

Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (40 CFR 1506.6(b)) requirements. We completed a thorough analysis of impacts on the human environment, which we included in the EA that accompanied the draft CCP. The CCP will guide us in managing and administering Lee Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge for the next 15 years. Alternative B, as we described in the final CCP, is the foundation for the CCP with two modifications.

### Background

The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd–668ee) (Refuge Administration Act), as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, requires us to develop a CCP for each national wildlife refuge. The purpose for developing a CCP is to provide refuge managers with a 15-year plan for achieving refuge purposes and contributing toward the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System, consistent with sound principles of fish and wildlife management, conservation, legal mandates, and our policies. In addition to outlining broad management direction on conserving wildlife and their habitats, CCPs 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 the CCP at least every 15 years in accordance with the Refuge Administration Act.

### Comments

We solicited comments on the draft CCP and the EA for Lee Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge from March 28, 2012 to April 30, 2012 (77 FR 18852; March 28, 2012). During the review period a public meeting was held in Stevensville, Montana, on April 9, 2012. In addition to comments received at this meeting, 33 individual letters and emails were received. The Service reviewed all comments and made two modifications to the final CCP, in addition to clarifying or expanding existing information or recommendations. The responses to all substantive public comments can be found in the appendix of the final CCP.

### Selected Alternative

The draft CCP and final EA included the analyses of three alternatives. After considering the comments we received, we have selected Alternative B for implementation, with the following modifications (beyond clarifying or

expanding existing information or recommendations):

- The Kenai Nature Trail will be kept along its current path. However, visitors will have the option of remaining on a more level walking surface on a path above a steeper portion of the trail.

- We will determine if there are viable options for reducing the erosion along the Wildlife Viewing Area, a popular area for visitors. The decision to move forward will be based on cost, the effectiveness on reducing erosion, and impacts on the resource, including the Bitterroot River system.

This preferred alternative will serve as the final plan. The final plan identifies goals, objectives, and strategies that describe the future management of the Lee Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge, such as the expansion and restoration of native plant communities including grasslands, shrublands, and riparian forests. Some areas of wetland impoundments would be restored to native communities, including forest and shrubland. Refuge staff would manage and, where appropriate, restore the natural topography, water movements, and physical integrity of surface water flow patterns across the Bitterroot River floodplain. Unimpeded flow from North Burnt Fork Creek would be reconnected with flow pathways into the Bitterroot River to reduce creek water temperature, improve water and nutrient flow, and create habitat conditions conducive to native cold-water species. Additionally, a channel to the Bitterroot River would be reestablished that mimics the historical flow pattern of Three Mile Creek to create habitat conditions supporting native cold-water species and the restoration of riparian habitat. A significant focus of any restoration proposal would be controlling invasive species and preventing further spread. Grasses and shrubs native to the uplands, including the alluvial fans (that is, areas of sedimentary deposits where fast-flowing streams have flown into flatter plains), would begin to be restored to provide habitat for native wildlife, including grassland-dependent migratory birds. Some wetland impoundments and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (nonpublic) roads would be removed or reduced in size to allow for river migration and to restore native gallery and riverfront forest for riparian-dependent wildlife. The remaining impoundments would be managed to mimic natural conditions for wetland-dependent migratory birds.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would expand and improve the refuge's compatible wildlife-dependent public

use programs, in particular the wildlife observation, environmental education, and interpretation programs. The visitor contact area would be expanded into a visitor center with new displays and a combination conference room and environmental education classroom. The refuge would work with Ravalli County staff to designate the county road in the refuge as an auto tour route, which would include pulloffs and some form of interpretation. A seasonal hiking trail would be added, and current trails would be improved for wildlife observation and photography. Interpretation and environmental education programs would be expanded using added staff and volunteers. All public use programs would provide visitors with a consistent message about the purposes and values of the refuge and the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

The refuge staff would be expanded by 3.5 individuals to include an assistant refuge manager (one full-time equivalent), a full-time and a career-seasonal biological science technician (1.5 full-time equivalents), and a visitor services specialist (one full-time equivalent) who would serve as a visitor center manager and volunteer coordinator. Increased research and monitoring, staff, funding, infrastructure, and partnerships would be required to accomplish the goals, objectives, and strategies associated with this alternative. Additional staff and funding would be added depending on the regional priorities for those funds allocated to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for management of lands and waters within the Refuge System.

Dated: August 29, 2012.

**Matt Kales,**

*Acting, Deputy, Regional Director, Mountain-Prairie Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

**[FWS–R8–FHC–2012–N222;  
FXFR1334088TWG0W4–123–FF08EACT00]**

### Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group; Public Teleconference/Web-Based Meeting

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, announce a public teleconference/web-based meeting of

the Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group (TAMWG).

