(4) Any individual who was a principal, partner, director, agent or employee of any entity or individual described in subparagraph 3 above, at any time during which the entity or individual performed services for or on behalf of HUD in connection with MHLS 2004–1;

(5) Any individual or entity that uses the services, directly or indirectly, of any person or entity ineligible under subparagraphs 1 through 4 above to assist in preparing any of its bids on the Mortgage Loans;

(6) Any individual or entity which employs or uses the services of an employee of HUD (other than in such employee’s official capacity) who is involved in MHLS 2004–1;

(7) Any mortgagor (or affiliate of a mortgagor) that failed to submit to HUD on or before February 29, 2004, audited financial statements for 1998 through 2003 for a project securing a Mortgage Loan;

(8) Any individual or entity and any Related Party (as such term is defined in the Qualification Statement) of such individual or entity that is a mortgagor in any of HUD’s multifamily housing programs and that is in default under such mortgage loan or is in violation of any regulatory or business agreements with HUD, unless such default or violation is cured on or before February 29, 2004.

In addition, any entity or individual that served as a loan servicer or performed other services for or on behalf of HUD at any time during the 2-year period prior to February 29, 2004, with respect to any Mortgage Loan is ineligible to bid on such Mortgage Loan. Also ineligible to bid on any Mortgage Loan are: (a) Any affiliate or principal of any entity or individual described in the preceding sentence; (b) any employee or subcontractor of such entity or individual during that 2-year period; or (c) any entity or individual that employs or uses the services of any other entity or individual described in this paragraph in preparing its bid on such Mortgage Loan.

Prospective bidders should carefully review the Qualification Statement to determine whether they are eligible to submit bids on the Mortgage Loans in MHLS 2004–1.

Freedom of Information Act Requests

HUD reserves the right, in its sole and absolute discretion, to disclose any information relating to MHLS 2004–1, HUD will have the right to disclose any information that HUD is obligated to disclose pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act and all regulations promulgated thereunder.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Availability of Draft Revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Alaska Peninsula and Becharof National Wildlife Refuges

AGENCY: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announces that a Draft Revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan (Draft Conservation Plan) and Environmental Impact Statement for the Alaska Peninsula and Becharof National Wildlife Refuges is available for review and comment. This Draft Conservation Plan was prepared pursuant to the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997. The purpose in developing conservation plans is to provide refuge managers with a 15-year strategy for achieving refuge purposes and contributing toward the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System, consistent with sound principles of fish and wildlife science, conservation, legal mandates, and Service policies. In addition to outlining broad management direction on conserving wildlife and their habitats, the conservation plans identify wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities available to the public, including opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education and interpretation. We will review and update these plans in accordance with planning direction in §304(g) of ANILCA and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321–4370d).

Background: The Draft Conservation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement is a revision of plans which were adopted in 1985 and 1987. It combines plans for the Becharof NWR and portions of the Alaska Peninsula and Alaska Maritime NWRs, which are managed jointly as the Alaska Peninsula and Becharof National Wildlife Refuges. This draft plan provides broad general direction for managing the Refuges for the next 15 years and contains the vision, goals, and objectives of the Refuges. Except for alternative ways of addressing the issues, this plan substantially follows the direction of the original plans. Traditional means of access and uses of the Refuges would be maintained under all alternatives.

The Alaska Peninsula and Becharof National Wildlife Refuges are comprised of the Becharof NWR, the Uagish and Chignik Units of the Alaska Peninsula NWR, and the Seal Cape Unit of the Alaska Maritime NWR. The Refuges encompass approximately 4,240,000 acres along the Pacific side of the Alaska Peninsula, starting about 10 miles south of the Russian border at King Salmon and extending for approximately 250 miles.
The Alaska Peninsula is a land of towering mountains, active volcanoes, broad valleys, fjords, tundra, and glacially formed lakes. From the coastal lowlands on the Bristol Bay side of the Refuges the land rises to steep glaciated mountains and volcanoes, and then plunges to cliffs and sandy beaches on the Pacific side. The Bristol Bay side of the Refuges consists primarily of rolling moist to wet tundra, lakes, and wetlands. The snow-covered, heavily glaciated Aleutian Mountain Range bisects the Refuges with volcanic peaks rising to more than 8,200 feet. The Pacific coastline is rugged with sea cliffs rising hundreds of feet from the water. Numerous streams and several large rivers originate within the Refuges.

The Becharof National Wildlife Refuge contains the 300,000-acre Becharof Lake, the second largest lake in Alaska, and the 503,000-acre Becharof Wilderness Area. Mt. Peulik, a 4,800-foot volcano with lava flows reaching to Becharof Lake is a prominent landmark. The Aula National Wildlife Refuge contains the culturally and economically important Ugashik Lakes. The area around Mother Goose Lake provides important habitat for moose and a number of bird species. Volcanoes have been active in the recent past. Mt. Veniaminof, a stratovolcano with a base 30 miles in diameter and a summit crater 20 miles in circumference, last erupted from 1993 to 1995. Mt. Veniaminof has the most extensive crater glacier in the United States and is the only known glacier on the continent with an active volcanic vent in its center. The 800,000-acre Mt. Veniaminof National Natural Landmark recognizes the unique qualities of this area.

The Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge includes Federally-owned islands, sea stacks, columns, islets, and rocks off the coast of Alaska. Seal Cape, a 9,900-acre headland, is the only part of the Alaska Maritime Refuge included in this Draft Conservation Plan. Narrow bays cut Seal Cape into two main arms which rise to peaks of more than 2,000 feet.

More than 2,000 people live in 12 communities located near the Refuges. The region is characterized by a mixed cash-subsistence economy. The cash economy is dominated by commercial fishing, tourism, and government employment. The Refuges sustain nearly 1,500 local jobs and contribute $70 million in income annually to the local economy, nearly all through supporting the commercial fishery by providing salmon spawning and rearing habitat.

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