

June 2, 1998. During the public comment period and subsequent to it, the FWS consulted with the Alaska Scientific Review Group, established under the MMPA. Their comments and other public comments were reviewed and incorporated into these final reports, as appropriate. Although the FWS revised these reports based on additional information, the status of the stocks did not change. The 1998 final stock assessment reports for Pacific walrus and polar bears in Alaska are now complete and available to the public. The finalization of the revisions on the Alaska sea otter stock assessment reports will not be completed until after a final action on the proceeding on the record requested by the Alaska Sea Otter Commission.

Dated: September 4, 1998.

**Robyn Thorn,**

*Acting Regional Director, Fish and Wildlife Service.*

[FR Doc. 98-24562 Filed 9-11-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[NV-033-98-1230-00]

#### Temporary Closure of Public Lands: Nevada

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior Department.

**ACTION:** Temporary closure of certain public lands, Carson City Field Office, in Churchill, Lyon, and Mineral Counties on and adjacent to an Off-Highway Vehicle Race course: Best in the Desert Racing—Permit Number NV-055-99-01: Las Vegas to Reno Off-highway Vehicle Race occurring October 2 and 3, 1998.

**PURPOSE:** To provide for public safety.

**EFFECTIVE DATES AND TIME:** 6 am October 2 through 10 am October 3, 1998.

**AFFECTED PUBLIC LANDS:** Mineral County—R37E T4N; R36E T6N; R35E T6-11N; R34E T8-13N; R33-32E T13N. Affected Roads include: Dunlap Cnyn, Cinnabar Cnyn, Rhyolite Pass, Win Wan Flat, Ryan Cnyn Road, Wovoka, Wash.

Churchill County—R32E T14N; R31E T15N; R30E T15-16N; R29-24E T16N; R24E T15N; Affected roads include: Diamond Field Jack Wash, Wild Horse Basin Road.

Lyon County—R26E, R27E T16N; R24E, T17N; R24E T18N. Affected roads include: Wild Horse Basin, Hooten Well, Carson River Road, Churchill Butte Wash, Stockton Well.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** A map of the closure may be obtained at the contact address. The permittee is required to clearly mark and monitor the event route during the closure period. Spectators are welcome at Pit Stops and shall remain in safe locations as directed by event officials and BLM personnel. Public lands affected by the temporary closure include commonly used dirt roads, utility right-of-way roads, jeep trails and dry washes identified on the ground by colorful flagging and paper arrows attached to wooden stakes designating the race route.

**EXCLUSIONS:** The above restrictions do not apply to agency, race officials, law enforcement, or emergency response personnel during the conduct of their official duties in relation to the race event.

**Authority:** 43 CFR 8364 and 43 CFR 8372.

**PENALTY:** Any person failing to comply with the closure order may be subject to imprisonment for not more than 12 months, or a fine in accordance with the applicable provisions of 18 USC 3571, or both.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Fran Hull, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Carson City District, Bureau of Land Management, 5665 Morgan Mill Road, Carson City, Nevada 89701. Telephone: (702) 885-6161.

Dated: September 4, 1998.

**Charles P. Pope,**

*Acting Assistant Manager, Non-Renewable Resources.*

[FR Doc. 98-24603 Filed 9-11-98; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[CA-063-1010-00]

#### Intent To Amend the California Desert Conservation Area Plan, 1980, To Address Management of Three Grazing Allotments in the Eastern Mojave Desert, San Bernardino County, CA

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, California Desert District Office.

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent to Amend the California Desert Conservation Area Plan, 1980, to address management of Granite Mountain, Lanfair Valley, and Kessler Springs grazing allotments located in the eastern Mojave Desert in San Bernardino County, California.

**SUMMARY:** This Notice of Intent (NOI) amends an earlier NOI for preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement and

Interagency Desert Management Plan for the Northern and Eastern Mojave Desert (60 FR 46132, September 5, 1995). The Interagency Plan will continue as described in the 1995 NOI. However, a separate plan amendment and environmental assessment is initiated for Granite Mountain, Lanfair Valley, and Kessler Springs grazing allotments to afford each lessee of record the opportunity to cancel domestic livestock use. This voluntary action by each lessee will occur simultaneously with similar action on other lands of the same grazing unit under National Park Service jurisdiction.

This plan amendment will evaluate economic and other constraints posed by reduction in area of use and increased cost of support facilities to support livestock grazing on the residual public lands of the subject allotments, and will consider permanent retirement of the allotments.

This notice does not reopen scoping. Grazing issues, including modification or cancellation of grazing use, were previously raised in connection with the Interagency Plan.

#### DATE COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED:

Comments on this notice must be received by BLM at the following address on or before October 14, 1998.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Larry Morgan, Rangeland Management Specialist, U.S.D.I., Bureau of Land Management, California Desert District Office, 6221 Box Springs Blvd., Riverside, California 92507-0714 tel: (909) 687-5388.

Dated: September 3, 1998.

**Tim Salt,**

*Acting District Manager.*

[FR Doc. 98-24256 Filed 9-11-98; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

#### Concession Contract Negotiations; Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas

**SUMMARY:** Public notice is hereby given that the National Park Service proposes to award a concession contract authorizing the continued operation of a Physical Medicine Center within Hot Springs National Park. This center offers hydrotherapy, physical therapy, physical fitness, and a health spa.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** September 18, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested parties should contact Assistant Superintendent Dale Moss at Hot Springs National Park, P. O. Box 1860, Hot Springs, Arkansas 71902, or telephone (501-624-3383, ext. 622)

to obtain a copy of the prospectus. This describes the requirements of the proposed contract to be awarded for a period of 10 years (from approximately January 1, 1999, through December 31, 2008).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This contract has been determined to be categorically excluded from the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act and no environmental document will be prepared. No right of preference in renewal is being exercised with this prospectus. The Secretary of the Interior will consider and evaluate all proposals received in response to this notice. Any proposal to be considered and evaluated must be received by the Superintendent, Hot Springs National Park, at the address given above, not later than close of business, CST (Central Standard Time) by November 17, 1998.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:** George R. Frederick, Chief, Concessions Management, National Park Service, 1709 Jackson Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68102, or at 402-221-3612.

Dated: September 3, 1998.

**David N. Given,**

*Deputy Regional Director, Midwest Region.*

[FR Doc. 98-24533 Filed 9-11-98; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

#### **Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ General Management Plan; Death Valley National Park; Inyo and San Bernardino Counties, CA; Nye and Esmeralda Counties, Nevada; Notice of Availability**

#### **Summary**

Pursuant to § 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Pub. L. 91-190, as amended), the National Park Service (NPS), Department of the Interior, has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) identifying and evaluating potential impacts of a proposed General Management Plan (GMP) for Death Valley National Park. Death Valley is a unit of the National Park System, created by Congress on October 31, 1994, in the California Desert Protection Act (CDPA). The DEIS also includes a draft Land Protection Plan (LPP) that addresses management options for non-federal lands that exist inside the park boundary. This planning document and DEIS were initiated as a component of the Northern and Eastern Mojave Planning Project, a coordinated interagency effort involving the NPS, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S.

Fish and Wildlife Service. The DEIS identifies and evaluates the environmental consequences of a proposed action and two alternatives; appropriate mitigations are addressed. No significant adverse environmental impacts are anticipated. The GMP will serve as the overall management strategy for the next 10-15 years under which more detailed activity or implementation plans are prepared.

#### **Proposal**

This DEIS presents the proposed management approach and two alternatives for park management. The Proposed Action (Alternative 1) seeks to extend existing management strategies that are in place for the original smaller area (proclaimed a national monument on February 11, 1933), to the management of the resources within the new lands added to the unit in 1994. It also strives to incorporate the NPS mission and policies, and respond to the designation of 95% of the park as Wilderness. This alternative addresses the removal of feral burros and horses from the park in order to achieve the NPS mission of managing the unit for native desert species. It also recognizes the need to work cooperatively with the Bureau of Land Management on adjacent land, where their mandate from Congress is to maintain viable herds of wild horses and burros. Furthermore, this alternative strives to balance the preservation of resources mission with specific mandates from Congress for Death Valley, such as continuation of grazing on the new lands. This alternative addresses grazing as a component of the management. This alternative also identifies a number of activity-level or site-specific issues, such as management of the Saline Valley Warm Springs area and a Backcountry and Wilderness Management Plan. This alternative seeks funding for purchase of private property from willing sellers, and/or mineral interests where proposed uses conflict with the primary mission of preserving resources and providing for visitor enjoyment.

#### **Alternatives**

In addition to the proposal, the alternatives described and analyzed are existing management (no action) and an optional management approach. The Existing Management alternative (Alternative 2) describes outcomes of continuing current management strategies. It is commonly referred to as the no-action or status quo alternative. Under this alternative, existing visitor and administrative support services and facilities would be maintained in their current locations. There would be no

change in road maintenance, although some roads might be improved if funding became available. No changes in recreation use would occur. Land acquisition would focus on obtaining funds to acquire private property and mineral interests from willing sellers only where proposed uses conflict with the park mission. The Optional Management approach (Alternative 3) provides for approval of the use of airstrips at Saline Valley Warm Springs, designating campsites at the Warm Springs, specifies acquisition of private land or mineral interests only in sensitive habitats, and phases out the concession operation at Stovepipe Wells.

#### **Comments**

Printed or CD-ROM copies of the DEIS are available for public review at park headquarters, as well as at many public libraries and federal offices in southern California and southern Nevada. In addition, the document is posted on the internet at [www.nps.gov/deva](http://www.nps.gov/deva). Inquiries and comments on the DEIS should be directed to: Superintendent, Death Valley National Park, Furnace Creek, California 92328. The telephone number for the park is (760) 786-2331. All written comments must be postmarked not later than 90 days after publication of a notice of filing of the DEIS/GMP in the **Federal Register** by the Environmental Protection Agency.

#### **Public Meetings**

The NPS will host a series of open houses to provide interested individuals and organization representatives an opportunity to express concerns, ask questions, view large scale maps and engage in dialogue about the range or content of alternatives. Specific details will be available at the internet site identified above or by calling the park. This dialogue is intended to provide additional guidance to the NPS in preparing a final EIS and plan amending the GMP and LPP. Written comments will also be accepted at these workshops. All workshops are scheduled for 6:00-9:00 p.m., as follows:

Monday, Oct. 19, Doubletree Inn, 191

Los Robles, Pasadena, CA

Tuesday, Oct. 20, Harvey House (Santa

Fe Depot), 685 First St., Barstow, CA

Wednesday, Oct. 21, Hilltop Hotel, 2000

Ostrem's Way, San Bernardino, CA

Thursday, Oct. 22, Needles Community

Senior Center, 1699 Bailey Ave.,

Needles, CA

Friday, Oct. 23, Enterprise Public

Library, 25 E. Shelbourne Ave., Las

Vegas, NV

Saturday, Oct. 24, Baker Senior Center,

73730C Baker Blvd., Baker, CA