planning standards for national wildlife refuges and strengthens the compatibility standard for national wildlife refuges by defining a mission for the National Wildlife Refuge System and specifying that uses of refuges must be compatible with both the purpose(s) of the individual refuge and mission of the System. It also clarifies that if there are conflicts between the purpose(s) of a refuge and the mission of the System, the conflict must be resolved to first protect the purpose(s) of the refuge. Furthermore, the Service is directed to recognize compatible wildlife-dependent recreation as the priority public uses of the System, facilitate compatible wildlife-dependent recreation, and provide increased opportunities for families to experience compatible wildlife-dependent recreation.

Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge was established ''* * * as a range and breeding ground for antelope and other species of wildlife * * *'' by Executive Order 7523 on Dec. 21, 1936. The 1994 CMP for the refuge emphasized wildlife habitat management actions, de-emphasized wildlife population management actions, and did not establish population objectives for pronghorn. Pronghorn population numbers have fluctuated widely since the establishment of the refuge, and the population is currently declining despite significant habitat improvements that have occurred since the Service began implementing the CMP in 1994.

This decline has surfaced debate over pronghorn population objectives and the role of wildlife population management in meeting these objectives and other refuge goals including the public use direction provided by Congress in the Refuge Improvement Act. The existing management plan provides that ''wildlife populations, with few exceptions, would be managed through managing upland and wetland habitat'' on the refuge. The limited direction provided for population management in the CMP, such as in the case of predator control, is ambiguous and has resulted in public controversy over interpretations of the CMP's intent.

The Service is initiating a public process to develop a PMP that is intended to resolve some of the differences in interpretation of the CMP and to provide more detailed direction on pronghorn management that reflects recent legislative direction and biological information that has been gathered since the CMP's completion. The PMP will establish population management objectives for the pronghorn herd that uses the Refuge, develop population management actions to meet these objectives, develop decision criteria that could be used to initiate these population management actions, and establish a link between these population objectives and the wildlife-dependent recreational uses the Service is directed to provide. No changes are contemplated to the habitat-related objectives or actions approved in the 1994 CMP.

The range of alternative pronghorn population management strategies being considered for the PMP at this time include to: (1) maximize the pronghorn population and increase wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities in a manner consistent with the habitat objectives of the 1994 CMP (intensive population management intervention to benefit pronghorn); (2) define and maintain minimum pronghorn population limits that will meet public expectations about the purpose of the refuge and demand for wildlife recreation (limited, incremental population management intervention); and (3) manage the pronghorn population primarily through management of refuge habitat as provided in the 1994 CMP (population management intervention only when the species is at risk) (no action). The alternatives that will be considered in the PMP and supplemental EIS are expected to evolve through the public participation process.

The supplemental EIS would identify the environmental consequences of changes and additions the proposed PMP and its alternatives would make to the CMP in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1500–1508), and Service policies and procedures for compliance with those regulations.

Dated: October 5, 1998.

Thomas J. Dwyer,

Acting Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.

[FR Doc. 98–29503 Filed 11–3–98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Receipt of Petition for Reassumption of Jurisdiction From the Native Village of Barrow

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice is published in exercise of authority delegated by the Secretary of the Interior to the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs by 209 DM 8.

The Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 (Pub. L. 95–608) provides, subject to certain specified conditions, that Indian tribes may petition the Secretary of the Interior for reassumption of jurisdiction over Indian child custody proceedings.

This is notice that the petition has been received by the Secretary from the Native Village of Barrow for the reassumption of jurisdiction over Indian child custody proceedings. The petition is under review and may be inspected at the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Division of Social Services, 1849 C Street, NW, Room 4603 MIB, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Dated: October 23, 1998.

Kevin Gover,

Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

[FR Doc. 98–29556 Filed 11–3–98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CA–660–99–1610–00]

Shooting Closure on Public Lands in San Diego County, CA

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, DOI.

ACTION: Closure Order.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is permanently closing 320 acres of public land near La Posta, southern San Diego County, California, to recreational target shooting. The closure is necessary due to safety hazards, fire danger, noise nuisance, litter and resource degradation and land use conflicts. BLM intends to eliminate these safety and environmental problems almost entirely by closing the area to target shooting. The closure will affect most of the recreational target shooters using BLM public lands in southern San Diego County. It will not affect licensed hunters in the pursuit of lawful game or law enforcement officers while in the performance of their official duties.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The closure is effective November 4, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Linda Hansen, Acting Field Manager, USDI Bureau of Land Management, Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office, 690 W. Garnet Avenue, P.O. Box 1260, North Palm Springs, CA 92258–1260. Telephone: (760) 251–4800.