges for the next 15 years. The draft compatibility determinations for several public uses are also available for review with the Draft CCP/EA.

DATES: Written comments must be received at the address below by July 30, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the Draft CCP/EA should be addressed to: David Hardt, Project Leader, Kern and Pixley National Wildlife Refuges, P.O. Box 670, Delano, California 93216. Comments may also be submitted at the public meetings or via electronic mail to FW1PlanningComments@fws.gov. Please type "Kern CCP" in the subject line.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: David Hardt, Project Leader, Kern and Pixley National Wildlife Refuges, P.O. Box 670, Delano, CA 93216, phone: (661) 725-2767 or Mark Pelz, Planning Team Leader, CA/NV Refuge Planning Office, 2800 Cottage Way, W-1916, Sacramento, CA, 95825, phone (916) 414-6504.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Copies of the Draft CCP/EA may be obtained by writing to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Attn: Mark Pelz, CA/NV Refuge Planning Office, 2800 Cottage Way, W-1916, Sacramento, CA 95825. Copies of the Draft CCP/EA may be viewed at this address or at Kern National Wildlife Refuge, 10811 Corcoran Road, Delano, California 93215. The Draft CCP/EA will also be available for viewing and downloading online at <http://pacific.fws.gov/planning>. Printed documents will also be available for review at the following libraries: Beale Memorial Library, 701 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, California, and the Kern County Library, Delano Branch, 925 10th Avenue, Delano, California.

Background

Kern National Wildlife Refuge is located in the southern portion of California's San Joaquin Valley, in Kern County. It was established in 1960 to provide wintering habitat for waterfowl in the southern San Joaquin Valley. Kern Refuge consists of a single, 10,618-acre unit owned by the Service. Kern Refuge's seasonal wetlands are an important wintering area for Pacific Flyway waterfowl and other waterbirds, and a popular destination for southern

California hunters. The Refuge's grassland, alkali scrub, and riparian communities support four endangered species and several other special status species.

Pixley National Wildlife Refuge is located northeast of Kern Refuge in Tulare County. Pixley Refuge was set aside in 1959 to provide wintering habitat for waterfowl. Later, it was expanded to protect the habitat for the endangered blunt-nosed leopard lizard and Tipton kangaroo rat. The Pixley Refuge acquisition boundary contains about 10,300 acres, of which about 62 percent is owned by the Federal government. Pixley Refuge protects mostly grassland and smaller amounts of alkali playa, saltbush scrub, vernal pools, and riparian habitat. Pixley Refuge also has 756 acres of moist soil wetlands that are managed for wintering waterfowl and sandhill cranes.

Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose of the CCP is to provide a coherent, integrated set of management actions to help attain the Refuges' establishing purposes, and vision, goals, and objectives. The CCP identifies the Refuges' role in support of the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System, describes the Service's management actions, and provides a basis for the Refuges' budget requests.

Alternatives

The Draft CCP/EA identifies and evaluates four alternatives for managing Kern and Pixley Refuges for the next 15 years. The proposed action is to implement Alternative C as described in the EA. Alternative C best achieves Kern and Pixley Refuges' purposes, vision, and goals; contributes to the Refuge System mission; addresses the significant issues and relevant mandates; and is consistent with principles of sound fish and wildlife management.

Under Alternative A: No Action, the Kern and Pixley Refuges would continue to be managed as they have in the recent past. In general, management of the Refuges would be guided by Master Plans completed in 1986. Existing habitat management practices would continue and no new habitat restoration projects would occur. The existing hunting, wildlife observation, photography, environmental education, and interpretation programs would remain unchanged.

Under Alternative B, improvements at Kern Refuge would focus on improving habitat for migratory waterfowl and increasing waterfowl hunting opportunities. Under this alternative, the Service would rehabilitate 1,150