

(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; and

(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 information regarding MHLS 2004-1, including, but not limited to, the identity of any bidder and their bid price or bid percentage for any pool of loans or individual loan within a pool of loans, upon the completion of the

sale. Even if HUD elects not to publicly 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.

#### Scope of Notice

This notice applies to MHLS 2004-1, and does not establish HUD's policy for the sale of other mortgage loans.

Dated: February 11, 2004.

**John C. Weicher,**

*Assistant Secretary for Housing—Federal Housing Commissioner.*

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**BILLING CODE 4210-27-P**

## 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, and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. It describes how the Service intends to manage these Refuges over the next 15 years.

**DATES:** Please submit comments on the Draft Conservation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement on or before April 19, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** A copy of the Draft Conservation Plan is available on compact diskette or hard copy, and you may obtain a copy by writing to: Peter Wikoff, Planning Team Leader, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1011 East Tudor Road, MS 231, Anchorage, AK 99503. You may also access or download copies of the Draft Conservation Plan at the following Web site address: <http://alaska.fws.gov/planning>. Comments may be sent to the

above address or to:  
[fw7\\_apb\\_planning@fws.gov](mailto:fw7_apb_planning@fws.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Peter Wikoff, 907-786-3837.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) requires a conservation plan for all refuges in Alaska. We developed this Draft Conservation Plan consistent with section 304(g) of ANILCA and 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 Ugashik 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 Refuge headquarters in 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 Alaska Peninsula 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.

Issues raised during scoping and addressed in this Draft Revised

Conservation Plan are: (1) Access to remote and sensitive areas; and (2) conflicts between Refuge user groups.

This Draft Revised Conservation Plan identifies and evaluates three alternatives for managing the Refuges for the next 15 years. These alternatives follow the same general management direction but provide different ways of addressing the issues.

*Alternative 1: No Action:* Management of the Refuges would continue to follow the current course of action as identified and described in the existing plans and Records of Decision for these Refuges. The ranges and intensities of management activities would be maintained. Private and commercial uses of the Refuges would be unchanged. Refuge management would continue to reflect existing laws, executive orders, regulations, and policies governing Service administration and operation of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Helicopter landings for recreational purposes may be allowed outside of designated Wilderness on a case-by-case basis.

*Alternative 2:* There would be no changes in the way lands are managed or in how the public can access the Refuges. Research and monitoring provide clearer goals and objectives for increasing our knowledge of wildlife and habitat needs and relationships. Public use monitoring would facilitate wildlife dependent recreation, subsistence, and other traditional uses. Helicopter landings for recreational purposes would not be allowed in sensitive resource areas, at sensitive times, or where remoteness was a primary quality of the area. Landings could be considered in other areas. The Service would develop a process for identifying sensitive areas, in cooperation with the State of Alaska and other interested parties.

*Alternative 3: Preferred Alternative:* Research and monitoring provide clearer goals and objectives for increasing our knowledge of wildlife and habitat needs and relationships. Public use monitoring would provide clearer goals for facilitating wildlife dependent recreation, subsistence, and other traditional uses. Helicopter landings for recreational access would not be allowed. The boundary of the Yantarni Bay Moderate Management Area would be adjusted to coincide with geographically identifiable features while maintaining off-road vehicle (ORV) trails and areas of moderate use.

*Comment Period:* Sixty (60) days from date of publication of this notice.

*Public Meetings:* Meetings will be held in villages near the Refuges and in

Anchorage. Dates to be determined by weather and logistics.

*Availability of Documents:* Copies of this Draft Revised Conservation Plan may be obtained by writing to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Attention: Peter Wikoff, 1011 East Tudor Road, MS 231, Anchorage, AK 99503; telephone (907) 786-3837; fax (907) 786-3965; or e-mail [peter\\_wikoff@fws.gov](mailto:peter_wikoff@fws.gov). Copies of the Draft Conservation Plan may be viewed at the Refuge Office in King Salmon, Alaska, local libraries, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Office, Anchorage, Alaska. The Draft Conservation Plan is available online at <http://www.r7.fws.gov/planning>.

*Your Comments:* Comments may be addressed to Peter Wikoff, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1011 East Tudor Road, MS 231, Anchorage, AK 99503 or [fw7\\_apb\\_planning@fws.gov](mailto:fw7_apb_planning@fws.gov).

Dated: January 9, 2004.

**Rowan W. Gould,**

*Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Anchorage, Alaska.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310-55-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Notice of Availability of the Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge, Commerce City, CO

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces that the Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (CCP/EIS) for the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) is available for public review and comment. This Draft CCP/EIS was prepared pursuant to the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act, as amended, and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The Draft CCP/EIS describes the Service's proposal for management of the Refuge for 15 years, beginning at Refuge establishment, which is anticipated to occur sometime between 2006 and 2008. Four alternatives for management of the Refuge are considered in the CCP/EIS.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, we must receive your comments on or before April 5, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** To provide written comments or to obtain a copy of the Draft CCP/EIS, please write to Laurie