

Decision for the project. A report, jointly prepared by the National Park Service and the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation, the cooperating agency on the EIS), will be forwarded to Congress through the Department of the Interior. That Report to Congress will present the Resource Protection Study's findings, and will recommend the implementation of the Preferred Alternative (Proposed Action) contained in the FEIS issued on October 3, 2008. Congress will then decide what action to take, if any. As soon as practicable following such congressional action, the National Park Service will begin to implement those actions.

#### Alternatives Receiving Detailed Impact Assessment

##### *Alternative 1: No Action (Continuation of Existing Conditions)*

Under Alternative 1, the No Action Alternative, NPS would continue to manage the natural, cultural, and recreational resources of Curecanti National Recreation Area (NRA), and associated facilities, pursuant to Reclamation law, NPS law, the 1965 Memorandum of Agreement between NPS and Reclamation (1965 MOA), and other applicable laws and regulations. Reclamation would continue to manage the three dams and reservoirs, power plants, access roads, and other related facilities, to meet the purposes of the Colorado River Storage Project Act (CRSP); would continue to manage the East Portal area to meet the purposes of the Uncompahgre Project; and would continue to have unrestricted access to their lands and land interests, water and water interests, and facilities; pursuant to Reclamation law, the 1965 MOA, and other applicable laws and regulations. There would be no significant change in the NRA boundary. A permanent NPS presence would not be assured under this alternative.

##### *Alternative 2: Proposed Action*

Under Alternative 2, the Proposed Action, or Preferred Alternative, NPS would manage the same natural, cultural, and recreational resources and facilities as Alternative 1, pursuant to Reclamation law, NPS law, including new legislation establishing the NRA with 10,040 acres of additional agreed-upon neighboring agency lands, a revised MOA with Reclamation, and other applicable laws and regulations. Reclamation would manage their same facilities and areas of responsibility as Alternative 1, and would have unrestricted access to their lands and land interests, water and water interests, and facilities, pursuant to Reclamation

law, the revised MOA, and other applicable laws and regulations. NPS would be authorized to work in partnership with private landowners within a Conservation Opportunity Area of 24,300 acres outside the NRA boundary, to implement a variety of tools, including acquiring interests in land from willing landowners, such as fee simple acquisition and conservation easements, which would promote the long-term conservation of resources. A permanent NPS presence would be assured under this alternative, which is also the environmentally preferred alternative.

#### Other Alternatives Considered

Four other alternatives pertaining to the proposed boundary, and various scenarios for different agencies to manage the NRA were considered. They were all eliminated from detailed impact assessment for reasons stated in the FEIS.

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

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Connie Rudd, Superintendent, Curecanti National Recreation Area, 102 Elk Creek, Gunnison, CO 81230; Tel: (970) 641-2337 ext. 220; E-mail: [connie\\_rudd@nps.gov](mailto:connie_rudd@nps.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Copies of the Record of Decision may be obtained from the contact listed above or online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/cure>.

Dated: December 9, 2008.

**Michael D. Snyder,**

*Regional Director, Intermountain Region,  
National Park Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R6-R-2008-N0344; 60138-1265-6CCP-S3]

#### Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Sullys Hill National Game Preserve, Fort Totten, ND

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce that our Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan (Plan) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Sullys Hill National Game Preserve is available. This Final CCP describes how the Service intends to manage this refuge for the next 15 years.

**ADDRESSES:** A copy of the Plan may be obtained by writing to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Refuge Planning, P.O. Box 25486, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225; or by download from <http://mountain-prairie.fws.gov/planning>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Laura King, 406-644-2211, (phone); 406-644-2661 (fax); or [laura\\_king@fws.gov](mailto:laura_king@fws.gov) (e-mail).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Sullys Hill National Game Preserve, established in 1904, is a 1,675-acre National Wildlife Refuge sitting on the south shores of Devils Lake, about 10 miles south of the city of Devils Lake, North Dakota. This Refuge supports a unique community of habitats such as an oak, ash, basswood and aspen woodland, mixed grassed prairie, and some natural wetlands. These diverse habitats provide "edge" habitat for over 250 species of migratory birds, plains bison, Rocky Mountain elk, white-tailed deer, turkeys, and prairie dogs.

The Refuge is one of only 19 designated natural areas in North Dakota, of which only four are National Wildlife Refuges. It is also one of only four Refuges nationally established for bison conservation.

Sullys Hill National Game Preserve has over 60,000 visitors annually. The Refuge is becoming a progressive regional conservation learning center, promoting the conservation role of the National Wildlife Refuge System while educating visitors about the functions and benefits of prairie wetlands and grasslands. Per its legislative purpose, there is no hunting permitted on this Refuge.

The draft Plan and Environmental Assessment (EA) was made available to

the public for review and comment following the announcement in the **Federal Register** on June 26, 2008 (73 FR 36350–36352). The draft Plan and EA identified and evaluated three alternatives for managing the Refuges for the next 15 years. Alternative C was selected as the preferred alternative and will serve as the Final Plan.

