CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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STAFF REPORT: REGULAR CALENDAR

Consistency Determination No.:	CD-0202-13
Federal Agency:	Bureau of Land Management
Location:	Lost Coast Headlands Management Area, south of Eel River delta in Humboldt County (<u>Exhibits 1-3</u>)
Project Description:	Lost Coast Headlands Activity Plan
Staff Recommendation:	Concurrence

SUMMARY OF STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) submitted a consistency determination for the Lost Coast Headlands Management Area Activity Plan, covering a 463-acre area of coastal bluffs four miles south of the mouth of the Eel River in Humboldt County. The purpose of the Activity Plan is to provide public recreation, increase public awareness of the management area, provide livestock grazing in appropriate areas, and restore coastal grasslands. The Activity Plan is organized into four components: Recreation, Vegetation Management, Grazing Management, and Interpretation/Education/Partnerships. Each component includes a set of goals and objectives, and actions that would occur during the 10 to 15 year life of the Activity Plan.

The Activity Plan would maintain the Fleener Creek Trail, upgrade the Guthrie Creek Trail and Trailhead, construct a new Centerville Bluffs Trail, develop a new trailhead parking and picnic area at the Centerville Bluffs East site, reduce the size of the Fleener Creek Overlook to protect

open space, collaborate with Humboldt County on roadway maintenance and safety, replace and remove fencing, and establish permanent regulations regarding permissible recreational uses and hours of operation. The Activity Plan ensures continued and improved public access and recreation to and along the shoreline in the lost Coast Headlands Management Area, restores and protects scenic coastal views through vegetation management (including the removal of invasive, non-native species), and is consistent with the public access, recreation, and visual resource policies of the CCMP (Coastal Act Sections 30210-14, 30220-21, 30223, and 30251).

The Activity Plan includes management policies to continue the BLM's ongoing protection of sensitive habitat and resources in the Lost Coast Headlands Management Area. The Activity Plan proposes no management changes or development that would generate any adverse impacts to aquatic or terrestrial habitats. Proposed development actions would contribute to habitat improvements in the management area, particularly the restoration and protection of grassland habitat with the elimination of invasive, non-native vegetation. The proposed Activity Plan will protect sensitive habitat and water quality in the Lost Coast Headlands Management Area, and is consistent with the environmentally sensitive habitat and water quality policies of the CCMP (Coastal Act Sections 30240 and 30231). The BLM's Arcata Resource Management Plan, which includes the Lost Coast Headlands Management Area, contains development guidelines and resource protection measures for cultural resources and these will continue to be implemented in conjunction with the archaeological resource policy of the CCMP (Coastal Act Section 30244).

Commission staff recommends **concurrence** with CD-0202-13. The motion to implement this recommendation is found on Page 4, below.

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EXHIBITS

- Exhibit 1 Location Map
- Exhibit 2 Planning Area Map

Exhibit 3 – Planning Area Place Name Map

Exhibit 4 – Grazing Allotments Map

Exhibit 5 – Activity Plan Goals, Objectives, and Actions

Exhibit 6 – Centerville Bluffs East Picnic Area

Exhibit 7 – Fleener Creek Overlook

I. FEDERAL AGENCY'S CONSISTENCY DETERMINATION

The Bureau of Land Management has determined the project consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the California Coastal Management Program (CCMP).

II. MOTION AND RESOLUTION

Motion:

I move that the Commission **concur** with consistency determination CD-0202-13 that the project described therein is fully consistent, and thus is consistent to the maximum extent practicable, with the enforceable policies of the California Coastal Management Program.

Staff recommends a <u>YES</u> vote on the motion. Passage of this motion will result in an agreement with the determination and adoption of the following resolution and findings. An affirmative vote of a majority of the Commissioners present is required to pass the motion.

Resolution:

The Commission hereby <u>concurs</u> with consistency determination CD-0202-13 by the Bureau of Land Management on the grounds that the project is fully consistent, and thus consistent to the maximum extent practicable, with the enforceable policies of the CCMP.

III. FINDINGS AND DECLARATIONS

A. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposes to implement the Lost Coast Headlands Activity Plan, for recently acquired lands located along the coastal bluffs approximately four miles south of the mouth of the Eel River in Humboldt County (Exhibits 1-3). These lands, mostly grasslands with scattered patches of forest situated on blufftops above narrow beaches, comprise the Lost Coast Headlands Management Area, which is an element of the BLM's Arcata Resource Management Plan (RMP) which provides general management direction for approximately 200,000 acres of public lands in Northwest California. The Lost Coast Headlands Management Area consists of six parcels totaling 463 acres acquired by the BLM over the last twelve years, and an additional 220 acres of private land proposed for future acquisition but only from willing landowners. The RMP and the proposed Activity Plan do not apply to privatelyowned lands. However, should those lands be sold to the BLM at a future date, they would be managed under the guidance of the proposed Activity Plan.

Prior to acquisition, the lands in the Management Area were used for livestock grazing, except for a northern 32-acre parcel which was formerly the U.S. Navy's Centerville Beach Naval Facility. This parcel was transferred to the BLM in October 2010 after the Navy administered

the removal of all buildings, the clean-up of the site, and the contouring and reseeding of previously-developed portions of the property. Beginning in the late 1800s, the grasslands in the management area were used for grazing, dairy and feeder operations, and agricultural haying. Currently, BLM authorizes one 112-acre, cow/calf grazing allotment in the management area, comprised of four livestock pastures and three smaller areas for horses (**Exhibit 4**).

The BLM states that the purpose of the Lost Coast Headlands Activity Plan is to "provide trails and open space for public recreation, increase public information and awareness of the management area, provide livestock grazing in appropriate areas, and restore coastal grasslands." The Plan is intended to provide management guidance for 10 to 15 years and includes adaptive management components.

The proposed Activity Plan for the Lost Coast Headlands Management Area is organized into four components – Recreation, Vegetation Management, Grazing Management, and Interpretation/Education/Partnerships – each with its own set of goals, objectives, and actions. Each component contains three management alternatives: the proposed Activity Plan, an alternative plan, and a no-action alternative. A complete list of the Activity Plan goals, objectives, and actions is provided in <u>Exhibit 5</u>. The following is a summary of the proposed Activity Plan components.

Recreation

The goal is to provide visitors with coastal access, open space, and coastal views in a safe manner that prevents impacts to adjacent private property as well as natural and cultural resources. The objectives are to: (1) provide non-vehicular public access from Centerville Road to the Pacific Ocean, and in particular, to the beaches at Fleener Creek and Guthrie Creek (**Exhibit 3**); (2) insure the public health, safety, protection, and security of visitors by providing well maintained and accessible facilities; and (3) ensure that natural and cultural resource values are protected by establishing use regulations, frequent law enforcement patrol, and monitoring. Proposed actions include:

Maintain Fleener Creek Trail; maintain and upgrade the Guthrie Creek Trail; construct a new Centerville Bluffs Trail (connecting the Fleener Creek Trail and the Centerville Bluffs East Picnic area); improve the Guthrie Creek Trailhead; develop a new trailhead parking and picnic area at the Centerville Bluffs East site (**Exhibit 6**); reduce the size of the Fleener Creek Overlook (**Exhibit 7**); collaborate with Humboldt County on roadway maintenance and safety; replace and /or remove fencing; and establish permanent regulations regarding permissible recreational uses and hours of operation.

