

the 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:

As a delegated EIS, the official responsible for the final decision is the Regional Director, Pacific West Region; a Record of Decision may be approved not sooner than 30 days after EPA's publication of the notice of filing of the FMP FEIS in the **Federal Register**. Notice of the final decision will be similarly posted in the **Federal Register** and announced in local and regional newspapers. Following approval of the Fire Management Plan, the official responsible for implementation will be the Superintendent, Point Reyes National Seashore.

Dated: June 25, 2004.

Jonathan B. Jarvis,

Regional Director, Pacific West Region.

[FR Doc. 04-19787 Filed 8-30-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Final Notice of Intent 6/22/04

AGENCY: National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement for an Elk Management Plan, Theodore Roosevelt National Park, North Dakota.

SUMMARY: Under the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), the National Park Service (NPS) is preparing an environmental impact statement for an elk management plan for Theodore Roosevelt National Park (THRO), North Dakota. An elk management plan is needed to manage the elk population within established acceptable levels, to test for chronic wasting disease (CWD) and to identify a range of elk management strategies that are compatible with long-term protection of other park resources and natural ecosystems and processes. A number of factors contribute to the need for this plan. The elk population within the park has increased rapidly since elk were reintroduced in 1985. Due to the lack of predators, less suitable habitat outside the park and the limited movement of elk, the elk population will likely continue to grow unchecked. Excessive browsing caused by high

densities of elk may adversely affect rangeland and cultural resources in the park. Furthermore, this plan is needed because the 2003 agreement related to the reintroduction of elk among the NPS, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the North Dakota Game and Fish Department indicates that the NPS has the responsibility to manage the elk population within the park at an acceptable level.

DATES: To be most helpful to the scoping process, comments should be received within 60 days of the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**. See details for sending comments in **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** below. The NPS intends to conduct public scoping at locations throughout North Dakota, including Bismarck, Medora, Dickinson, Fargo, and Minot. Please check local newspapers, the THRO website at <http://www.nps.gov/thro> or contact the name listed below to find out when and where these open houses will be held and to view draft documents and other current information regarding elk management and the EIS.

ADDRESSES: Information will be available for public review and comment at the Theodore Roosevelt National Park headquarters located at 315 2nd Ave., Medora, ND 58645.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bruce Kaye, Public Information Officer, or Valerie Naylor, Superintendent, at (701) 623-4466.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The NPS seeks to complete an environmental impact statement (EIS) to address elk management at THRO. Section 4.4.2 of the NPS Management Policies (2001) provides for the active management of native animals when management of a population is necessary because it occurs in unnaturally high or low numbers because of human influence. An elk management strategy is needed at THRO because past and current actions within and beyond the park have created conditions that allow the THRO elk population to increase with little or no control. These conditions include the absence of elk predators, the ineffectiveness of public hunting outside of the park as a population control method for elk that range primarily within the park, lack of significant winter kill and other environmentally-caused elk mortalities, high reproductive and survival rates, and the discontinuation of translocating elk from the park.

Elk were reintroduced to the South Unit (SU) of THRO in 1985 to restore an extirpated native species. The SU is surrounded by a 7 foot high woven-wire

fence, which has specially designed crossings to allow for movement of most wildlife, yet confines bison and feral horses in the park. Large predators have been extirpated since the late 1800s, and effective natural predation on ungulates is limited to that which occurs on young by coyotes and bobcats. Since elk reintroduction in 1985, the population has doubled approximately every 3 years. Research was initiated in 1985 to provide insight into the forage requirements of elk and other grazers in the SU. The resulting model, which considered the forage needs of all ungulates in the park, suggested the park could maintain up to 360 elk. Since 1993, the population has exceeded 360 several times, causing subsequent removals through translocation to tribes and other agencies. A third removal was scheduled for January 2003 but canceled due to concerns about chronic wasting disease (CWD). Although CWD has not been found in North Dakota, the NPS policy dictates that translocation of elk may only occur if the animals are free of disease. Currently, the elk herd numbers about 550, exceeding the maximum number of animals the model suggested can be sustained long-term without negatively affecting other park resources.

A determination of the effects of the elk management plan will be conducted in accordance with NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4372 *et seq.*), NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), other appropriate Federal regulations, and the NPS procedures and policies for compliance with those regulations.

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department and the USFS will serve as Cooperating Agencies in the preparation of the EIS, per NEPA guidelines.

If you wish to comment on the scoping brochure or any other issues associated with the plan, you may submit your comments by any one of several methods. Written comments may be mailed or hand-delivered to the Superintendent at the address above. You may e-mail comments to thro_forum@nps.gov. Please submit internet comments as a text file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Please put in the subject line "Elk Management Plan," and include your name and return address in your message. If you do not receive a confirmation from the system that we have received your message, contact Bruce Kaye, Public Information Officer, at the number listed above.

Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours.

Individual respondents may request we withhold their home addresses from the record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There, also, may be circumstances in which we would withhold from the record a respondent's identity, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

Dated: July 15, 2004.

Ernest Quintana,

Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 04-19789 Filed 8-30-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Notice of Realty Action: Proposed Exchange of Federally-Owned Lands for Privately-Owned Lands Located in Chelan County, WA

The Federally-owned land described below, which was acquired by the National Park Service, has been determined to be suitable for disposal by exchange. The authority for this exchange is the Act of July 15, 1968 (16 U.S.C. 460l-22(b)) and the Act of October 2, 1968 (16 U.S.C. 90), as amended.

The selected Federal land is within the boundary of Lake Chelan National Recreation Area (NRA). This land was identified as suitable for disposal by exchange in the Lake Chelan NRA General Management Plan, accompanying Environmental Impact Statement, and Land Protection Plan. Furthermore, an Environmental Assessment was prepared to evaluate potential consequences specifically associated with this proposed exchange, including surveys for cultural resources and threatened/endangered species, resulting in a Finding of No Significant Impact. These reports are available upon request.

Fee ownership of the Federally-owned property to be exchanged: LACH Tract No. 05-131 is a 7.15+/- acre parcel of land acquired by the United States of America by deeds recorded in Deed Book 700 on Pages 724-725 and Book 701 on Pages 1720-1721 at the Chelan County Auditor's Office.

Conveyance of the land by the United States of America will be by Quitclaim

Deed and include certain land use restrictions to prohibit inappropriate use and development.

In exchange for the lands identified in Paragraph I, the United States of America will acquire a 5+/- acre parcel of land, currently owned by Mr. and Mrs. Cragg Courtney, lying within the boundary of Lake Chelan NRA (LACH Tract No. 04-103). The private lands are being acquired in fee simple with no reservations, subject only to rights of way and easements of record. Acquisition of these private lands will eliminate the risk of inappropriate development along a sensitive riparian area of the Stehekin River upon completion of the exchange. The exchange will allow future private development in a more suitable location with minimal impacts to visitor services, natural resources, and scenic values in the national recreation area.

The value of the proposed properties to be exchanged has been determined by current fair market value appraisals to be equal in value. Both properties are unimproved. There is no anticipated increase in maintenance or operational costs as a result of the exchange.

Detailed information concerning this exchange including precise legal descriptions, Land Protection Plan, Environmental Assessment, and Finding of No Significant Impact are available from: Superintendent, North Cascades National Park Service Complex, 810 State Route 20, Sedro Woolley, Washington 98284; telephone (360) 856-5700.

For a period of 45 calendar days from the date of this notice, interested parties may submit written comments to the above address. Adverse comments will be evaluated and this action may be modified or vacated accordingly. In the absence of any action to modify or vacate, this realty action will become the final determination of the Department of Interior.

Dated: June 2, 2004.

Jonathan B. Jarvis,

Regional Director, Pacific West Region.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Notice of Availability of the Draft United States World Heritage Periodic Report for Public Review

AGENCY: National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

SUMMARY: The National Park Service (NPS) announces the availability of the

draft United States World Heritage Periodic Report for public review. The draft Periodic Report was prepared in compliance with US commitments under the World Heritage Convention, an international conservation treaty. The Periodic Report consists of the following three components: Section I, a national overview report on US implementation of the World Heritage Convention in the context of overall cultural and natural resource protection and management in the nation; Section II, individual site reports on the current status of each US World Heritage Site with particular reference to the condition of the outstanding universal value for which the site was inscribed on the World Heritage List; and, a joint US-Canada North American Regional Report outlining the key strengths and issues facing World Heritage in the region.

Periodic reporting provides an opportunity for the United States and Canada to raise international awareness of their World Heritage Sites and to provide for the continued protection of these sites and their outstanding universal value.

DATES: There will be a 60-day public review period for these documents. Comments must be received on or before November 1, 2004.

ADDRESSES: The US World Heritage Periodic Report will be available to the public on the NPS Office of International Affairs Web site at <http://www.nps.gov/oia/topics/periodic.htm>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Stephen Morris, National Park Service, Office of International Affairs, 1849 C Street, NW., (org. code 0050), Washington, DC 20240; or by calling (202) 354-1800.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the World Heritage Convention, both the United States and Canada are required to submit a country-specific periodic report and a joint regional periodic report for North America, by the end of 2004. Periodic reporting provides the World Heritage Committee with an overview of each participating nation's implementation of the World Heritage Convention and a "snapshot" of current conditions at World Heritage Sites.

In 1998, the World Heritage Committee approved a periodic reporting format and process to provide up-to-date information about the application of the World Heritage Convention and the state of conservation of World Heritage Sites around the world. The Periodic Report for North America (followed by the Periodic Report for Europe) once accepted by the World Heritage