

provides the only access to deep water on the southern tip of the Delmarva Peninsula. The boat ramp is unsafe in its current condition and therefore was closed in June 2002 to everyone except 21 commercial watermen who were paying a commercial rate to the Wise Point Corporation, the former owners. Recreational anglers who have used the boat ramp in the past are anxious for the boat ramp to reopen. In all alternatives, the Service proposes to open the boat ramp to recreational and commercial users. In Alternative A, the Service would manage the boat ramp much as it was managed by the Wise Point Corporation. The Service would not make improvements to the boat ramp area and would allow 24-hour access for commercial watermen who apply for a special use permit. In all other alternatives, the Service would improve the parking lot and boat ramp and reserve parking spaces for commercial watermen. Over time, the Service would phase out docking, 24-hour access and reserved parking privileges for commercial watermen. Alternatives C and D propose scaling down the size of the parking lot from 75 spaces (Alternative B, the Preferred Alternative) to 35 and 25 spaces, respectively.

Firearms range: An inholding adjacent to the refuge and owned by Northampton County is home to a firearms range used for law enforcement personnel from Federal, State and County agencies. There are elevated levels of contaminants in the range area. Noise generated from firearms has the potential to conflict with the visitor experience. In all Alternatives, the Service would continue to work with partners to find an alternate, off-refuge site for the firearms range. Refuge staff would also continue to maintain the firearms range and schedule use so as not to conflict with environmental education programs. In alternatives B, C and D, the Service would also work with Northampton County to implement modern practices for firearms range management such as controlling surface runoff and leachate from the berm and periodically removing contaminated soils.

Communications tower: Verizon Virginia, Inc., owns a 299-foot communications tower on the refuge. The tower supports in-house radio communications for Verizon and refuge staff. The communications tower could cause bird strikes and the tower does not conform to current Service guidance on communications tower siting. Adjacent to the tower is a switching station that houses underground communications lines which cross the

Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel and head north to Cape Charles. The lease on both the tower and the switching station expires in 2007. In all alternatives, the Service proposes not to renew the lease for the tower. Verizon would be responsible for removing the tower once the lease expires. In Alternative B, the Service would work with Verizon to assess the need for continued use of the switching station.

Land acquisition: In alternative A, the Service would continue to acquire from willing sellers the remaining 310 acres of land within Eastern Shore of Virginia NWR's current approved acquisition boundary. In Alternatives B, C, and D the Service proposes to expand the acquisition boundary to include 6,030 acres.

Dated: March 20, 2003.

Richard O. Bennett,

Acting Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Hadley, Massachusetts.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WY-930-03-1610-DQ]

Notice of Availability of Final Environmental Impact Statement and the Proposed Snake River Resource Management Plan

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Availability (NOA) of a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and the Proposed Snake River Resource Management Plan (RMP), Wyoming.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces the availability of the FEIS and the Proposed Snake River RMP.

The FEIS describes and analyzes options for managing approximately 981 acres of public land and 15,123 acres of Federal mineral estate in Teton County, northwestern Wyoming. The FEIS documents the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts of six management alternatives for BLM-administered public lands near, or adjacent to, the Snake River. The completed RMP will fulfill the obligations set forth by the NEPA, Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), and Federal regulations.

DATES: The Proposed Snake River RMP and FEIS will be available for review for

30 calendar days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) publishes its NOA in the **Federal Register**. Under the provisions of 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1610.5 protest of a proposed BLM RMP must be filed with the Director in accordance with the instructions described in the FEIS and included in the supplemental information section of this notice. Protest of the proposed Snake River RMP will be accepted no later than 30 calendar days from the date the EPA publishes its NOA in the **Federal Register**.

ADDRESSES: A copy of the FEIS has been sent to affected Federal, State, local government agencies, and to interested parties. The document will be available electronically on the following Web site: <http://www.wy.blm.gov/srrmp/index.htm>. Copies of the FEIS will be available for public inspection at the following locations:

- Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming State Office, 5353 Yellowstone Road, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009
- Bureau of Land Management, Pinedale Field Office, 432 S. Mill St., Pinedale, Wyoming 82941

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Contact Ms. Kellie Roadifer, Project Manager, BLM Pinedale Field Office, 432 S. Mill Street, P.O. Box 768, Pinedale, Wyoming 82941, or electronically to pinedale_wymail@blm.gov with "Attention: Snake River RMP" in the subject line. Ms. Roadifer may also be reached at (307) 367-5309.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The BLM-administered public lands and mineral estate in the planning area currently do not have an approved land use plan. Upon approval, the Snake River RMP would establish management direction for the surface and mineral estates and associated resources administered by the BLM near Jackson, Wyoming. The public lands and Federal mineral resources analyzed are those administered by the BLM Pinedale Field Office.

The FEIS describes the physical, biological, cultural, historic, and socioeconomic resources in and around the surrounding planning area. The focus for impact analysis was based on resource issues and concerns identified during scoping and public involvement activities and opportunities. Potential impacts of concern regarding possible management direction and planning decisions (not in priority order) are: multi-agency and interagency cooperative management; recreation opportunities along the Snake River;