DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Secret Service

Appointment of Performance Review Board (PRB) Members

This notice announces the appointment of members of the Senior Executive Service Performance Review Boards in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 4314(c)(4) for the rating period beginning October 1, 2003, and ending September 30, 2004. Each PRB will be composed of at least three of the Senior Executive Service members listed below.

Name and Title

Carlton D. Spriggs—Deputy Director, U.S. Secret Service
Barbara S. Riggs—Chief of Staff (USSS)
Brian K. Nagel—Assistant Director, Investigation (USSS)
Mark J. Sullivan—Assistant Director Protective Operations (USSS)
Michael C. Stenger—Assistant Director, Protective Research (USSS)
Keith W. Young—Assistant Director, Administration (USSS)
Donald A. Flynn—Assistant Director, Inspection (USSS)
Keith L. Prewitt—Assistant Director, Human Resources and Training (USSS)
George D. Rogers—Assistant Director, Government and Public Affairs (USSS)
Paul D. Irving—Assistant Director, Homeland Security (USSS)
John J. Kelleher—Chief Counsel (USSS)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

W. Ralph Basham, Director.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge is located in western Washington at the southern end of Puget Sound in Thurston and Pierce counties. The Refuge protects one of the few relatively undeveloped large estuaries remaining in Puget Sound. It provides crucial habitat for migratory birds of the Pacific Flyway, including many waterfowl, shorebirds, waterbirds, and seabirds. The Refuge also contains regionally important migration and rearing habitat for salmon, particularly the federally threatened fall chinook salmon. Each year, more than 100,000 visitors come to view wildlife and enjoy and learn about Refuge habitats and the wildlife they support.

The Proposed Action is to adopt and implement a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) that best achieves the purposes for which the Refuge was established: furthers its vision and goals; contributes to the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System; addresses significant issues and applicable mandates; and is consistent with principles of sound fish and wildlife management. Implementing the CCP will enable the Refuge to fulfill its critical role in the conservation and management of fish and wildlife resources of the Nisqually River delta and lower watershed, and to provide high quality environmental education and wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities for Refuge visitors. The Service analyzed four alternatives for future management of the Refuge; of these, Alternative D has been identified as the preferred alternative.

Alternative D, modified from the Draft CCP/EIS, would provide a Refuge boundary expansion of 3,479 acres. Restoration of 690 acres of estuarine habitat would be accomplished through removal of a large portion of the exterior Brown Farm Dike. The remaining 263-acre area within a newly constructed dike system would be managed to provide greatly improved freshwater wetland and riparian habitats.

The Final CCP/EIS will be available for viewing and downloading online at http://pacific.fws.gov/planning.
offered. A new 2.5-mile trail would be developed on Tribal and Refuge properties east of the Nisqually River and a primitive 0.5-mile trail would be provided in surge plain habitat. New fishing opportunities could be provided in the future if appropriate lands were acquired. A seasonal waterfowl hunting program open seven days per week, would be provided on 191 acres of Refuge lands. A speed limit of five miles per hour would be established for all water craft in Refuge waters.

Public comments were requested, considered, and incorporated throughout the planning process in numerous ways. Public outreach has included open houses, public meetings, technical workgroups, planning update mailings, and Federal Register notices. Three previous notices were published in the Federal Register concerning this CCP/EIS (62 FR 52764, October 9, 1997; 65 FR 6390, February 9, 2000; and 67 FR 78009, December 20, 2002). During the Draft CCP/EIS comment period that occurred from December 20, 2002 to February 21, 2003, the Service received a total of 1,717 comments (e-mails, letters, faxes, postcards, comment sheets, visits, or telephone calls). All substantive issues raised in the comments have been addressed through revisions incorporated in the Final CCP/EIS text or in responses contained in Appendix M of the Final CCP/EIS.


Chris McKay,
Acting Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Notice of Service Area Designation

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the service area designation for the Samish Indian Tribe which is recognized as eligible to receive services from the United States Federal Government Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). This notice is published in the exercise of the authority delegated by the Secretary of the Interior to the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

DATES: This service area designation becomes effective on September 30, 2004.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with 25 CFR part 20, Financial Assistance and Social Services programs, the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs designates the following locale as a service area appropriate for the extension of BIA financial assistance and/or social services. The Financial Assistance and Social Services programs regulations at 25 CFR part 20 have full force and effect when extending BIA financial assistance and/or social services into the service area location. The Samish Indian Tribe is authorized to extend financial assistance and social services to eligible tribal members and other eligible Indians who reside within the areas designated below.

Tribe: The Samish Indian Tribe.

Service Area Locations: The counties of Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, Island, and San Juan in the State of Washington.


David W. Anderson,
Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

[FR Doc. 04–19800 Filed 8–30–04; 8:45 am]
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Final Environmental Impact Statement/Fire Management Plan, Point Reyes National Seashore, Marin County, CA; Notice of Availability

Summary: Pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Pub. L. 91–190, as amended), and the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR part 1500–1509), the National Park Service (NPS), Department of the Interior, has prepared a Final Environmental Impact Statement identifying and evaluating three alternatives for a Fire Management Plan for Point Reyes National Seashore administrated lands. Potential impacts, and appropriate mitigations, are assessed for each alternative. When approved, the plan will guide all future fire management actions on lands administrated by Point Reyes National Seashore. The Fire Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FMP/FEIS) documents the analyses of two action alternatives, and a “no action” alternative.

Revisions to the 1993 Fire Management Plan are needed to meet public and firefighter safety, natural and cultural resource management, and wildland urban interface objectives for the Point Reyes National Seashore and the north district of Golden Gate National Recreation Area. The action alternatives vary in the emphasis they place on fire management goals developed by the park. The current program has been effective in fire suppression and conducting limited fuel reduction in strategic areas, but has not been able to fully accomplish resource management, fuel reduction, and prescribed fire goals.

The planning area for the Fire Management Plan (FMP) includes NPS lands located approximately 40 miles northwest of San Francisco in Marin County, California. These lands include the 70,046-acre Point Reyes National Seashore, comprised primarily of beaches, coastal headlands, extensive freshwater and estuarine wetlands, marine terraces, and forests; as well as 18,000 acres of the Northern District of Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA), primarily supporting annual grasslands, coastal scrub, and Douglas-fir and coast redwood forests.

Proposed Fire Management Plan. Alternative C is the preferred alternative in the final FMP/FEIS and remains unchanged from the draft EIS. Under Alternative C “Increased Natural Resource Enhancement and Expanded Hazardous Fuel Reduction”*, fire management actions will be used to markedly increase efforts to enhance natural resources and reduce hazardous fuels. This alternative includes objectives for increasing the abundance and distribution of federally listed species, reducing infestations of invasive, non-native plants and increasing native plant cover. Prescribed burning and mechanical treatments will be used to protect or enhance cultural resources, such as reducing vegetation in areas identified as important historic viewsheds. Alternative C permits the highest number of acres treated annually for hazardous fuels reduction concentrating on high priority areas (e.g., along road corridors, around structures, and in strategic areas to create fuel breaks). Up to 3,500 acres could be treated per year using prescribed fire and mechanical treatments. Under this alternative, research efforts will be expanded to determine the effects of fire on natural resources of concern (e.g., rare and non-native species) and to determine the effectiveness of various treatments for fuel reduction. Research results will be used adaptively to guide the fire