

September 7, 2005

BRIEFING FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Draft Hollister Resource Management Plan (RMP) Revision/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

BACKGROUND: The Hollister RMP was originally prepared in 1984. It has been amended several times. New issues and emerging trends include population growth, increased recreation use, resource conflicts and recent land acquisitions.

The RMP revision will incorporate management direction for the Coast Dairies (4,600 acres) and Fort Ord (16,000 acres) acquisitions (the Coast Dairies acquisition is pending).

Note: Due to a pending lawsuit and the difficult and complex management issues associated with it, a separate plan amendment is being prepared for the Clear Creek Management Area (CCMA). The draft CCMA plan amendment was released last year and a separate NOA has been submitted for the proposed plan/final EIS which is scheduled for release this fall. There have been only minor changes from the draft to proposed CCMA plan (health issues associated with naturally occurring asbestos will be addressed separately once the new EPA risk assessment study is completed, EPA is on-board with this approach).

Major proposed decisions (in the Preferred Alternative) are:

- Six new Special Recreation Management Areas (in addition to 2 existing)
- Three new ACECs and expansion of one existing ACEC (totaling 68,000 acres)
- 800,000 acres of Federal mineral estate available for leasing (compared to 785,000 acres at present)

EXTERNAL VIEWS: Because the CCMA is being addressed in a separate amendment, the level of public concern and controversy associated with the Hollister RMP revision is expected to be very low.

Interested publics include various sportsmen's groups, motorized and non-motorized recreational users, and rockhounds.

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