

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.

It has been determined that in order to successfully eradicate pigs from Santa Cruz Island that fennel will have to be controlled in areas where it has formed large dense thickets. These dense thickets of fennel create a safe harbor for pigs to escape from being hunted, and thus potential failure of the project. Fennel would be burned in the fall with a follow-up treatment of herbicide (Garlon 3A) in the two springs following the burn. The Nature Conservancy developed this protocol in an extensive 600-acre test program in the Central Valley of Santa Cruz Island. The fire and herbicide treatment would involve application by hand, from a vehicle, and from a helicopter.

Alternatives: After identifying the significant environmental issues associated with the proposed action, the Park began developing alternatives to the proposed action. Modifying the eradication strategies to address the environmental issue concerns was the basis used to develop alternatives. In all, three alternatives were developed, including the “No Action” Alternative (which maintains the existing minimal management). The two “action” alternatives are as follows: *Alternative Two*, “Simultaneous Island-wide Eradication of Pigs”, involves eradicating pigs island-wide without the use of fenced zones. A simultaneous island-wide operation would require several teams of hunters and dogs repeatedly working sections of the island. This is considered to be a high intensity effort for a short period of time, approximately 2–3 years in duration to have near complete eradication island-wide. *Alternative Three* would eradicate pigs from eastern Santa Cruz Island but only exclude pigs from selected sensitive resources on central and western Santa Cruz Island. Selected sensitive resources including archeological sites, and threatened and endangered plant species, would be protected from pigs by constructing and maintaining pig-proof fence around these selected sensitive sites.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Public meetings will be held in the area, with confirmed dates and locations to be announced on the park’s website. The DEIS is now available for public review (distribution began during mid-February); copies can be obtained at the park, on the Park’s website (<http://www.nps.gov/chis/homepage/restoringsci.html>), Ventura’s Foster Library, and Santa Barbara’s Central Library. After a reasonable number of printed copies have been made available, CD copies will be the preferred method of distribution of the

DEIS. Inquiries and comments regarding the DEIS should be directed to: Superintendent, Channel Islands National Park, 1901 Spinnaker Dr., Ventura, California 93001. The telephone number for the park is (805) 658–5700.

All written comments must be postmarked on or before May 8, 2001 (as soon as this date has been determined it will be confirmed on the park’s website). Persons wishing to express any new concerns about management issues and future land management direction are encouraged to address these to the Superintendent, as noted above. If individuals submitting comments request that their name or/and address be withheld from public disclosure, it will be honored to the extent allowable by law. Such requests must be stated prominently in the beginning of the comments. There also may be circumstances wherein the NPS will withhold a respondent’s identity as allowable by law. As always, NPS will make available to public inspection all submissions from organizations or businesses and from persons identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations and businesses; and, anonymous comments may not be considered.

Decision: After the formal draft EIS review period has concluded, all comments and suggestions received will be considered in preparing a final EIS. The park expects to complete the final EIS during July 2001. Its availability will be announced in the **Federal Register** and in local and regional news media. Subsequently a Record of Decision would be executed no sooner than 30 (thirty) days after release of the final EIS. The official responsible for the final decision is the Regional Director, Pacific West Region; the official responsible for implementation is the Superintendent, Channel Islands National Park.

Dated: February 14, 2001.

Patricia L. Neubacher,
Acting Regional Director, Pacific West Region.
[FR Doc. 01–5948 Filed 3–8–01; 8:45 am]
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

General Management Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement, Glen Echo Park, MD

ACTION: Availability of the Final Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for Glen Echo Park.

SUMMARY: In accordance with section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the National Park Service announces the availability of a Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (MP/EIS) for Glen Echo Park, Glen Echo, Maryland.

DATES: 30-day no-action period will follow the Environmental Protection Agency’s notice of availability of the MP/EIS.

ADDRESSES: Public reading copies of the MP/EIS will be available for review at the following locations:

In Maryland: Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Boulevard, Glen Echo, Maryland 20812; Bethesda Public Library, 7400 Arlington Road, Bethesda, Maryland 20814; Davis Public Library, 6400 Democracy Boulevard, Bethesda, Maryland 20817; Gaithersburg Public Library, 18330 Montgomery Village Avenue, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20879; Little Falls Public Library, 5501 Massachusetts Avenue, Bethesda, Maryland 20816; Potomac Public Library, 99 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20850; Silver Spring Public Library, 8901 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910; Wheaton Public Library, 11701 Georgia Avenue, Wheaton, Maryland 20902.

In Virginia: Arlington Central Library, 1015 North Quincy Street, Arlington, Virginia 22201; Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly, Virginia 20151; Fairfax City Regional Library, 3915 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, Virginia 20130; Pohick Public Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke, Virginia 22015.

The responsible official is Terry R. Carlstrom, Regional Director, National Capital Region, National Park Service.

Terry R. Carlstrom,
Regional Director, National Capital Region.
[FR Doc. 01–5934 Filed 3–8–01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–70–M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Manzanar National Historic Site Advisory Commission; Notice of Meeting

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Federal Advisory Commission Act that a meeting of the Manzanar National Historic Site Advisory Commission will be held at 1 p.m. on Friday April 27, 2001 at the Sierra Baptist Church Social Hall, 346 North Edwards Street (U.S. Highway 395), Independence, California, to hear presentations on issues related to the