DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Establishment of the Vieques National Wildlife Refuge

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of the Navy transferred, without reimbursement, approximately 3,100 acres on the Island of Vieques, Puerto Rico to the Secretary of the Interior. This land was a portion of the facility known as the Naval Ammunition Support Detachment property and is now administered as a national wildlife refuge by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

DATES: This action was effective on May 1, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joseph J. Schwagerl, Acting Refuge Manager for the Caribbean Islands Refuges Complex with the Fish and Wildlife Service in Boqueron, Puerto Rico, 787-851-7258.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to section 1508 of Title XV of Public Law 106–398, the U.S. Navy transferred approximately 3,100 acres (1254.52 hectares) on the Island of Vieques, Puerto Rico to the Department of the Interior to be administered as a wildlife refuge under the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 668dd-668ee).

The Vieques National Wildlife Refuge contains several ecologically distinct habitats including beaches, coastal lagoons, mangroves wetlands, and upland forested areas. The marine environment surrounding the refuge contains coral reefs and sea grass beds. The refuge and its surrounding waters are home to at least four plants and 10 animals on the Federal endangered species list including the West Indian manatee, the brown pelican, and four species of sea turtles.

A Cooperative Management Agreement made among the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the Puerto Rico Conservation Trust provides the general management principles for the protection of the refuge lands and other lands on the Islands of Vieques. A Conceptual Management Plan will serve as an interim management plan for the refuge until we develop a Comprehensive Conservation Plan.


Marshall P. Jones, Jr.,
Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

Notice of Extension of Comment Period

MT–090–1990EX–01

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has extended the public comment period on the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Reclamation of the Zortman and Landusky Mines in Phillips County, Montana. The comment period will end on August 9, 2001. The extension was granted in response to several requests for additional time to review the Draft Supplemental EIS.

DATES: The comment period on the Draft Supplemental EIS will end on August 9, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Address all written comments to Zortman/Landusky Mine Reclamation Plan SEIS, c/o Bureau of Land Management, Lewistown Field Office, P.O. Box 1160, Lewistown, MT 59457–1160. Comments may also be sent electronically to: ZLReclamation_EIS@blm.gov. Please include your name and complete mailing address on all comments.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This EIS is a draft supplemental to the March 1996 Final EIS Zortman/Landusky Mine Reclamation Plan Modifications and Mine Life Extensions. With the bankruptcy of the mines’ operator, Zortman Mining, Inc., the BLM and DEQ are overseeing reclamation at the mines. The Draft Supplemental EIS has been prepared to analyze additional reclamation alternatives developed by the agencies that may constitute a substantial change from those presented in the 1996 Final EIS. The Draft Supplemental EIS presents 12 reclamation plans, six for reclamation of the Zortman Mine and six for reclamation of the Landusky Mine. The reclamation plans were developed based upon public scoping comments and through consultation with the Fort Belknap government and the Environmental Protection Agency. The Draft Supplemental EIS discloses the environmental consequences of each alternative. Alternative Z6 is identified in the Draft Supplemental EIS as the preferred reclamation alternative for the Zortman Mine, and Alternative L4 is identified as the preferred reclamation alternative for the Landusky Mine. The identification of the preferred alternatives does not constitute an agency decision but is intended to help focus public comment on the alternatives more likely to be selected.


Bruce W. Reed,
Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement

[2200–ULEP; OR930–7122–DS–9033; GP1–0228]

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposes to work with the Foundation for Voluntary Land Exchanges (Foundation) to develop a land ownership adjustment plan (plan) and environmental impact statement for approximately 675,000 acres in the Coast Range area of the Umpqua River Basin in western Oregon. The plan will identify the following: non-federal lands or interests in land within the planning area (with concurrence of willing non-federal landowners) that are recommended for acquisition through exchange by the United States; federal lands or interests in land within the planning area that are recommended for disposal in exchange for acquired lands of equal value; and specific land exchanges. This effort is intended to consolidate land ownership to reduce costs of administration and achieve management efficiency. In addition, this consolidation should improve federal and non-federal land management and planning, enhance protection and restoration of listed species’ habitats, wetlands, riparian areas, and other environmentally sensitive areas, and improve public access and recreational uses on the properties selected.