Vegetation Management

The goal is to eradicate invasive, non-native plants and establish and maintain native plant communities in the management area. The objective is to control invasive, non-native forbs, shrubs, and trees where invasiveness would displace open space and potentially obstruct coastal views. Proposed actions include:

Remove invasive, non-native Monterey Pine, iceplant, French broom, pampas grass, and other invasives; suppress emerging invasive tree seedlings following initial removal to maintain open space, including grazing, mechanical removal, hand pulling, and application of herbicide to cut stumps; remove all four eucalyptus trees and 15 Monterey pine trees but retain all 34 Monterey cypress trees along the Centerville Bluffs East northern property boundary; remove all 17 eucalyptus, 50 Monterey pine, and 70 Monterey cypress trees along the Centerville Bluffs East eastern property boundary; remove 40 Monterey pine trees along the Centerville Bluffs East western property boundary; remove all Monterey pine trees in the Centerville Bluffs North area; and retain two mature Monterey pine stands on the west side of Centerville Road in the Centerville Bluffs West area (**Exhibit 2**).

Grazing Management

The goal is to provide opportunities for grazing as compatible with other uses while protecting natural and cultural resources. The objective is to expand grazing to assist with vegetation management to maintain grasslands and open space, as well as suppression of encroaching invasive, non-native tree seedlings. Proposed actions include:

Graze Centerville Bluffs East, West, and North areas for up to six weeks during the low visitor use season during winter; develop livestock water options in a manner that protects resource values; install livestock gates and fencing to facilitate livestock movement among pastures; adjust grazing duration to meet tree seedling suppression objectives; manage grazing use and Centerville Bluffs Trail use for visitor safety; manage grazing to facilitate livestock movement and distribution, and protection of natural and cultural resources; remove old livestock fencing no longer needed for grazing operations; and adjust Lost Coast pasture configuration in southeast corner to include spruce tree stand (**Exhibits 2-4**).

Interpretation, Education, and Partnerships

The goals are to provide current and accurate safety information to visitors, and to provide education, interpretive, and partnership opportunities to enhance visitor understanding of the management area while protecting and preserving its natural and cultural resources. The objectives are to ensure that visitors are aware of safety information, potential risks, and public land boundaries, and to provide effective interpretation of the history, geology, flora, and fauna of the management area. Proposed actions include:

Maintain and update information at existing kiosks at Fleener and Guthrie Creek trailheads; install a new kiosk in the new Centerville Bluffs Picnic Area (**Exhibit 3**); provide a link to the lost Coast Headlands area on the BLM's Arcata Field Office webpage; provide interpretive wayside exhibits along the Centerville Bluffs Trail; provide interpretive brochures for the management area; and develop service-learning projects and outdoor classroom opportunities with local communities and schools.

While many of the actions proposed in the Plan will be directly implemented, additional projectspecific environmental documentation may be required for specific projects proposed for implementation later in the Plan period. The BLM has committed to coordinate with the Commission's Executive Director to determine which of these specific projects will be subject to federal consistency review, either negative or consistency determinations depending on their potential to affect resources of adjacent coastal zone lands and waters.

The Commission's Executive Director previously concurred with two negative determinations from the BLM for public access improvements in the Lost Coast Headlands area: (1) ND-062-01 for parking area improvements at the Guthrie Creek trailhead; and (2) ND-082-04 for trailhead improvements at the Fleener Creek trailhead. The Commission concurred with a consistency determination from the BLM (CD-077-05) for a Resource Management Plan for the agency's California Coastal National Monument, a section of which is immediately offshore of the Lost Coast Headlands Management Area.

B. PUBLIC ACCESS AND RECREATION

The Coastal Act provides:

<u>Section 30210</u>. In carrying out the requirement of Section 4 of Article X of the California Constitution, maximum access, which shall be conspicuously posted, and recreational opportunities shall be provided for all the people consistent with public safety needs and the need to protect public rights, rights of private property owners, and natural resource areas from overuse.

<u>Section 30211</u>. Development shall not interfere with the public's right of access to the sea where acquired through use or legislative authorization, including, but not limited to, the use of dry sand and rocky coastal beaches to the first line of terrestrial vegetation.

Section 30212

(a) Public access from the nearest public roadway to the shoreline and along the coast shall be provided in new development projects except where: (l) it is inconsistent with public safety, military security needs, or the protection of fragile coastal resources, (2) adequate access exists nearby...

<u>Section 30213</u>. Lower cost visitor and recreational facilities shall be protected, encouraged, and, where feasible, provided. Developments providing public recreational opportunities are preferred....

Section 30214.

(a) The public access policies of this article shall be implemented in a manner that takes into account the need to regulate the time, place, and manner of public access depending on the facts and circumstances in each case including, but not limited to, the following:

(1) Topographic and geologic site characteristics.

(2) The capacity of the site to sustain use and at what level of intensity.

(3) The appropriateness of limiting public access to the right to pass and repass depending on such factors as the fragility of the natural resources in the area and the proximity of the access area to adjacent residential uses.

(4) The need to provide for the management of access areas so as to protect the privacy of adjacent property owners and to protect the aesthetic values of the area by providing for the collection of litter....

<u>Section 30220</u>. Coastal areas suited for water-oriented recreational activities that cannot readily be provided at inland water areas shall be protected for such uses.

<u>Section 30221</u>. Oceanfront land suitable for recreational use shall be protected for recreational use and development unless present and foreseeable future demand for public or commercial recreational activities that could be accommodated on the property is already adequately provided for in the area.

<u>Section 30223</u>. Upland areas necessary to support coastal recreational uses shall be reserved for such uses, where feasible.

The BLM's consistency determination summarizes existing and proposed improvements to public access and recreation in the management area:

Centerville Road (a county road) provides public access to the Lost Coast Management area as well as several adjacent private parcels. The county road provides access to the Fleener Creek Overlook and Trailhead as well as the Guthrie Creek Trailhead. Both the Fleener Creek Trail and the Guthrie Creek Trail provide public access to the beach. The Plan proposes improvements to both of these existing trailheads and trails.

Implementation of the Plan would allow for increased public access in the northern portion of the management area. The Plan describes developing the former Centerville Beach Naval Facility – which is currently closed to the public – into the Centerville Bluffs East Picnic Area. The Centerville Bluffs East Picnic Area contains an existing paved driveway and parking area. The Plan calls for installation of a vault-type public restroom, minor improvements to the parking area, construction of a wheelchair-accessible trail, and installation of a trailhead kiosk.

A variety of recreational activities occur in the Lost Coast Headlands Management Are including: hiking, picnicking, biking, driving for pleasure (sightseeing), nature study, wildlife viewing, bicycling, and horseback riding. Implementation of the Plan will maintain these existing activities as well as provide for increased opportunities for picnicking, hiking, nature study, and wildlife viewing. In addition, implementation of the Plan will allow opportunities for use of wheelchairs on one trail.

Currently, most visitor use (approximately 80 percent) occurs at the Fleener Creek Overlook and the adjacent trail leading to the beach. About 10 percent of the total visitor use involves hiking the Guthrie Creek Trail and another 10 percent either drive Centerville Road enjoying the scenery or watching wildlife. Biking and horseback riding accounts for less than 1 percent of visitor use. Development of the Centerville Bluffs East Picnic Area is expected to capture some of the visitor use form the Fleener Creek Overlook. Compared to other nearby coastal recreation areas managed by BLM, the Lost Coast Headlands Management Area receives a small amount of visitors throughout the year.

