

Detailed information concerning this action is available for review at the office of the Bureau of Land Management, 4765 Vegas Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada 89108.

Upon publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, the above described land will be segregated from all other forms of appropriation under the public land laws, including the general mining laws, except for conveyance under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, leasing under the mineral leasing laws and disposals under the mineral material disposal laws.

For a period of 45 days from the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, interested parties may submit comments pertaining to either of the above actions to the Field Manager, Las Vegas Field Office, 4765 Vegas Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada 89108.

Sale Comments: Any adverse comments will be reviewed by the State Director who may sustain, vacate, or modify this realty action. In the absence of any adverse comments, these realty actions will become the final determination of the Department of the Interior. The Bureau of Land Management may accept or reject any or all offers, or withdraw any land or interest in the land from sale, if, in the opinion of the authorized officer, consummation of the sale would not be fully consistent with FLPMA, or other applicable laws. The lands will not be offered for sale until at least 60 days after the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**.

R&PP Classification Comments: Interested parties may submit comments involving the suitability of the land for the Nevada Science and Technology Center, outdoor exhibit area, and associated facilities. Comments on the classification are restricted to whether the land is physically suited for the proposal, whether the use will maximize the future use of uses of the land, whether the use is consistent with local planning and zoning, or if the use is consistent with State and Federal programs.

R&PP Application Comments: Interested parties may submit comments regarding the specific use proposed in the application and plan of development, whether the Bureau of Land Management followed proper administrative procedures in reaching the decision, or any other factor not directly related to the suitability of the land for a Space Museum, outdoor exhibit area, and associated facilities.

Any adverse comments will be reviewed by the State Director. In the absence of any adverse comments, the

classification of the land described in the Notice will become effective 60 days from the date of publication in the **Federal Register**. The lands will not be offered for conveyance until after the classification becomes effective.

Dated: February 23, 2001.

Rex Wells,

Assistant Field Manager, Las Vegas, NV.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CA-190-1610-DM-024B]

Notice of Intent To Participate in a Multi-Jurisdictional Land-Use Planning Effort, With Environmental Impact Analysis, for the Coast Dairies Property, Santa Cruz County, CA, and Prepare an Amendment to the Hollister Resource Management Plan

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management.

ACTION: Notice of intent to participate in a multi-jurisdictional land-use planning effort, with environmental impact analysis, for the Coast Dairies Property, Santa Cruz County, California, and prepare an amendment to the Hollister Resource Management Plan.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) provides formal notice that it will participate in a multi-jurisdictional land-use planning effort with the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and the Trust for Public Land (TPL), a California non-profit public corporation. The planning effort is being conducted by the TPL for the Coast Dairies Property located in northern Santa Cruz County, California. As part of this planning effort, the BLM will prepare an amendment to the Hollister Resource Management Plan (RMP). The RMP amendment will be conducted in order to assess the feasibility of transferring part or all of the property to BLM, or BLM and DPR, for joint management between BLM and DPR, and to include the implementation of the final planning decision, if appropriate, under the Hollister RMP. This planning effort will include the preparation of a companion environmental impact analysis. This notice also announces the first public scoping meeting associated with the planning effort and that subsequent meetings will be held.

DATES: A scoping meeting will be held beginning at 10 a.m., on March 10, 2001, at the Loudon Nelson Community

Center Auditorium, 301 Center Street, Santa Cruz, California. Written comments will be accepted on topics related the scoping meeting until April 10, 2001. Subsequent meetings will be announced in regional and local news media and the webpages listed below, as these dates are established. At this time, the draft plan and the BLM's draft Hollister RMP amendment are anticipated to be available for public review and comment in summer 2002, and the final plan and proposed Hollister RMP amendment will be completed by winter 2002. It is anticipated that notice of a Record of Decision and the final Hollister RMP amendment will be published in the **Federal Register** in winter 2002/2003.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to the Field Manager, USDI Bureau of Land Management, 20 Hamilton Court, Hollister, CA 95023, ATTN: Coast Dairies Planning Project

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rick Hanks, BLM, at (831) 630-5036.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Bureau of Land Management and the California Department of Parks and Recreation intend to cooperate and collaborate with the Trust for Public Land in a land-use planning effort that will result in the development of the Long-Term Resource Protection and Use Plan (plan) for the Coast Dairies Property. The Coast Dairies Property (property) is approximately 7,000 acres located in northern Santa Cruz County, California. The property is currently held by the Coast Dairies & Land Co. (CDLC), which in turn is owned by TPL. The purpose of the plan is to assess the value of the natural, cultural, and social resource attributes and develop management strategies that can best balance and protect the identified values.

TPL is now developing a Long-Term Resource Protection and Use Plan for the Coast Dairies property. It is the intent of this planning effort that, upon successful completion of the plan and the planning process, the property would be transferred to BLM and DPR for joint long-term stewardship for the benefit of the American people, provided that the completed plan is consistent with the laws and authorities of each of the two public agencies. This cooperative undertaking provides the opportunity for the two public agencies, BLM and DPR, to be involved from the beginning with the planning effort associated with a unique parcel of private land. BLM will prepare an amendment to the Hollister RMP in order to ensure that the Long-Term Resource Protection and Use Plan

process is consistent with BLM's statutory and regulatory requirements.