The final CCP identifies goals, objectives, and strategies that describe the future management of Sullys Hill National Game Preserve. This Plan gives priority to enhancing and restoring native prairie and promoting forest regeneration. Ungulate populations will be maintained at lower levels ( $\leq 20$  bison,  $\leq 18$  elk, and  $\leq 18$  white-tailed deer) to control the overgrazing and overbrowsing that has impacted Refuge habitats. Management tools, including exclusion fences and other appropriate methods such as chemical, biological, and mechanical techniques (including prescribed fire) will be used to restore and enhance habitat for the benefit of forest interior breeding and grassland nesting birds. Selected hay land acres would be restored to native prairie. Fuels treatment (including prescribed fire or other mechanical means) will be used to reduce hazardous fuels, minimizing the threat to life and property. Invasive species will be treated and areas restored. The ungulate herd health program will take a more active disease surveillance and treatment approach, including timely introduction of ungulates to maintain genetic health, particularly for the Refuges plains bison.

There would be an increase in delivery of both on-site and off-site programming of youth environmental education programs. In cooperation with local teachers, a formal wetland and grassland conservation curriculum will be designed for targeted grade levels and meet local and State standards. Emphasis will be placed on developing education partnerships with Spirit Lake Nation schools and agencies. The Refuges limited fishery will be used for educational programs only. Visitor, facility, and wildlife safety will be improved through regular routine patrols during peak and off-peak public use. A comprehensive cultural resource survey of the Refuge will be completed in partnership with other agencies and organizations. Four full-time staff will be recruited to expand, develop, and conduct biological, visitor services, law enforcement, and maintenance programs.

The Service is furnishing this Notice to advise other agencies and the public of the availability of the Final Plan, to provide information on the desired

conditions for the Refuges, and to detail how the Service will implement management strategies. Based on the review and evaluation of the information contained in the EA, the Regional Director has determined that implementation of the Final Plan does not constitute a major Federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

Dated: December 23, 2008.

**Noreen E. Walsh,**

*Deputy Regional Director.*

**Editorial Note:** This document was received in the Office of the Federal Register on April 8, 2009.

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[LLUT–92000–09–L13200000–EL0000–24–1A00, UTU–84102]

### Notice of the Availability of the Greens Hollow, Federal Coal Lease Application Environmental Assessment and Notice of Public Hearing

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will hold a public meeting on the proposed sale, adequacy of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Fair Market Value determination and Maximum Economic Recovery consideration for coal lease application UTU–84102. The BLM is in the process of completing the EIS that will address the environmental impacts of mining this tract. The lands included in the delineated Federal coal lease tract (“Greens Hollow”) are located in Sanpete and Sevier counties. The public is invited to the meeting to make public and/or written comments on the environmental implications of leasing the proposed tract, and also to submit comments on the Fair Market Value and the Maximum Economic Recovery of the tract.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held May 6, 2009 at 7 p.m. in the auditorium of North Sevier High School, 350 West 400 North, Salina, Utah.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Written comments on the Fair Market Value and Maximum Economic Recovery must be received by May 5,

2009 and should be addressed to Stan Perkes, 801–539–4036, Bureau of Land Management, Utah State Office, Division of Lands and Minerals, P.O. Box 45155, Salt Lake City, Utah 84145 or e-mail to [Stan\\_Perkes@blm.gov](mailto:Stan_Perkes@blm.gov). Information on the Decision Notice/ Finding of No Significant Impact can be obtained by contacting Mr. Steve Rigby, 435–636–3604. Written comments concerning the environmental impact statement must be submitted by close of business on May 18, 2009 to the Price Field Office, 125 South 600 West, Price, Utah 84501.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The lands included in the delineated Federal coal lease tract (“Greens Hollow”) are located in Sanpete and Sevier Counties, Utah approximately ten and one-half air miles west of Emery Utah on Manti-LaSal and Fishlake National Forest-administered surface with federally-administered minerals and are described as follows:

T. 20 S., R. 4 E., SLM, Sevier County, Utah  
Sec. 36, lot 4, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
T. 21 S., R. 4 E., SLM, Sevier County, Utah  
Sec. 1, all;  
Sec. 2, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
Sec. 11, E $\frac{1}{2}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$ ;  
Sec. 12, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , W $\frac{1}{2}$ , W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
Sec. 13, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , NW $\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
Sec. 14, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
T. 20 S., R. 5 E., SLM, Sanpete and Sevier Counties, Utah  
Sec. 19, lots 5–8, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
Sec. 20, S $\frac{1}{2}$ ;  
Sec. 21, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
Sec. 28, W $\frac{1}{2}$ ;  
Sec. 29, all;  
Sec. 30, all;  
Sec. 31, all;  
Sec. 32, N $\frac{1}{2}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$ ;  
Sec. 33, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
T. 21 S., R. 5 E., SLM, Sevier County, Utah  
Sec. 6, all.

Approximately 6,175.39 acres.

Ark Land Company submitted the application for the coal lease. The company plans to mine the coal as an extension from their existing SUFCO Mine, if the lease is obtained. The Greens Hollow coal tract has two minable coal beds; the Upper Hiawatha and the Lower Hiawatha seam beds. The minable portions of the coal beds in this area are around eleven feet in thickness. The tract contains approximately 109,700,000 tons of coal reserve base of high-volatile C bituminous coal. The coal quality in the Upper Hiawatha coal bed on an “as received basis” is as follows: 11,565 Btu/lb., 7.46 percent moisture, 9.81 percent ash, 36.55 percent volatile matter, 46.1 percent fixed carbon and 0.55 percent sulfur. The coal quality in the Lower Hiawatha coal bed on an “as received basis” is as follows: 11,538 Btu/lb., 7.21 percent