

The BLM will use the NEPA commenting process to satisfy the public involvement process of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f) as provided for in 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3). Native American Tribal consultations are being conducted in accordance with policy, and Tribal concerns will be given due consideration, including impacts on Indian trust assets.

The BLM has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the CEC to conduct a joint environmental review of solar thermal projects that are proposed on Federal land managed by the BLM. The BLM and CEC have agreed through the MOU to conduct a joint environmental review of the project in a single combined NEPA/California Environmental Quality Act process and document. The BLM and CEC have prepared the Draft EIS/SA evaluating the potential impacts of the proposed RSPP on air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, water resources, geological resources and hazards, land use, noise, paleontological resources, public health, socioeconomic impacts, soils, traffic and transportation, visual resources, and other resources.

A Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS/SA and Proposed Land Use Plan Amendment for the Proposed Ridgecrest Solar Power Project in Kern County, California was published in the **Federal Register** on November 23, 2009 (74 FR 61168). The BLM held two public scoping meetings in Ridgecrest and Inyokern, California, on January 5 and 6, 2010. The formal scoping period ended January 21, 2010.

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 in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Thomas Pogacnik,
Deputy State Director.

Authority: 40 CFR 1506.6, 1506.10 and 43 CFR 1610.2.

[FR Doc. 2010-7832 Filed 4-6-10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-40-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

National Park Service Benefits-Sharing Final Environmental Impact Statement Record of Decision

AGENCY: National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision for the Servicewide Benefits-Sharing Final Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, 42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C), the National Park Service announces the availability of the Record of Decision for the Benefits-Sharing Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) covering all units of the National Park System. On March 5, 2010, the Deputy Director of the National Park Service approved the Record of Decision for the project. As soon as practicable, the National Park Service will begin to implement the Preferred Alternative contained in the FEIS issued on November 27, 2009. Three alternatives were evaluated in the FEIS, each of which would clarify the rights and responsibilities of researchers and NPS management in connection with the allocation of benefits from valuable discoveries, inventions, and other developments that result from research involving specimens lawfully collected from units of the National Park System. The No Action Alternative allows scientists to use material originating as National Park Service research specimens to conduct research that may lead to commercial products but without any obligation to share the benefits with the National Park Service. Another alternative prohibits scientific research involving National Park Service research specimens that is in any way associated with the development of commercial products. A third alternative, the Environmentally Preferred Alternative, allows the National Park Service and researchers who study material associated with a Scientific Research and Collecting Permit to enter into benefits-sharing agreements on a case-by-case basis before using their research results for any commercial purpose. This Environmentally Preferred Alternative has three considerations regarding the disclosure of financial information: Always disclose, never disclose, or comply with confidentiality laws regarding disclosure. The Preferred Alternative implements the benefits-sharing agreement requirement, while complying with confidentiality laws

regarding disclosure of royalty rate or related information.

The Record of Decision includes a statement of the decision made, synopses of other alternatives considered, the basis for the decision, a description of the environmentally preferable alternative, a finding of no impairment of park resources and values, a listing of measures to minimize environmental harm, and an overview of public involvement in the decision-making process.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Susan Mills, Benefits-Sharing EIS, Center for Resources, P.O. Box 168, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming 82190, (307) 344-2203, benefitseis@nps.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Copies of the Record of Decision may be obtained from the contact listed above; online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov> (select "Washington Office" from the park menu and then follow the link for benefits-sharing); in the office of the National Park Service Associate Director for Natural Resource Stewardship and Science, 1849 C Street, NW., Washington, DC; and in the office of the Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming.

Dated: March 5, 2010.

Daniel N. Wenk,
Deputy Director, National Park Service.
[FR Doc. 2010-7871 Filed 4-6-10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R7-R-2009-N260; 70133-1265-0000-S3]

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Fairbanks, AK

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

ACTION: Notice of intent to revise the comprehensive conservation plan and prepare an environmental impact statement; request for comment.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), will be developing a revised comprehensive conservation plan (CCP) and environmental impact statement (EIS) for Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (NWR, Refuge). The Revised CCP will establish goals and objectives, review Refuge rivers for potential recommendation for Congress for inclusion within the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and review Refuge lands for potential

recommendation for Congress for inclusion within the National Wilderness Preservation System. We will use the internet, special mailings, public service announcements, newspaper advertisements, and other media to keep people updated throughout the planning process and to provide opportunities for input. We will hold public meetings in communities within and near the Refuge during preparation of the Revised CCP. We will also hold meetings in Anchorage, AK, Fairbanks, AK, and Washington, DC.

DATES: *Meetings:* A public scoping meeting will be held in Washington, DC on May 4, 2010, from 1 to 4 p.m. in the Department of the Interior Auditorium, 1849 C Street, NW., Washington, DC. In addition, we will hold public scoping meetings in Anchorage and Fairbanks, AK and in refuge area communities in Alaska. We will announce these meeting dates, times, and locations locally, at least 10 days prior to each meeting.

Comments: To ensure consideration, please send your written comments on the scope of the CCP revision by June 7, 2010.

ADDRESSES: Information about the Refuge and the Revised CCP is available on the internet at: <http://arctic.fws.gov>. Send your comments or requests for more information by any of the following methods.

E-mail: ArcticRefugeCCP@fws.gov. Include "Arctic NWR CCP" in the subject line of the message.

Fax: Attn: Sharon Seim, Planning Team Leader, (907) 456-0428.

U.S. Mail: Sharon Seim, Planning Team Leader, Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, 101 12th Ave., Rm. 236, Fairbanks, AK 99701.

In-Person Drop-off: You may drop off comments during regular business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sharon Seim, Planning Team Leader, phone (907) 456-0501.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 (94 Stat. 2371; ANILCA) requires us to develop a CCP for each refuge in Alaska. The purpose of developing a CCP is to provide refuge managers with a management strategy for achieving refuge purposes and contributing toward the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System, consistent with sound principles of fish, wildlife, and habitat management and conservation; legal mandates; and Service policies. CCPs define long-term goals and objectives toward which refuge management activities are directed, and identify which uses may be compatible with the purposes of a

refuge. CCPs are reviewed and updated in accordance with direction in Section 304(g) of ANILCA and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA, 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*). With this notice, we initiate our process for developing a revised CCP for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska. We furnish this notice in accordance with ANILCA, the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act (16 U.S.C. 668dd-668ee), the regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508), and Service policies. The purpose of this notice is to (1) Advise other Federal and State agencies, Tribes, and the public of our intention to conduct detailed planning on this refuge and (2) obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues to be considered in the EIS and during the development of the CCP.

Background

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is a vast area unique in North America—unique because it encompasses a full range of arctic and subarctic ecosystems that are whole and undisturbed, functioning as they have for centuries, largely free of human control and manipulation. The move to protect this corner of Alaska began in the early 1950s. Conservationists George Collins, Lowell Sumner, and Olaus and Mardy Murie, considered the primary founders of the Refuge, launched a campaign to permanently safeguard the area. Their effort succeeded and the Arctic Refuge was established.

The area originally named "Arctic National Wildlife Range" was created in 1960 by Public Land Order 2214, "[f]or the purpose of preserving unique wildlife, wilderness and recreational values. * * *" The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is unique among Alaska conservation units because it was the first for which ecological thinking and concern for maintaining natural processes were significant factors in its establishment. It is also the only Alaska refuge for which the preservation of values was a founding purpose.

In 1980, ANILCA enlarged the area, designated much of the original Range as Wilderness, renamed the whole area the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and added four complementary purposes. The ANILCA purposes are: (i) To conserve fish and wildlife populations and habitats in their natural diversity, including, but not limited to, the Porcupine caribou herd (including participation in coordinated ecological studies and management of this herd and the Western Arctic caribou herd), polar bears, grizzly bears, muskox, Dall sheep, wolves, wolverines, snow geese, peregrine falcons and other migratory

birds, Arctic char, and grayling; (ii) To fulfill the international fish and wildlife treaty obligations of the United States; (iii) To provide the opportunity for continued subsistence uses by local residents; and (iv) To ensure water quality and necessary water quantity within the Refuge.

Refuge Overview

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge includes nearly 19.3 million acres, three wild rivers, and one of the largest areas of designated Wilderness in the United States. The majestic Brooks Range, with peaks and glaciers to 9,000 feet, dominates the Refuge. These rugged mountains extend east to west in a band 75 miles wide, rising abruptly from a tundra-covered plain. This treeless expanse is cut by numerous braided rivers and streams. South of the continental divide, rivers wind serpentine courses through broad, spruce-covered valleys dotted with lakes and sloughs. Nearly 180 species of birds, 45 species of mammals, and 36 species of fish have been counted on the Arctic Refuge. Vast mountains, diverse wildlife, and a wealth of habitats give this unspoiled national treasure high cultural heritage, scenic, scientific, and experiential values.

Public Involvement

We plan to provide public involvement opportunities in communities within and near the Refuge, as well as in Anchorage and Fairbanks, AK, and Washington, DC. The Washington, DC scoping meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 4, from 1 to 4 p.m. in the Department of the Interior Auditorium, 1849 C Street, NW., Washington, DC. With appropriate advance notice, the other scoping meetings will be held between April 17 and May 28, 2010, as weather and other conditions permit. Public notices of scoping meetings will be posted locally and placed on our Web site at <http://arctic.fws.gov>. We will be accepting comments via e-mail, U.S. mail, and telephone, and through personal contacts throughout the planning process.