The public currently has access to much of the BLM land in the Lost Coast Headlands Management Area, including trails from the coastal bluff down to the shoreline along Fleener and Guthrie creeks (Exhibit 3). Those access and recreational resources will be maintained and improved under the proposed Activity Plan, and additional trail, picnic area, and interpretive features will be developed by the BLM under the plan. Development of the Centerville Bluffs Picnic Area (permanent vault restroom, picnic tables, kiosk, and vehicle barriers;) will increase recreational opportunities and meet visitor needs for health and safety in the management area. The proposed Centerville Bluffs Trail will provide a link between the new picnic area and the Fleener Creek Overlook and enhance public access to the beach at the mouth of Fleener Creek. The plan also regulates the type, location, and timing of public access to and recreational activities in the management area in order to protect sensitive resources and scenic quality, adjacent private property, and existing grazing operations, reduce the risk of wildfire, and protect public safety on eroding coastal bluffs (Exhibit 5, pages 7 and 8). The access and recreation components of the Activity Plan conform to the BLM's Arcata Resource Management Plan and will be guided by the overall management prescriptions contained in the latter plan. Therefore, the Commission finds that the proposed Lost Coast Headlands Activity Plan would ensure continued and improved public access and recreation to and along the shoreline across the Lost Coast Headlands Management Area, and would be consistent with the public access and recreation policies of the CCMP (Coastal Act Sections 30210-14, 30220-21, and 30223).

C. VISUAL RESOURCES.

Section 30251 of the Coastal Act states:

The scenic and visual qualities of coastal areas shall be considered and protected as a resource of public importance. Permitted development shall be sited and designed to protect views to and along the ocean and scenic coastal areas, to minimize the alteration of natural land forms, to be visually compatible with the character of surrounding areas, and, where feasible, to restore and enhance visual quality in visually degraded areas. New development in highly scenic areas such as those designated in the California Coastline Preservation and Recreation Plan prepared by the Department of Parks and Recreation and by local government shall be subordinate to the character of its setting. The BLM's consistency determination addresses the beneficial effects of the Activity Plan on scenic visual resources on and adjacent to the Lost Coast Headlands Management Area from the following proposed actions:

- Split-rail fencing at the Guthrie Creek Trailhead will prevent vehicles from traveling outside the designated parking area.
- Reducing the size of the Fleener Creek Overlook, relocating the existing portable restroom to the Centerville Bluffs Picnic Area, and installing vehicle barriers to deter inappropriate motor vehicle use across open space.
- Replacing chain link fence with other types of fence (e.g., split rail) throughout the management area.
- Maintaining trails and roads to prevent erosion of these public accessways.
- Reduction and/or eradication of non-native, invasive species will result in increased open space and will return coastal vistas to historic conditions. Since the closure of the Centerville Beach Naval Facility in 2002 and the resulting elimination of seedling suppression management, Monterey pines spread rapidly across the facility and open space and coastal views declined. Proposed targeted removal of mature, non-native vegetation and suppression of re-growth will improve scenic views to and along the shoreline from the management area.

The Activity Plan proposes no development that would generate any adverse impacts to scenic views to or along the shoreline. The Activity Plan will allow the BLM to continue to protect the unique and outstanding visual resources that exist towards the shoreline from within the Lost Coast Headlands Management Area. The visual resources of the adjacent coastal zone – views to and along the shoreline, offshore waters, and the open grassy areas of the uplands in the management area – will be improved and protected with implementation of the Activity Plan. In particular, vegetation management actions will include the removal of invasive, non-native trees which are adversely affecting public views towards the shoreline and eliminating scenic coastal prairies. Therefore, the Commission finds that the proposed Activity Plan will not adversely affect the visual resources of the coastal zone and would be consistent with the visual resource policy of the CCMP (Coastal Act Section 30251).

D. ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE HABITAT AND WATER QUALITY

Section 30240 of the Coastal Act states that:

(a) Environmentally sensitive habitat areas shall be protected against any significant disruption of habitat values, and only uses dependent on those resources shall be allowed within those areas.

(b) Development in areas adjacent to environmentally sensitive habitat areas and parks and recreation areas shall be sited and designed to prevent impacts which

would significantly degrade those areas, and shall be compatible with the continuance of those habitat and recreation areas.

Section 30231 of the Coastal Act states that:

The biological productivity and the quality of coastal waters, streams, wetlands, estuaries, and lakes appropriate to maintain optimum populations of marine organisms and for the protection of human health shall be maintained and, where feasible, restored through, among other means, minimizing adverse effects of waste water discharges and entrainment, controlling runoff, preventing depletion of ground water supplies and substantial interference with surface water flow, encouraging waste water reclamation, maintaining natural vegetation buffer areas that protect riparian habitats, and minimizing alteration of natural streams.

The consistency determination and Activity Plan describe the natural habitats present in the Lost Coast Headlands Management Area. The area includes two perennial streams (Fleener and Guthrie creeks), several small intermittent drainages, and three small slump ponds (Exhibit 3). The entire area has been affected by livestock grazing since the late 1800s. Both watersheds consist of forests and grasslands. Pacific salmon species including steelhead have not been observed in Fleener Creek, likely due to a sizeable and persistent driftwood log jam located at the mouth of the drainage that appears to block upstream fish passage. The riparian area of this watershed is dominated by dense stands of red alder and willow which shade the creek. The Guthrie Creek watershed supports a population of federally-threatened steelhead trout. The mouth of the creek closes to the ocean during the summer months to form a lagoon. On the BLM lands the creek flows within a relatively wide and braided channel; young riparian trees dominated by red alder do not provide much shading of the stream. The three ponds in the management area total just over one acre in combined surface area and support riparian vegetation, water fowl, and northern red-legged frogs. Numerous bird species are present in the area along with terrestrial mammal species. The BLM states that no federally-listed species regularly occur in the management area.

The landscape of the management area is composed of coastal annual and perennial grasslands with transitional zones composed of coastal scrub, comprised primarily of coyote brush and California blackberry. Douglas fir, Sitka spruce, and grand fir forests dominate the upland draws. Coastal grasslands are highly altered from their natural state due to livestock grazing, although small pockets of Pacific reed grass meadows are located in non-grazed areas. There are no BLM special status, rare, threatened, or endangered plant species within the management area. Finally, the western boundary of the management area is comprised of steep coastal bluffs, landslides, and beaches. Most of the beach areas are inundated during high tides and there are no rocky intertidal areas.

The consistency determination examines the potential effects on habitat and water quality from implementation of the Activity Plan, and a summary of those effects follows:

• No development is proposed within or adjacent to any water body or riparian corridor.

- Vegetation on steep hillsides and drainages will not be disturbed and will continue to provide cover, avian roost sites, and riparian habitat.
- Replacing chain link fence with split rail or smooth/barbed wire fence will remove wildlife movement barriers.
- Controlling the spread of Monterey pines into prairies and meadows will maintain open space habitat and edge habitat used and preferred by many species of wildlife.
- Removing most non-native trees will reduce perch availability for foraging raptors, but remaining trees will provide sufficient perch sites. In addition, two large stands of pines and Sitka spruce located in draws are the locations where most raptors have been detected during surveys; these trees will remain.
- Grazing would occur in relatively flat upland areas and increased erosion or water quality impacts are not expected; monitoring and adaptive management are included in the grazing monitoring plan to ensure protection of water quality and riparian habitat.
- Timing of grazing will lead to more vigorous and diverse grassland habitat, due to thatch removal and nutrient cycling; returning grazing to 23 acres in the management area would assist in maintaining open space and grasslands through suppression of pine seedling spread.
- Vehicle parking area reductions and a decrease in the size of the Fleener Creek Overlook area will reduce the area of disturbance, reduce erosion potential, and reduce wildlife impacts from illegal off-road use.
- Trail repair and upgrades will reduce soil erosion and the new Centerville Bluffs Trail will be located and designed to minimize erosion.