**DATES:** *Teleconference/web-based meeting:* Wednesday October 17, 2012, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Pacific time. *Deadlines:* For deadlines and directions on registering to listen to the meeting by phone, listening and viewing on the Internet, submitting written material, or giving an oral presentation by phone, please see "Public Input" under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**

**ADDRESSES:** You may participate in the teleconference/web-based meeting from your home computer or phone or in person at one of the following locations:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Arcata Office, 1655 Heindon Road, Arcata, CA 95521 Telephone (707) 822-7201; or

- TRRP Office, 1313 South Main Street, Weaverville, CA 96093 Telephone (530) 623-1800.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Elizabeth W. Hadley, Redding Electric Utility, 777 Cypress Avenue, Redding, CA 96001; telephone: 530-339-7327; email: [ehadley@reupower.com](mailto:ehadley@reupower.com).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In accordance with the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App., we announce that the Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group (TAMWG) will hold a teleconference/web-based meeting.

**Background**

The TAMWG affords stakeholders the opportunity to give policy, management, and technical input concerning Trinity River (California) restoration efforts to

the Trinity Management Council (TMC). The TMC interprets and recommends policy, coordinates and reviews management actions, and provides organizational budget oversight.

**Meeting Agenda**

- Draft FY 13 Budget,
- Science Program,
- Overview of Peer Review Report,
- Implementation Program,
- Administration, and
- Reconsideration of September 10, 2012, TAMWG meeting issues (see Sept. 10, 2012, agenda at <http://www.fws.gov/arcata> for items potentially to be discussed).

The final agenda will be posted on the Internet at <http://www.fws.gov/arcata>.

**Public Input**

If you wish to	You must contact Elizabeth Hadley (FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT) no later than—
Listen to the teleconference/web-based meeting via telephone or Internet.	October 10, 2012.
Give an oral presentation by phone .....	October 10, 2012.
Submit written information or questions for the TAMWG to consider during the teleconference.	October 10, 2012.

*Submitting Written Information or Questions*

Interested members of the public may submit relevant information or questions for the TAMWG to consider during the teleconference. Written statements must be received by the date listed in "Public Input," so that the information may be available to the TAMWG for their consideration prior to this teleconference. Written statements must be supplied to Elizabeth Hadley in one of the following formats: One hard copy with original signature, and one electronic copy with original signature, and one electronic copy via email (acceptable file formats are Adobe Acrobat PDF, MS Word, PowerPoint, or rich text file).

Registered speakers who wish to expand on their oral statements, or those who wished to speak but could not be accommodated on the agenda, may submit written statements to Elizabeth Hadley up to 7 days after the teleconference.

As time permits, the public may also speak after each agenda item after the chair opens the floor for comment period. No registration beyond initial meeting registration is required for this.

**Meeting Minutes**

Summary minutes of the teleconference will be maintained by Elizabeth Hadley (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**). The minutes will

be available for public inspection within 90 days after the meeting, and will be posted on the TAMWG Web site at <http://www.fws.gov/arcata>.

Dated: September 25, 2012.

**Joe Polos,**

*Supervisory, Fish Biologist, Arcata Fish and Wildlife Office, Arcata, California.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Bureau of Indian Affairs**

**Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Pueblo of Jemez 70.277-Acre Fee-to-Trust Transfer and Casino Project, Doña Ana County, NM**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) as lead agency, in cooperation with the Pueblo of Jemez, intends to cancel all work on an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the BIA Federal action of approving a 70.277 acre fee-to-trust transfer and casino project located within Doña Ana County, New Mexico.

**DATES:** This cancellation is effective October 2, 2012.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** William Walker, Regional Director, (505) 563-3103 or Priscilla Wade, Regional Environmental Protection Specialist, (505) 563-3417, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Southwest Regional Office, 1001 Indian School Road NW., Albuquerque, New Mexico 87104.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The BIA is canceling work on the EIS because the Department of the Interior has denied the application to take the land into trust on September 1, 2011. The Notice of Intent to prepare the Draft EIS, which included a description of the proposed action, was published in the **Federal Register** on March 1, 2005 (70 FR 9963-9964). A public scoping meeting was held on March 16, 2005 and a public hearing was held on April 4, 2011; both were held in Anthony, New Mexico. The Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS was published in the **Federal Register** on April 8, 2011 (76 FR 19783-19784). A Final EIS for this project has not been completed.

**Authority**

This notice is published pursuant to section 1503.1 of the Council of Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR parts 1500 through 1508) and Department of the Interior Regulations (43 CFR part 46), implementing the procedural requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4371 *et seq.*), and