DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), intend to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a proposed land exchange of certain lands owned by the State of Alaska and certain lands owned by the King Cove Corporation and evaluation of a road corridor through the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge and the Izembek Wilderness Area. We furnish this notice to advise the public and other agencies of our intentions and to seek information and suggestions on the scope of issues to be addressed in the EIS. Special mailings, newspaper articles, and other media releases will announce additional opportunities to provide written and oral input.

DATES: While we are initiating the EIS, progress will be dependent on specific appropriations to fund this effort. Public scoping meetings will be held in Washington, DC, as well as in Anchorage, King Cove, Cold Bay, Sand Point, and Nelson Lagoon in Alaska. At least 30 days prior to each meeting, we will announce dates, times, and locations.

ADDRESS: Additional information concerning the proposed land exchange is at http://izembek.fws.gov/EIS.htm. Send your comments or requests for information by any of the following methods:
- E-mail: izembek_eis@fws.gov;
- Fax: Attn: Helen Clough, (907) 786–3965; or

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Helen Clough, 907–786–3357 (phone), or at the addresses above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Izembek National Wildlife Refuge (417,533 acres) and the North Creek (8,452 acres) and Pavlof (1,447,264 acres) units of the Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge are located at the westernmost tip of the Alaska Peninsula. The 1,008,697-acre Unimak Island (the easternmost Aleutian Island of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge) lies across the Isanotski Strait. To the north of the Izembek Refuge is the Bering Sea; to the south is the Pacific Ocean. The Alaska Peninsula is dominated by the rugged Aleutian Range, part of the Aleutian arc chain of volcanoes. Landforms include mountains, active volcanoes, U-shaped valleys, glacial moraines, low tundra wetlands, lakes, sand dunes, and lagoons. Elevations range from sea level to the 9,372-foot Shishaldin Volcano. Shishaldin Volcano is a designated National Natural Landmark. Several major lagoons are within the Izembek Refuge boundary. These lagoons contain some of the world’s largest eelgrass beds. The lagoons are under the jurisdiction of the State of Alaska. Izembek Lagoon is designated the Izembek State Game Refuge. Birds from all over the Arctic funnel through Izembek Refuge each fall on their way to wintering grounds throughout the world. More than 98 percent of the world’s Pacific black brant use Izembek Lagoon as a staging area for their fall migration to Mexico. Other birds that use the refuge include golden plovers, ruddy turnstones, western sandpipers, tundra swans, Steller’s eiders, and emperor geese. The refuge also is home to large concentrations of brown bears and other large mammals such as caribou and wolves. The red, pink, chum, and silver salmon that use the waters within the refuge enrich the entire ecosystem with the nutrients they bring from the sea. The refuge also has a rich human history, from ancient settlements of Alaska Natives, through the 18th and 19th century Russian fur
traders, to a World War II outpost. The Izembek Wilderness covers much of the refuge and includes pristine streams, extensive wetlands, steep mountains, tundra, and sand dunes, and provides high scenic, wildlife, and scientific values, as well as outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

The King Cove Corporation is an Alaska Native Village Corporation established under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (ANCSA; 43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) Under the authority of ANCSA, Congress granted to King Cove Corporation land entitlements within and adjacent to Izembek Refuge. The State of Alaska also owns lands, submerged lands, shorelands, and tidelands within and adjacent to Izembek and Alaska Peninsula Refuges, including the Izembek State Game Refuge.

Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge stretches from the Arctic Ocean to the southeast panhandle of Alaska and protects breeding habitat for seabirds, marine mammals, and other wildlife on more than 2,500 islands, spires, rocks, and coastal headlands. Sitkinak Island, which lies within the boundaries of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, is primarily owned by the State of Alaska, with two parcels owned by the Service.

In the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (H.R. 146, Subtitle E; the Act), Congress directs us to prepare an EIS under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), and its implementing regulations (40 CFR parts 1500–1508) to evaluate the impacts of a road between the communities of King Cove and Cold Bay, Alaska, and will evaluate a specific road corridor through the Izembek Refuge that will be identified in consultation with the State of Alaska, the City of King Cove, and the Agdaagux Tribe of King Cove. The alternatives anticipated at this time include the existing situation (no land exchange or road construction) and the proposed land exchange and road construction and operation as outlined in the Act. In preparing the EIS, the Service will solicit comments from public locally, regionally, and nationally. As required in the Act, subsequent to the preparation of the EIS and in conjunction with the Record of Decision, the Secretary of the Interior will determine whether the land exchange (including the construction of the proposed road) is in the public interest.

Public Availability of Comments

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us to withhold it from public review, we cannot guarantee we will be able to do so.

Dated: July 31, 2009.

Gary Edwards,
Acting Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Anchorage, Alaska.

[FR Doc. E9–18809 Filed 8–5–09; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310–55–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Notice of Availability for the Record of Decision on the Final General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement, Minuteman Missile National Historic Site, South Dakota

AGENCY: Department of the Interior, National Park Service.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(C)), the National Park Service (NPS) announces the availability of the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Final General Management Plan (GMP)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Minuteman Missile National Historic Site, South Dakota. On July 2, the acting regional director for the NPS Midwest Region approved the ROD for the Final GMP/EIS. As soon as practicable, the NPS will begin to implement the selected alternative.

The selected alternative, with the concept of presenting the national historic site as a symbol of the Cold War, will restore Delta One to its ready-alert status and rehabilitate Delta Nine to its stand-down appearance. These facilities will be presented as symbols commemorating the history and significance of the Cold War, the arms race, and the intercontinental ballistic missile in the second half of the 20th century.

The selected alternative includes locating a 7,700-square-foot visitor/administrative facility northwest of exit 131 on Interstate 90, built in two stages. Under the selected alternative, visitors will drive their personal cars to the Delta One facility and, with reservations, go on a ranger-led tour. Visitors will also drive their personal cars to Delta Nine for a self-guided tour. A shuttle system to Delta One will be developed for operation when the level of visitation warrants. The chain link security gate at Delta One will remain locked during business hours except during shuttle tours. The gate at Delta Nine will remain open during business hours.

Visitors benefit from this plan because of a rich range of options to see and learn about the missile sites as symbols that commemorate the Cold War, including guided tours, onsite interpretive media, and interpretive programs at the visitor/administrative facility.

The ROD includes a statement of the decision made, synopses of other alternatives considered, the basis for the decision, a description of the environmentally preferable alternative, a finding on impairment of park resources and values, a listing of measures to minimize environmental harm, and an overview of public involvement in the decision-making process.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Superintendent Mark Herberger, Minuteman Missile National Historic Site, 21280 South Dakota Highway 240,