The proposed Activity Plan includes management policies to continue the BLM's ongoing protection of sensitive habitat and resources in the Lost Coast Headlands Management Area. The Plan proposes no management changes or development that would generate any adverse impacts to aquatic or terrestrial habitats. Proposed development actions would contribute to habitat improvements in the management area, particularly the restoration and protection of grassland habitat with the elimination of invasive, non-native vegetation. Therefore, the Commission finds that the proposed Activity Plan will protect sensitive habitat and water quality in the Lost Coast Headlands Management Area, and would be consistent with the environmentally sensitive habitat and water quality policies of the CCMP (Coastal Act Sections 30240 and 30231).

E. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Section 30244 of the Coastal Act states that:

Where development would adversely impact archaeological or paleontological resources as identified by the State Historic Preservation Officer, reasonable mitigation measures shall be required.

The Activity Plan states that:

No cultural deposits eligible for, or listed on, the National Register of Historic places have been located within the area of potential effects, and there are currently no known cultural resources in the area.

Although there are no known cultural resources, it is possible that subsurface cultural deposits are present. As such, all ground-disturbing activities will be monitored by a qualified archaeological technician, and any exposed cultural materials examined by the Arcata Field Office archaeologist prior to any further disturbance.

In addition, the Activity Plan states that the BLM consulted with the Wiyot Tribe and the Bear River Band of Rohnerville Rancheria regarding the proposed plan and that no further information was provided from these federally recognized tribes. Federal laws, policies, and guidelines governing management of public lands require that the BLM actively protect and preserve natural and cultural resources, including archaeological and paleontological resources. The BLM's Arcata Resource Management Plan, which includes the Lost Coast Headlands Management Area, contains development guidelines and resource protection measures for cultural resources and these will continue to be implemented in conjunction with the Activity Plan. Therefore, the Commission finds that the Lost Coast Headlands Activity Plan will not adversely affect cultural resources, and that the plan would be consistent with the archaeological resource policy of the CCMP (Coastal Act Section 30244).

APPENDIX A

SUBSTANTIVE FILE DOCUMENTS

- 1. CD-0202-13 (Bureau of Land Management, Lost Coast Headlands Management Area Activity Plan, Humboldt County).
- 2. Arcata Management Area Resource Management Plan, Humboldt County, Bureau of Land Management, 1992, and as amended, 1996.
- 3. CD-077-05 (Bureau of Land Management, Resource Management Plan for the California Coastal National Monument).
- 4. ND-082-04 (Bureau of Land Management, Fleener Creek Trailhead Improvements, Lost Coast Headlands, Humboldt County).
- 5. ND-062-01 (Bureau of Land Management, Guthrie Creek Parking Area Improvements, Lost Coast Headlands, Humboldt County).



Figure 1. The vicinity of the Lost Coast Headlands Planning Area south of the Eel River in Humbo



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Figure 2. Planning area names within the Lost Coast Headlands Management Area.

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Figure 8. Livestock grazing allotment pastures within the Lost Coast Headlands Management Area



Chapter 3 – Management Alternatives

3.0 Introduction

This chapter describes approaches that could be taken to manage the resources and visitor uses on public lands in the Lost Coast Headlands Management Area. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies to consider a reasonable range of alternative approaches when proposing and analyzing federal actions, including plans. In the case of Lost Coast Headlands, sets of actions have been identified to meet resource goals. Each goal was developed by BLM staff based on public scoping; field evaluations by BLM staff, and guidance provided by the Arcata Resource Area RMP and BLM policies. Each action alternative must meet the purpose and need for the Plan (see Chapter 1) and address issues identified by the public during scoping. BLM has identified the "Proposed Action" as the alternative that the agency feels would best meet the management needs of the Lost Coast Headlands. Each alternative is designed so that it could serve as a stand-alone Plan. The No Action Alternative is required by NEPA and provides a benchmark description of current management to allow for comparison of the "action" alternatives. For the purposes of this Plan, the No Action Alternative would constitute continued implementation of the Arcata Resource Area RMP and associated custodial management of the area.

During the scoping process, adjoining residents and ranchers, and other members of the public expressed concerns related to public uses of the area and possible conflicts and dangers posed to residents. This comprehensive Plan, which included full public involvement, is intended to detail the actions the BLM would implement for management of this area.

Each alternative addresses management of the resources and resource uses including biological resources (vegetation, wildlife and fisheries), grazing, cultural resources, scenic and visual resources, recreation use, and trail management.

The alternatives include objectives and associated actions for management of each resource or use. The objectives describe outcomes or "desired future conditions" for different components of the resource or resource use. Some objectives are common to alternatives while others will vary by alternative.

The management alternatives are organized into four components:

- Recreation
- Vegetation Management
- Grazing Management
- Interpretation, Education, and Partnerships

Each component contains three management alternatives:

- Proposed Action
- Alternative 1
- Alternative 2 No Action

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Alternative 1 follows the Proposed Action except for several action items. Table 5 shows the portions of Alternative 1 that are different from the Proposed Action.

Management Alternatives Component	Portions of Alternative 1 That Differ from Proposed Action
Recreation	Objective 1, Action 1
	Objective 2, Actions 1 and 2
	Objective 3, Action 1
Vegetation Management	Action 1
Grazing Management	Actions 1 and 2
Interpretation, Education, and	Actions 1,2, and 3
Partnerships	

Table 5. Portions of Alternative 1 that are different from the Proposed Action.

In summary, the alternatives represent a reasonable range of approaches to managing land and uses consistent with law, regulation, and policy. They also provide a framework to evaluate the potential impacts to the management area that could occur as a result of implementing various management scenarios.

A final Plan and Decision Record will be developed based on public input on this draft Plan and EA. This final document will guide future management of the area. The BLM has the discretion to select an alternative in its entirety or to combine elements of the various alternatives. The reader may also select and/or combine elements of the various alternatives when providing comments on the Plan.

3.1 Proposed Action and Alternatives

3.1.1 Proposed Action – Recreation

Goal: Provide visitors with coastal access, open space, and coastal views in a safe manner that prevents impacts to adjacent private property as well as natural and cultural resources.

Objective 1: Provide non-vehicular public access from Centerville Road to the Pacific Ocean, and in particular, to the beaches at Fleener Creek and Guthrie Creek.

Action 1: Maintain the Fleener Creek Trail for hiking, sightseeing, and wildlife viewing. Provide continued foot access to the beach, which may require minor trail re-routing at unstable and erosive site locations. Install a bench and viewing platform near the top of the trail for those with limited mobility.

Action 2: Maintain the Guthrie Creek Trail for hiking, horseback riding, sightseeing, and wildlife viewing. Provide continued access to the beach, which may require minor trail re-routing at unstable and erosive site locations. Coordinate maintenance activities with the neighboring landowners as the Guthrie Creek Trail runs along an easement that BLM has over private land.

Action 3: Upgrade the Guthrie Creek Trail by constructing additional drainage features such as rolling dips and outlets, and additional surfacing.

Action 4: Develop a new trail (Centerville Bluffs Trail) from the Centerville Bluffs East Area (Picnic Area) to Fleener Creek Trail (Figure 9). The Centerville Bluffs Trail would provide a link between the two picnic/parking areas and provide continued access to the beach. This trail would be designed for pedestrian use and those with limited mobility (wheelchair use). An encroachment permit from Humboldt County Department of Public Works would be needed where the trail is within the county's right-of-way.

