Revised Management Plan for Antarctic Specially Protected Area No. 172 Lower Taylor Glacier and Blood Falls, McMurdo Dry Valleys, Victoria Land

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| ASPA No. 172 Lower Taylor Glacier and Blood Falls,  McMurdo Dry Valleys, Victoria Land | |
| **1. Is a new ASPA proposed?** | No |
| **2. Is a new ASMA proposed?** | No |
| **3. Does the proposal relate to an existing ASPA or ASMA?** | Yes, existing ASPA. |
| *First designation:* | Measure 9 (2012). |
| *First adoption of management plan:* | Measure 9 (2012). |
| *Any revisions to management plan:* | Measure 6 (2018). |
| *Current management plan:* | Measure 6 (2018). |
| *Any extensions of expiry dates of management plan:* | N/A |
| *Renamed and renumbered by Decision 1 (2002) as:* | N/A |
| *Other relevant measures:* | Measure 18 (2015). The ASPA lies within ASMA No. 2 McMurdo Dry Valleys |
| **4. If the proposal contains a revision of an existing management plan, please indicate the types of amendment:** | |
| *(i) major or minor?* | Minor. |
| *(ii) any changes to the boundaries or co-ordinates?* | No. |
| *(iii) any changes to the maps? If yes, are the changes in the captions only or also in the graphics?* | Yes. The maps have been replaced by new versions prepared in color to improve the clarity of site features and ASPA boundaries. |
| *(iv) any change to the description of the area that is relevant to identifying its location or its boundaries?* | Yes. Section 6(i) *Boundaries and coordinates* has been clarified to specify that within the Sub-aerial component of the Area the vertical boundary includes the entire glacier depth from the surface to the glacier bed. The other vertical and all lateral boundaries of the Area remain unchanged. |
| *(v) any changes that affect any other ASPA, ASMA or HSM within this area or adjacent to it? In particular, please explain any merger with, incorporation of or abolition of any existing area or site.* | No. |
| *(vi) Other - brief summary of other types of changes, indicating the paragraphs of the management plan in which these are located.* | The scientific value of Blood Falls as one of the few locations where Antarctic groundwater can be collected at the surface has been added to Section 1.  Section 6 *Description of the Area* has been updated to include recent scientific results and the reference list was updated.  A minor amendment on following guidelines for use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems has been added (Section 7(ii) Access).  In Section 7(iii) it was clarified that activities with educational aims do not include tourism.  The latest ATCM Resolution on Non-native species and the CEP Non-native Species Manual (2019) is referenced in Section 7(vi).  Section 7(viii) has been revised to be more specific about sampling procedures.  Minor editorial changes have been implemented throughout the plan. |
| **5. If a new ASPA or ASMA is proposed, does it contain any marine area?** | N/A |
| **6. If yes, does the proposal require the prior approval of CCAMLR in accordance with Decision 9 (2005)?** | N/A |
| **7. If yes, has the prior approval of CCAMLR been obtained?** | N/A |
| *If yes, please list the CCAMLR Final Report and Paragraph No.* | N/A |
| **8. If the proposal relates to an ASPA, what is the primary reason for designation (*i.e.*, which part under Article 3.2 of Annex V)?** | (e) an area of particular scientific interest; and  (f) an area of outstanding geological, glaciological and geomorphological features. |
| **9. Have you identified the main Environmental Domain represented by the ASPA/ASMA (Resolution 3 (2008))?** | Environment S – McMurdo – South Victoria Land Geologic. |
| **10. Have you identified the main Antarctic Conservation Biogeographic Region represented by the ASPA/ASMA (Resolution 3 (2017))?** | ACBR 9 South Victoria Land. |
| **11. Have you identified any Antarctic Important Bird Areas represented by the ASPA/ASMA (Resolution 5 (2015))?** | No. |

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1. The management plan for ASPA No. 172 Lower Taylor Glacier and Blood Falls was last reviewed in 2018 and adopted through Measure 6 (2018); review thus falls due in 2023.
2. The United States consulted with scientists working within the Area and made minor updates to the management plan, including updates on recent scientific research and taking into account agreements reached by the Antarctic Treaty Parties since the last plan was adopted. Permits issued for visits to the Area since the previous revision of the management plan were reviewed, with few visits made, and no significant changes to management policies were required.
3. The scientific value of Blood Falls as one of the few locations where Antarctic groundwater can be collected at the surface has been added to Section 1.
4. In Section 6(i) *Boundaries and coordinates* it was clarified that within the Sub-aerial component of the Area the vertical boundary includes the entire glacier depth from the surface to the glacier bed. The other vertical and all lateral boundaries of the Area remain unchanged.
5. Section 7(viii) has been revised to provide more specific guidance on sampling procedures.
6. A range of minor editorial changes have been implemented and the reference list has been updated.
7. The maps have been replaced by new versions prepared in color to improve the clarity of site features, policies and the ASPA boundary.
8. The exceptional values of the Area remain valid and the management plan continues to protect those values.

Recommendation

The revised management plan and maps are attached for consideration by the Committee for Environmental Protection for recommendation for adoption by the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting.