

Realty, Fish and Wildlife Service, 1011 East Tudor Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99503, (907) 786-3498.

Robyn Thorson,

Acting Regional Director.

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Notice of public meeting and extended public review period on the Draft Environmental Assessment and Land Protection Plan for the Proposed Establishment of Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge, Marshall, McCracken, and Graves Counties, Kentucky

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting and extended public review period for the proposed establishment of Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Southeast Region, will hold a public meeting to answer questions and hear comments concerning its proposal to establish a new national wildlife refuge along the floodplain of the East Fork of the Clarks River in Marshall, McCracken, and Graves Counties, Kentucky. This notice also announces the Service's extension of the public review and comment period on the refuge proposal to March 14, 1997.

DATES: The Service will hold a public meeting at 7:00 p.m. on February 20, 1997, at Benton Middle School, 906 Joe Creason Drive, Benton, Kentucky. The public review and comment period on the draft environmental assessment and land protection plan has also been extended to March 14, 1997.

Written comments must be received no later than March 14, 1997, at the address below in order to be considered for preparation of the final environmental assessment.

ADDRESSES: Comments and requests for copies of the draft environmental assessment and for further information on the project should be addressed to Mr. Charles R. Danner, Team Leader, Planning and Support Team, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1875 Century Boulevard, Atlanta, Georgia 30345.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the proposed refuge is to protect, enhance, and manage approximately 18,000 acres of wetlands, bottomland hardwoods, and associated buffer areas along the East Fork of the Clarks River for the benefit of migratory and resident waterfowl, neotropical migratory birds, resident wildlife, and

other species dependent on the river habitats of the area. A Draft Environmental Assessment and Land Protection Plan for the proposed refuge has been developed by Service biologists in coordination with the Kentucky Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and local county officials. The assessment evaluates three alternative actions and their potential impacts on the environment. The public is invited to attend the February 20 public meeting to ask questions and offer comments on the refuge proposal. Written comments are also welcomed and should be sent to Mr. Danner at the address noted above.

Dated: January 21, 1997.

C. Monty Halcomb,

Acting Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 97-1999 Filed 1-27-97; 8:45 am]

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Silvio Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 10(a)(2) of The Federal Advisory Committee Act, this notice announces a meeting of the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge Advisory Committee established under the authority of The Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge Act.

DATES: The Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge Advisory Committee will meet from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Wed. March 19, 1997.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in the auditorium of the Regional Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Hadley, MA.

Summary minutes of the meeting will be maintained in the office of the Coordinator for the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge Advisory Committee at 38 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Committee Coordinator Lawrence Bandolin at 413-863-0209, FAX 413-863-3070.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Committee members will be updated on refuge activities and be presented with the Challenge Cost Share grant proposals. There will also be a discussion on new appointees and the continuing rule of the Committee.

The meetings are open to the public. Interested persons may make oral statements to the Committee or may file written statements for consideration.

Summary minutes of the meeting will be available for public inspection during regular business hours (8:30-4:30 p.m.) Monday through Friday within 30 days following the meeting at the committee coordinator's office listed above. Personal copies may be purchased for the cost of duplication.

Dated: January 15, 1997.

Ronald Lambertson,

Regional Director, Region 5, Hadley, Massachusetts.

[FR Doc. 97-1952 Filed 1-27-97; 8:45 am]

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Bureau of Land Management

[ES-930-07-1320-020241A]

Amendment to the List of Affected States Under Federal Coalbed Methane Recovery Regulations

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Removal of Illinois from the list of Affected States.

SUMMARY: The Energy Policy Act of 1992 (the Act) (Pub.L. 102-486) requires that the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) administer a Federal program to regulate coalbed methane development in states where coalbed methane development has been impeded by disputes or uncertainty over ownership of coalbed methane gas. As required by the Act, the Department of the Interior, with the participation of the Department of Energy, developed a List of Affected States to which this program would apply (58 FR 21589, April 22, 1993). The List of Affected States is currently comprised of the States of Illinois, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

The legislative body of the State of Illinois, in the form of resolution passed on January 24, 1996, petitioned the Secretary of the Interior for removal from the List of Affected States. The resolution stated that the General Assembly of the State of Illinois petitions the Secretary of the Interior to delete Illinois from the list of Affected States for the purposes of section 1339 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992. Section 1339 of the Act provides three mechanisms by which a state may be removed from the List of Affected States:

1. A state may pass a law or resolution requesting removal;
2. The governor of a state may petition for removal, but only after giving the legislature