The public's ideas and comments are an important part of the CCP process, and we invite public participation. The Service is looking for meaningful comments that will help determine the desired future conditions of the Refuge and address the full range of Refuge purposes. Some concerns and interests related to the Refuge will not be addressed in the Revised CCP. For example, the U.S. Congress has reserved for itself in section 1002(i) of the ANILCA, 16 U.S.C. 3142(i), the decision

as to whether or not the Refuge Coastal Plain (also called the 1002 Area) should be made available for oil and gas development. Therefore, the Service does not have the authority to decide this issue, and we will not consider or respond to comments that support or oppose such development during this CCP process.

Public Availability of Comments

All comments we receive, including those from individuals, become part of the public record, and are available to the public upon request. Therefore, before including your name, address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information with your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including this information—may be made available to the public upon request. 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: March 31, 2010.

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

[FR Doc. 2010-7850 Filed 4-6-10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Termination of Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Special Resource Study (SRS) for Castle Nugent Farms, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands in favor of an Environmental Assessment (EA)

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.
ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and National Park Service (NPS) policy in Director's Order 2 (Park Planning) and Director's Order 12 (Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision-making), the NPS is terminating the EIS process for the SRS for Castle Nugent Farms, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. A Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS for the SRS was published in the **Federal Register** on November 21, 2007 (72 FR 65593). The NPS has since determined that an EA rather than an EIS is the appropriate level of environmental documentation for the study.

DATES: The NPS will notify the public by mail, Web site, and other means, of public review periods and meetings

associated with the Draft SRS/EA. All public review and other written public information will be made available online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?parkID=423&projectId=19240>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Barrett, Planning Team Leader, Castle Nugent Farms Special Resource Study, NPS Southeast Regional Office, Division of Planning and Compliance, 100 Alabama Street, SW., 6th Floor, 1924 Building, Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On October 11, 2006, Public Law 109-317 was enacted directing the Secretary of the Interior to conduct an SRS for an area known as Castle Nugent Farms located on the island of St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands. The SRS will determine whether study area should be considered for inclusion in the National Park System. The four required criteria are: National significance, suitability, feasibility, and the appropriateness of direct NPS management. Scoping information meetings for the SRS were conducted in 2007 on the island of St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI). Initial scoping did not result in significant impacts being identified by the public. Thereafter, the NPS planning team developed three preliminary alternatives, including the No Action Alternative (Alternative A—Continuation of Existing Conditions), and two action alternatives (alternatives B and C). The two action alternatives describe NPS management of the area, as follows—Alternative B: an 11,500-acre unit managed by the NPS that would include 8,600 marine acres under the jurisdiction of the Government of the USVI; and Alternative C: a 1,750-acre unit of terrestrial lands managed by the NPS. A preliminary analysis of these alternatives does not indicate that significant impacts will result from implementation of any of the alternatives. These alternatives will be refined through the final stages of the planning process.

Authority: The authority for publishing this notice is contained in 40 CFR 1506.6.

The responsible official is David Vela, Regional Director, Southeast Region, National Park Service, 100 Alabama Street SW., 1924 Building, Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

Dated: February 5, 2010.

David Vela,
Regional Director, Southeast Region.
[FR Doc. 2010-7782 Filed 4-6-10; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310-70-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CACA 04880, LLCAD06000,
L51010000.FX0000, LVRWB09B2600]

Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Staff Assessment for the Chevron Energy Solutions/Solar Millennium Palen Solar Power Plant (PSPP) and Possible California Desert Conservation Area Plan Amendment

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the California Energy Commission (CEC) have prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Draft California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan Amendment, and Staff Assessment (SA) as a joint environmental analysis document for the Chevron Energy Solutions/Solar Millennium (CESSM) Palen Solar Power Plant (PSPP) Project, Riverside County, California, and by this notice are announcing the opening of the comment period.

DATES: To ensure that comments will be considered, the BLM must receive written comments on the Draft EIS/SA and Plan Amendment within 90 days following the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes its Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**. The BLM will announce future meetings or hearings and any other public involvement activities at least 15 days in advance through public notices, media releases, and/or mailings.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments related to the PSPP Project by any of the following methods:

- E-mail: CAPSSolarPalen@blm.gov.
- Fax: (760) 833-7199.
- Mail or other delivery service:

Allison Shaffer, Project Manager, Palm Springs South Coast Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, 1201 Bird Center Drive, Palm Springs, California 92262.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Allison Shaffer, BLM Project Manager at (760) 833-7100. See also **ADDRESSES** section.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: CESSM has submitted a right-of-way (ROW) application to the BLM for development of the proposed PSPP Project, consisting of two parabolic-trough solar thermal