The plan will include information necessary for the planning documents of each of the two public agencies. This information will assist the agencies' preparation of environmental documents that meet the requirements of the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to support a final decision of whether or not to accept the property and adoption of the agencies' respective management plans. The BLM and DPR will each serve as the lead agency in their respective NEPA/CEQA processes.

TPL and CDLC have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), completed in August 8, 2000, with BLM and DPR that commits these agencies to engage in the Coast Dairies planning process. The MOU also indicates that if BLM and DPR were to take the property, the plan would be accepted by the agencies as conditions or restrictions that would protect the land and guide the agencies' long-term policy for the property.

The plan will be prepared consistent with the following vision statement:

It is the purpose of the Coast Dairies Steering Committee to protect and preserve in perpetuity those intrinsic natural and pastoral qualities that make this 7,000-acre± coastal area important to the people of the region, the local community, the state, and the nation.

Sound long-term stewardship of this land will be achieved through cost-effective, adaptive management of the property designed to conserve and enhance its biological, open space and agricultural values, restore wetland riparian, native grassland, forested and other sensitive habitats, and provide compatible recreation.

Adaptive management—continual monitoring of the property's resources as the basis for decisions related to the land's use—will allow for responsible stewardship of the natural and economic resources of the property. It will also create valuable opportunities for education in the field of integrating traditional economic and recreational activities, including sustainable coastal agriculture, with programs designed to protect native biodiversity and other natural landscape values.

In addition to adherence to this vision statement, the plan will generally be designed in accordance with the following conservation objectives:

- Conserve and enhance the biological and open space values afforded by the resources, size, and connectivity of the property;
- Restore key resources such as stream, riparian, and watershed habitats and coastal prairies;
- Protect natural forested areas from commercial harvest, except to the extent

determined necessary or desirable for public safety or the health of the forest;

- Create opportunities for public access for recreation and enjoyment that maximize the potential for linkages with nearby lands and are compatible with protection of existing uses and natural resource values;
- Maintain and enhance the feasibility of continued agricultural use in ways that are consistent with protection of natural resource values; and,
- Allow for other economic uses of the land, provided they are consistent with overriding biological and open space conservation needs and objectives.

During the planning process, alternatives will be developed that will identify a reasonable range of options for protecting resources while allowing certain specified sustainable uses. BLM and DPR will identify/cooperating agencies for the environmental analysis portion of the planning effort. In addition, the public will be invited to participate in the scoping process, review of the draft and proposed plans, and attend public comment meetings.

Herrick E. Hanks,

Assistant Field Manager, Hollister Field Office.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Santa Cruz Island Primary Restoration Plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Channel Islands National Park, Santa Barbara County, California; Notice of Availability

SUMMARY: Pursuant to § 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Public Law 81-190 as amended), the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, has undertaken a conservation planning and environmental impact analysis effort assessing the potential impacts of restoring Santa Cruz Island by eradicating feral pigs from the island. A draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) has been prepared which analyzes the foreseeable effects of implementing proposed actions that accomplish the following objectives: (1) Restore native plant communities; (2) protect plant species that have been listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act; (3) reduce the spread of noxious weeds; (4) protect the native Island fox; (5) protect archeological sites; and (6) conserve soil

resources on the island. The proposed action was developed in coordination with The Nature Conservancy, owners of 75% of Santa Cruz Island. The actions proposed in this DEIS are necessary because of the adverse ecological impacts the pigs are having on Santa Cruz Island.

Proposal: The proposal for eradicating pigs from Santa Cruz Island is to divide the island into six fenced zones and to sequentially eradicate pigs zone by zone. Approximately 45 miles of fence would be constructed along existing fence lines, thereby creating six distinct management units of about 12,000 acres each. Complete eradication would be achieved in each of the zones in a coordinated effort lasting approximately one year using trained, professional hunters. The techniques and tools for achieving the eradication goal would be similar to other pig eradication efforts such as neighboring Santa Rosa Island and Santa Catalina Island. A helicopter may occasionally be used to transport hunters or serve as a hunting platform.

The eradication campaign would occur in four distinct phases. Phase I (Administration, Infrastructure, and Acquisition) includes putting in place the necessary staff to oversee, manage, direct, and carry out the project including fencing and hunting contractors. It also includes bolstering current housing structures and establishing adequate communications on the island. Necessary equipment and supplies would also be secured at this time. Phase II (Fencing) involves constructing six distinct zones of pig-proof fence across the island. Hunting and trapping in a zone may begin as soon as the zone fence is completed, and prior to the next sequential zone fence being completed. Phase III (Hunting) involves eradicating pigs within a zone, then moving to the next zone in sequential order. Eradication techniques include trapping and baiting, as well as ground hunting with dogs. Once hunting commences, it is estimated that a near complete island-wide eradication could be achieved within six years. Phase IV (Final Hunting and Monitoring) is perhaps the most important, as the intention is to exhaustively search the island for remnant pigs and pig sign. A systematic protocol of monitoring for remnant feral pigs would be developed for the island. Monitoring of the island would continue for five years after elimination of the "last pig" in order to insure success. Long term ecological monitoring to assess ecosystem changes due to pig eradication would continue into the foreseeable future.