Rationale (Actions 1-4): Maintenance and improvement of trail conditions would continue to provide visitors access to the beach. Additional gravel and erosion control features on the Guthrie Creek Trail would provide a firmer trail tread, thus improving safety conditions. Coordination among the landowners and BLM regarding maintenance of this trail would create an atmosphere where "best management practices" are utilized to reduce soil erosion and sediment runoff and to provide improved trail conditions.

Objective 2: Insure the public health, safety, protection, and security of visitors by providing well maintained and accessible facilities. Facilities would blend in with the natural environment to the maximum extent practicable and preserve open space to provide natural appearing scenic views of the coastline and prairies.

Action 1: Maintain and improve the Guthrie Creek Trailhead and its facilities (kiosk, parking area, trash receptacle, signs) by: (1) installing an additional split-rail fence to prevent vehicle access onto the grassy slope, (2) relocating and replacing the temporary restroom with a permanent vault restroom, (3) installing equestrian hitching posts, (4) installing a picnic table, and (5) shaping and rocking the parking area.

Rationale: This trailhead provides the only parking area for access to the beach in the southern portion of the management area. To prevent vehicle use outside the parking area, additional split-rail fencing on the north and east side is needed. A permanent



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vault restroom located just north of the kiosk would improve the scenic quality of the site.

Action 2: Develop a new trailhead parking and picnic area (Centerville Bluffs Picnic Area, Figure 9) at the Centerville Bluffs East area. The parking area facilities would be accessible to individuals with limited mobility.

- A. Facilities would include a permanent vault restroom, several picnic tables, an information kiosk, wayside interpretive exhibits, signs, and vehicle barriers (Figure 9).
- **B.** The entrance gate would be replaced.
- **C.** Vehicles barriers, such as smooth wire, coated cable, wooden posts, curbs, or logs would be installed as necessary to prevent vehicles from travelling off the paved parking area.
- D. The open space surrounding the parking area would be utilized for low impact recreation and/or community activities, such as picnicking, school field trips, and other family/group events.

Rationale: This site contains a paved entrance road and parking area. Public comments expressed interest in developing low-impact facilities at this location. Providing a permanent vault restroom, picnic tables, a kiosk, and vehicle barriers would increase recreation opportunities, meet visitor needs for health and safety, and protect the surrounding open space from damage caused by unauthorized vehicle use. The open grassy areas surrounding the parking area are relatively level and would provide undeveloped open space for various activities.

Action 3: A gate and pedestrian walk-through would be installed on the Centerville Bluffs North area on the west side of Centerville Road opposite the existing entrance gate to the new Centerville Bluffs Picnic Area. The gate would remain closed except for administrative use.

Rationale: The pedestrian walk-through would allow for visitor access to the Centerville Bluffs North area while restricting vehicle access. The gate would allow for vehicle access for power line maintenance and other administrative activities.

Action 4: Reduce the Fleener Creek Overlook to approximately 25 percent of its current size and remove the restroom and picnic table. The trash receptacle, signs, and vehicle barrier would remain (Figure 10).

Rationale: Reducing the size of this overlook would improve the naturalness of the area, deter inappropriate and reckless vehicle use at the site, and continue to provide the minimum facilities necessary for ocean viewing and trail hiking.

Action 5: Collaborate with Humboldt County to facilitate (1) road widening to provide for safe vehicle use, as well as for hiking, biking and horseback riding, (2) installation of additional safety signs (narrow road, sharp turn, etc.), and (3) coordinated road maintenance (placement of rock; grading, etc.).



Figure 10. Depiction of proposed Fleener Creek Overlook.

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Rationale: Coordination meetings with Humboldt County, BLM, and local residents would help fulfill the varying needs of all parties.

Action 6: Replace all chain link fences with other types of fence material such as smooth or barbed wire. BLM would work with adjacent landowners to replace any chain link fence adjacent to private property boundaries.

Rationale: Replacing chain link fence with other types of fence would improve the scenic qualities of the area.

Action 7: Remove dilapidated fences and fences no longer used to manage grazing.

Rationale: Dilapidated fences can be hazardous to visitors, livestock, and wildlife. Fences that are not needed should be removed to improve visitor access.

Objective 3: Ensure that natural and cultural resource values are protected by establishing use regulations, frequent law enforcement patrol, and monitoring.

Action 1: Permanent regulations would be established and documented in the Federal Register as supplementary rules. Items F and G below are considered land use allocations and would become permanent after the completion of an amendment or revision of the Arcata Resource Area RMP.

A. The management area would be open to public use from 1 hour before sunrise to 1 hour after sunset. Overnight camping would not be allowed. Under special circumstances camping may be allowed during formal events authorized under a Special Recreation Permit or other land use authorization. Criteria for these events include: (1) size of group, (2) the purpose of the event benefits the local community, (3) event activities directly benefit the goals and objectives of the Plan, (4) the event is compatible with public use of the site, and (5) impacts to natural resource values are kept to a minimum.

Rationale: The area is not suitable for general, public camping as it is absent of any potential potable water supply. Development of a potable water supply, if possible, would require substantial infrastructure installation and subsequent maintenance. In addition, the area is relatively small, contains limited flat ground, and is situated among adjacent private residences. Day use of the area has proven to be compatible with the area's morphology and neighboring land uses.

B. The Centerville Bluffs Trail would be open to pedestrian use and those with limited mobility (wheelchairs).

Rationale: Other types of recreation activities on this trail, such as equestrian and mountain bike use, would result in an uneven trail tread surface caused by hoof and tire prints. This would eventually prevent wheelchair use on the accessible portion of the trail.

C. The Fleener Creek Trail would be open to pedestrian use only.

Rationale: This trail is very narrow, contains tight switchbacks, and steps exist at two locations. These factors, along with the increased potential for accelerated soil erosion and sediment transport, makes equestrian and mountain bike use unacceptable.

D. The Guthrie Creek Trail would be open to pedestrian, equestrian, and mountain bike use.

Rationale: This trail is maintained by neighboring private landowners to provide them with vehicle access to the beach. This particular provision (motorized vehicle access) is part of an easement held by the landowners prior to the acquisition by the BLM. The trail's width (6-10 feet), gentle gradient (less than 10% slope), and anticipated visitor use would accommodate equestrian and mountain bike use with minimal conflict between user groups.

E. Fires in cooking grills at the Centerville Bluffs Picnic Area would be allowed except during the fire season (generally July through September). Open campfires would not be allowed.

Rationale: Open campfires throughout the management area pose a risk for several reasons including: (1) the close proximity of private residences, (2) frequent high winds, (3) expansive areas of grass, and (4) large accumulations of driftwood at the mouths of Fleener and Guthrie Creeks. A provision to allow fires in cooking grills at the Centerville Bluffs Picnic Area outside the fire season would add an important amenity for the visiting public.

F. Motorized vehicle use off of maintained roads and parking areas would not be allowed.

Rationale: Motorized vehicles need to be kept on maintained roads and parking areas to prevent unwanted soil erosion and to maintain the area's scenic quality.

G. Firearms and archery use would not be allowed.

Rationale: Firearms and archery use are not necessary for the allowable uses of the area such as hiking, viewing coastal areas, and picnicking.

H. Dogs would be required to be on leash or under voice control at all times.

Rationale: Uncontrolled dogs can cause problems for other visitors, neighboring landowners, and livestock.

3.1.2 Alternative 1 – Recreation

Alternative 1 would be the same as the Proposed Action except:

Goal: Provide visitors with coastal access, open space, and coastal views in a safe manner that prevents impacts to adjacent private property as well as natural and cultural resources.

Objective 1: Ensure the public health, safety, protection, and security of visitors by providing well maintained and accessible facilities. Facilities would blend in with the natural environment

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to the maximum extent practicable and preserve open space to provide natural appearing scenic views of the coastline and prairies.

Action 1: Reduce the Fleener Creek Overlook to approximately one-half its size and maintain its existing facilities (kiosk, restroom, picnic table, trash receptacle, signs, and vehicle barrier)(Figure 11). Develop a hardened rock surface to the existing picnic table for wheelchair access.

Rationale: Reducing the size of the parking area would improve scenic quality and prevent vehicles from spinning circles that create a safety hazard when other visitors and vehicles are nearby.

Objective 2: Provide limited hunting opportunities while minimizing impacts to non-hunters and adjacent private property.

Action 1: Establish an area that would be open to archery use for hunting (Figure 12) during the archery hunting season established by the California Fish and Game Commission. Signs would be posted along the perimeter of the hunting area and patrols increased during the hunting season to prevent trespass onto adjacent public and private land.

Action 2: Work with the California Department of Fish and Game and the California Fish and Game Commission to develop a limited-entry archery hunt compatible with other uses of the area.

Rationale (Actions 1&2): Several comments received during public scoping requested that the area be open to archery hunting. Portions of the management area's west slope (Figure 12) would provide opportunities for a limited number of archers to hunt an area not proximal to developed recreation areas or private property. The BLM has discretion as to areas of public land open to hunting as well as the types of hunting equipment (firearms, archery equipment, etc.) allowed within specific areas during specific times. The California Department of Fish and Game regulates the time period of hunts, the species of animals that can be hunted, the methods that can be used, the number of animals that can be taken, the sex of the animals that can be hunted, and the numbers of hunters allowed to participate in a hunt. A limited-entry deer archery hunt could only be authorized if both agencies worked cooperatively to establish the parameters of the hunt.

Objective 3: Ensure that natural and cultural resource values are protected from visitor impacts by establishing use regulations, a frequent law enforcement presence, and monitoring.

Action 1: Permanent regulations would be established and documented in the Federal Register as supplemental rules. These would be the same as the Proposed Action except:

A. Archery use would be allowed for those participating in a limited-entry hunt as established by the California Fish and Game Commission.





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Figure 12. Allowable hunting areas as described in Alternative 1 – Recreation.

Rationale: Archery use would be restricted to an area away from developed recreational facilities and private land. Because archery equipment is limited in range, archery use would allow a limited number of people to hunt in a confined area for a limited time. This would provide for a hunting opportunity while minimizing effects to non-hunters and nearby residents.

Archery equipment is often a preferred method to control deer numbers in areas with potential conflicts with other users or nearby residents. Because of the limited effective range of archery equipment it can be used in smaller hunting areas.

3.1.3 Alternative 2 No Action – Recreation

Goal: Provide visitors with coastal access, open space, and coastal views in a safe manner that limits impacts to natural and cultural resources.

Objective 1: Provide non-vehicular public access from Centerville Road to the Pacific Ocean, and in particular, to the beaches at Fleener Creek and Guthrie Creek.

Action 1: Maintain Fleener Creek Trail, as it exists, for hiking, sightseeing, and wildlife viewing.

Action 2: Maintain Guthrie Creek Trail, as it exists, for hiking, horseback riding, sightseeing, and wildlife viewing.

Rationale (Actions 1&2): These trails provide the only developed access to the beach in the management area.

Objective 2: Ensure the public health, safety, protection, and security of visitors by providing well maintained and accessible facilities. Facilities would blend in with the natural environment to the maximum extent practicable and preserve open space to provide natural appearing scenic views of the coastline and prairies.

Action 1: Maintain the Guthrie Creek Trailhead and its facilities (kiosk, restroom, trash receptacle, signs, and vehicle barrier).

Action 2: Maintain the Fleener Creek Overlook and its existing facilities (kiosk, restroom, trash receptacle, signs, and vehicle barrier).

Action 3: The Centerville Bluffs Picnic Area would be accessible to the public but no facilities would be provided.

Action 4: Maintain the fence near the Fleener Creek Trail which separates hikers from grazing cattle. No other fences would be removed or replaced.

Rationale (Actions 1-4): The trailhead parking areas provide the basic facilities needed for the public to have a safe and enjoyable recreational experience.

Objective 3: Ensure that natural and cultural resource values are protected by establishing use regulations, frequent law enforcement patrol, and monitoring.

Action 1: Permanent regulations would be established and documented in the Federal Register as supplementary rules. They include:

- A. No overnight camping the area would be open to public use 1 hour before sunrise to 1 hour after sunset.
- B. No campfires.
- C. No motorized vehicle use off of maintained roads and parking areas.
- D. No firearms or archery use.

Rationale: Existing temporary regulations state that they would be made permanent after the completion of the Plan.

3.1.4 Proposed Action – Vegetation Management

Goal: Eradicate invasive, non-native plants and establish and maintain native plant communities in the management area.

Objective: Control invasive, non-native forbs, shrubs and trees where invasiveness would displace open space and potentially obstruct coastal views.

Action 1: Remove invasive, non-native plants such as Monterey Pine, iceplant (*Carpobrotus sp.*), French broom, (*Genista monspessulana*), pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana/jubata*), three cornered leek (*Allium triquetrum*) or other invasive plants.

Rationale: Invasive, non-native plants threaten native landscapes and often reduce the productivity of ecological systems they invade, having economic, ecological, health, and aesthetic impacts.

Action 2: Suppress emerging invasive tree seedlings following initial treatment to maintain open space. Methods that would be utilized include focused, short-duration livestock grazing, manual hand pulling, mechanical removal, and integrated herbicide use, if needed, via cut stump application to treat any residual eucalyptus root or stump resprouting (see Appendix A – herbicide label).

Rationale: Livestock grazing can be used as an efficient and relatively passive method to control hundreds to thousands of tree and brush seedlings annually over a wide area, thus favoring maintenance of open grasslands. In some cases, hand pulling or mechanical methods may be the most practicable tool. Chemical application of eucalyptus stumps would be required to prevent and treat any resprouting.

The September 2007 Records of Decision for the companion documents Final Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on Bureau of Land Management Lands in 17 Western States Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) and the Final Vegetation Treatments on Bureau of Land Management Lands in 17 Western States Programmatic Environmental Report (PER) provides national guidance and authorization to utilize treatment tools that meet or exceed standard operating procedures and herbicide label requirements.

Centerville Bluffs East:

Action 3: Remove all 4 eucalyptus trees and 15 Monterey pine trees along the northern property boundary but retain all 34 Monterey cypress trees.

Removal techniques would include falling trees with chainsaws, whole log removal or split on-site for firewood, and chipping of slash and green tops for biomass. Removal would only occur when conditions are dry enough so that equipment used for removal would not significantly damage or rut grasslands.

Rationale: The native landscape is composed of coastal perennial grassland and coastal scrub plant communities, with pockets of Sitka spruce dominated forest in the draws. The Proposed Action seeks to remove invasive, non-native trees to return the landscape to its pre-developed, natural state. Selected retention of Monterey cypress trees would provide a wind break from north winds, and selected individuals within the proposed day use area would provide visual features and shade trees.

Action 4: Remove all 17 eucalyptus trees, 50 Monterey pine trees along with seedlings and saplings, and all 70 Monterey cypress trees along the eastern property boundary.

Rationale: Removal of the eucalyptus, Monterey pines and cypress would reduce invasive species pressure and restore native landscape views across the prairie to the Douglas-fir-Sitka spruce forest to the east.

Action 5: Remove 40 Monterey pine second growth trees (6-14 inch diameter) and all seedlings and saplings encroaching along the western boundary of the Centerville Bluffs East area. Retain four eucalyptus trees and two cypress trees in the interior of Centerville Bluffs East area.

Rationale: Monterey pine is not native to Humboldt County. Monterey pine is a native tree from Central and Southern California to Baja California. However, cultivars of Monterey pine have been developed and widely planted for economic and ornamental purposes for decades. These cultivars are very invasive and displace native habitats where they would not normally be found. Without seedling suppression, pines will rapidly encroach and displace open space, coastal vistas, and native and naturalized grassland and coastal scrub communities. Young encroaching trees are spreading rapidly. These trees are rapid growing, often attaining 6 additional feet in height per year in the first 5 years of growth. Colonization of new trees following treatment that result from seed bank germination is proposed to be controlled through grazing, and/or manual or mechanical labor.

Eucalyptus is an invasive, non-native tree (native to Australia) exhibiting an aggressive reproductive regime. Complete removal may require the integrated use of manual, mechanical, and chemical methods.

Monterey cypress is native to California, but has been widely cultivated and planted in many non-native areas for landscaping purposes. This tree species has the least aggressive pattern of invasiveness, though it is spreading and reproducing on site.

Prior to 1942, the Centerville Bluffs area was composed of grasslands and entirely lacked trees with the primary land use being grazing. Around 1965, aerial photos show the northern and eastern Centerville Bluffs boundaries planted with young trees following establishment of the naval base. All three tree species are fast growers and were likely selected to provide a visual screen from the naval base structures themselves, and also to serve as a windbreak from the northwest and southeast winds.

Selected individual trees would be retained to provide aesthetic diversity and shade within the Centerville Bluffs East area.

Centerville Bluffs West and North:

Action 6: Remove all Monterey pine trees in the Centerville Bluffs North area.

Rationale: Since the U.S. Navy contractors stopped mowing encroaching pines in 2006, rapid spread is occurring that threatens open space on the west side. Colonization of new trees following treatment that result from seed bank germination is proposed to be controlled through grazing, and/or manual or mechanical labor.

Action 7: Retain two mature Monterey pine stands on the west side of Centerville Road, in Centerville Bluffs West area. Remove all young, dense, second growth encroaching trees up to the County Road.

Rationale: Two stands of Monterey pine would be retained, that appear in aerial photos to pre-date the Centerville Beach Naval Facility construction. These trees could provide nesting habitat for birds as well as serve as a visual feature preceding a very unstable cliff. Since the U.S. Navy stopped mowing the young, encroaching trees, the trees have since become very dense and well established. Re-encroachment from seed source produced by these trees is proposed to be controlled through grazing.

3.1.5 Alternative 1 – Vegetation Management

Alternative 1 is the same as Proposed Action except for:

Goal: Eradicate invasive, non-native plants and establish and maintain native plant communities.

Objective: For the Centerville Bluff areas, control invasive, non-native forbs, shrubs and trees where invasiveness would displace open space and potentially obstruct coastal views.

Action 1. Remove all eucalyptus, Monterey pine, and Monterey cypress trees along the eastern property boundary; but retain eight Monterey cypress trees in scattered clusters of two to three trees along the eastern boundary to provide a visual feature.

Rationale: All trees on the eastern property boundary of Centerville Bluffs East are invasive and non-native to Humboldt County. If grazing regimes change on adjacent private lands, the trees would spread out over the native landscape quickly reducing the grassland and open space. Removal of these trees would lead to a slow reduction and eventual elimination of seed from the seed bank that would be a continual source of maintenance for years to come.

3.1.6 Alternative 2 No Action – Vegetation Management

Objective: Retain tree stands as they were at the time of the land transfer, manage new or ongoing encroachment from invasive, non-native source trees, shrubs, or herbs.

Action 1. Retain all Monterey pine, eucalyptus, and Monterey cypress trees.

Action 2. Remove invasive, non-native plants such as iceplant, French broom, pampas grass, three cornered leek, or other invasive plants.

Rationale: Treatment of invasive, non-native plants on public lands is categorically excluded (40 CFR 1508.4) under part D. 10. In addition, the *Final Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on Bureau of Land Management Lands in 17 Western States Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement* (PEIS) and the *Final Vegetation Treatments on Bureau of Land Management Lands in 17 Western States Programmatic Environmental Report* (PER), provides national guidance and authorization to utilize treatment tools that meet or exceed standard operating procedures and herbicide label requirements.

3.1.7 Proposed Action – Grazing Management

Goal: Provide opportunities for grazing as compatible with other uses while protecting natural and cultural resources.

Objective: Expand grazing to assist with vegetation management to maintain grasslands and open space, as well as suppression of encroaching invasive, non-native tree seedlings.

Action 1: Graze Centerville Bluffs East, West, and North areas (Figure 2) for up to 6 weeks. Livestock grazed would be cow/calf only and would exclude bulls. Grazing would occur during the low visitor use season during winter.

Rationale: Historically, the Centerville parcel was grazed prior to the Centerville Beach Naval Facility development. The surrounding landscape remains both largely native and agriculturally naturalized under an annual livestock grazing regime. Returning grazing to the Centerville Bluffs East, West, and North areas is likely the most labor and cost efficient solution to prevent rapid conversions to coastal scrub or Monterey pine thickets, and to maintain open space, while being compatible with surrounding private land use. Livestock grazed would be cow/calf only and would exclude bulls to reduce risk to pedestrian recreation. In the winter, visitor use is lower and therefore there would be fewer visitor-livestock interactions. Further, in the colder months grass growth is slow and tree seedlings are available and palatable, leading to greater livestock consumption. However, manual or mechanical methods would also be applied as needed. Action 2: Develop water options in a manner that protects resource values.

Rationale: Water provisions would be needed for livestock in Centerville Bluffs East, West, and North areas. Besides providing water to cattle, strategic water provisions could help concentrate livestock in desired areas where emergent brush and tree seedlings are a concern, and also be used to discourage use in natural areas where livestock use might cause unwanted impacts.

Action 3: Install livestock gates to facilitate livestock movement among pastures. Install several hundred feet of livestock fencing along west boundary of Centerville Bluffs East to complete pasture enclosure.

Action 4: Seedling mortality would be monitored and grazing duration by area would be adjusted as necessary to meet suppression objectives. Details would be developed in an Allotment Management Plan.

Action 5: Monitor and manage grazing use and/or trail use adaptively to maintain use of the Centerville Bluffs Trail for the safety of visitors. This trail would traverse the grazing area for up to 6 weeks, during the low use season. Adaptations may include closing the trail and adjacent area to pedestrian use during grazing, or temporarily protecting the trail (e.g., fencing or cattle removal) from grazing use.

Rationale: Consistent with authorizing up to 6 weeks of grazing use to achieve open space and invasive weed objectives, BLM would work adaptively to provide safe trail access to pedestrians.

Action 6: Manage grazing in a manner to facilitate safe livestock movement and distribution, pedestrian flow and safety, and protection of natural and cultural resources.

Rationale: Grazing use of the proposed Centerville pasture may co-exist with a day use trail from the new picnic area, to the south west corner of the pasture, en route to the Fleener Creek Overlook. Grazing use would occur during a low visitor use time of year, therefore, it is likely that interactions between livestock and visitors would be reduced. Should the trail become obstructed, rutted, or otherwise degraded so as to impede pedestrian flow and safety, it could be repaired and/or closed (along with the adjacent area) to pedestrian use for the duration of the grazing use, approximately 6 weeks. Alternatively, livestock could be removed from the area if unacceptable conflicts arise.

Action 7: Remove old fencing no longer necessary for grazing operations and adjust fencing as necessary.

Rationale: Removal of unnecessary fencing would improve coastal views and open space. As conditions change, adjustments to fence lines are necessary to accommodate grazing operations and protect resources.

Action 8: Adjust Lost Coast pasture configuration in southeast corner approximately 200 feet to include a stand of spruce trees.

Rationale: Expanding the Lost Coast pasture to include a stand of spruce trees would provide replacement wind and storm shelter for livestock that would be lost as a result of Monterey pine eradication along the eastern fence line adjacent to the county road and Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) utility lines.

3.1.8 Alternative 1 – Grazing Management

Objective: Expand existing active and adjacent Centerville Bluffs pasture to include the proposed Centerville Bluffs East and West areas (Figure 2) to provide grazing opportunities and to assist with vegetation management in terms of encroaching invasive, non-native tree seedling suppression. Grazing would be accomplished while protecting year-round recreation trail access separated from grazing use.

Action 1. Grazing in the Centerville Bluffs North area would not occur.

Rationale: No grazing in Centerville Bluffs North area would allow for year-round day use access to western bluffs with an ocean view and would exclude any user conflicts from grazing in this area.

Action 2: Remove old fencing no longer necessary for grazing operations and adjust fencing as necessary.

Rationale: Removal of unnecessary fencing would improve coastal views and open space. As conditions change, adjustments to fence lines are necessary to accommodate grazing operations and protect resources.

Alternative 2 No Action – Grazing Management

Objective: No additional grazing opportunities would be provided beyond what is already established in the management area.

3.1.9 Proposed Action – Interpretation, Education and Partnerships

Goal: Provide current and accurate safety information to visitors.

Objective: Ensure visitors are aware of important safety information, public land boundaries, potential risks, and are familiar with the management area.

Action 1: Maintain and continue to update information at the existing kiosks located at Fleener and Guthrie Creek Trailheads.

Rationale: Fleener and Guthrie Creek Trailheads lead to rugged beaches that are prone to frequent landslides and seasonal variations in beach accessibility. Locating kiosks at these trailheads gives the visitor an opportunity to obtain important safety information, including up-to-date tide calendars, before they begin their hike. In addition to providing safety information, these kiosks also interpret natural and cultural resources found at Lost Coast Headlands and connect the visitor to the landscape.

Action 2: Install a four-sided kiosk near the restroom in the Centerville Bluffs Picnic Area.

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Information displayed would include a variety of interpretive and safety information including a land status map, current safety information, local geology, Eel River watershed overview, and cultural land uses.

Rationale: For visitors on site, the kiosk would provide pertinent safety and interpretive information for their visit.

Action 3: The Arcata Field Office webpage would include a Lost Coast Headlands link so visitors could access safety information, maps, background history, planning documents, photos, and contact information.

Rationale: The website would be a current source of information for visitors planning a trip to Lost Coast Headlands as well as for virtual visitors who would like to learn about the area but may never physically visit. An improved and up-to-date website would provide pre-visit information and trip planning opportunities. Visitors would be aware of safety and resource issues prior to visiting.

Goal: Provide education, interpretive and partnership opportunities to enhance the visitors' understanding and appreciation of the management area while protecting and preserving its natural and cultural resources.

Objective 1: Through effective interpretation and education of the history, geology, flora and fauna, visitors would act on inspiration to demonstrate responsible ownership and land ethics stewardship.

Action 1: Interpretation through site-specific wayside exhibits along Centerville Bluffs Trail would interpret the natural and cultural resources. Interpretive information would also include connections to the California Coastal National Monument where appropriate.

Rationale: Wayside exhibits along the trail would enhance the overall visitor experience and provide on-site interpretation of the history, recreational opportunities, and the natural and cultural resources.

Action 2: An interpretive brochure would offer a synopsis of the history and prehistory of the area. Brochures would be available in visitor information centers and BLM offices.

Rationale: Visitors typically use interpretive brochures for information and orientation during their visit, and for in-depth interpretation following their visit. Providing a brochure with a comprehensive map and interpretive information would allow the visitor to experience the area before and after their initial visit.

Action 3: Foster an understanding and stewardship of native plant communities through service-learning projects with the local communities and schools.

<u>**Rationale</u>**: Educational possibilities exist for local schools. BLM would work with local schools and communities to use the management area as a service learning area to foster understanding about native, naturalized, and invasive plant communities, as well as implement projects enhancing native plant communities.</u>

Some projects might include planting of native tree species to replace retained nonnative trees or developing and planting native perennial grass colonies.

Action 4: Develop opportunities to utilize the management area as an outdoor classroom. In-class presentations and field trips would be established at the appropriate developmental level and fit within the current Science and History/Social Science California State Content Standards for elementary and high school students.

Rationale: A system of well-designed education programs and activities would foster the desire to protect the natural and cultural resources of the Lost Coast Headlands.

3.1.10 Alternative 1 – Interpretation, Education and Partnerships

Alternative 1 would include only the first goal from the Proposed Action and include minimal changes or improvements.

Goal: Provide current and accurate safety information for visitors.

Objective: Ensure visitors are aware of important safety information, public land boundaries and are familiar with the management area.

Action 1: Maintain and continue to update information at the existing kiosks located at Fleener and Guthrie Creek Trailheads.

Rationale: Fleener and Guthrie Creek Trailheads lead to rugged beaches that are prone to frequent landslides and seasonal variations in beach accessibility. Locating kiosks at these trailheads gives the visitor an opportunity to obtain important safety information, including up-to-date tide calendars, before they begin their hike. In addition to providing safety information, these kiosks also interpret natural and cultural resources found at Lost Coast Headlands and connect the visitor to the landscape.

Action 2: Install a four-sided kiosk near the restroom in the Centerville Bluffs Picnic Area.

Information displayed would include a variety of interpretive and safety information including a land status map, current safety information, local geology, Eel River watershed overview, and cultural land uses.

Rationale: For visitors on site, the kiosk would provide pertinent safety and interpretive information for their visit.

Action 3: The Arcata Field Office webpage would have a Lost Coast Headlands link so visitors can access safety information, maps, background history, planning documents, photos, and contact information.

Rationale: The website would be a current source of information for visitors planning a trip to the area as well as for virtual visitors who would like to learn about the area but may never physically visit. An improved and up-to-date website would provide pre-visit information and trip planning opportunities. Visitors would be aware of safety and resource issues prior to visiting.

3.1.11 Alternative 2 No Action - Interpretation, Education and Partnerships

The interpretive and education programs for the management area would continue to be underdeveloped. The existing kiosks at both Fleener and Guthrie Creek trailheads would continue to provide maps, tide charts, descriptions of the resources, recreation opportunities, natural history information, and regulations for use and safety considerations. The four-sided kiosk near the restroom in the Centerville Bluffs Picnic Area would not be installed.

Thematic interpretive panels would not be installed along any new or existing trails.

Interpretation connecting the Lost Coast Headlands with the California Coastal National Monument would not be developed.

Existing partnerships would continue with local landowners and owners of grazing leases.



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EXHIBIT NO. 7
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