

Dated: July 23, 1997.

Michael H. Trujillo,

Assistant Surgeon General, Director.

[FR Doc. 97-20432 Filed 8-1-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Information Collection Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Approval Under the Paperwork Reduction Act

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The collection of information listed below has been submitted to OMB for approval under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act. A copy of the information collection requirement is included in this notice. Copies of the proposed information collection requirement, related forms, and explanatory material may be obtained by contacting the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer at the address listed below.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before September 3, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Comments and suggestions on the requirement should be sent directly to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs; Office of Management and Budget; Attention: Interior Desk Officer, Washington, DC 20503; and a copy of the comments should be sent to the Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS 224-ARLSQ; 1849 C Street, NW., Washington, DC 20204.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Phyllis H. Cook, Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, (703) 358-1943; (703) 358-2269 (fax).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Comments are invited on: (1) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and, (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents.

Title: Sandhill Crane Harvest Questionnaire.

Approval Number: 1018-0023.

Service Form Number(s): 3-530 and 3-530A.

Description and use: The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 USC 703-711) and

the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 USC 742d) designates the Department of the Interior as the key agency responsible for the wise management of migratory bird populations frequenting the United States and for the setting of hunting regulations that allow appropriate harvests that are within the guidelines that will allow for the populations' well being. These responsibilities dictate the gathering of accurate data on various characteristics of migratory bird harvest of a temporal and geographic nature. Knowledge attained by determining harvest and harvest rate of cranes is used to regulate populations (to promulgate hunting regulations) and to encourage hunting opportunity, especially where crop depredations are chronic and/or lightly harvested flocks occur.

Beginning in 1960 and continuing to date, hunting seasons have been allowed for sandhill cranes in portions, or in all, of eight Midwestern States (Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wyoming). A sandhill crane hunting season has been allowed in Kansas since 1993. The survey is used by the Fish and Wildlife Service to annual estimate the magnitude, the geographical and temporal distribution of sandhill crane harvest, and the portion it constitute of the total population. The information has been particularly useful in determining the effects on harvests of daily bag limits and changes in hunting dates and the area (counties) of States open to hunting. Based on information from the U.S. and Canadian surveys, hunting regulations can be adjusted as needed to optimize harvest at levels that provide a maximum of hunting recreation while keeping populations at desired levels. Agencies participating in determining appropriate sandhill crane hunting regulations and making use of survey results include Department of the Interior, the Canadian Wildlife Service, State conservation agencies, and various private conservation organizations.

Service Form Number: 3-530 and 3-530A.

Frequency of Collection: Annually.

Description of Respondents:

Individuals and households.

Estimated completion time: The reporting burden is estimated to average 5 minutes per respondent.

Number of respondents: Recent Service experience indicates that about 3,600 hunters will respond to the questionnaire each year. This is a decrease of about 4,400 respondents. The number of huntings contacted annually has decreased due to a change in sampling rates. A recent Service

evaluation of sampling rates indicated that sampling rates could be reduced without compromising the utility of survey results for population management purposes.

Annual burden hours: 299.

Dated: July 28, 1997.

Robert G. Streeter,

Assistant Director, Refuges and Wildlife.

[FR Doc. 97-20414 Filed 8-1-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Intent To Prepare a Comprehensive Management Plan and Associated Environmental Document

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) intends to gather information necessary to prepare a comprehensive management plan (CMP) and an environmental document (environmental assessment or environmental impact statement) for the proposed Alameda National Wildlife Refuge, Alameda County, California. The Service is furnishing this notice in compliance with the Service CMP policy and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and its implementing regulations:

(1) To advise other agencies and the public of our intentions, and

(2) To obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues to include in the environmental document.

DATES: Written comments should be received by September 12, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Address comments and requests for more information to: Charles J. Houghten, Chief, Planning Branch, ARW/RE, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 911 NE 11th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97232-4181.

See the Supplementary Information Section for the electronic access and filing address.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background Information

The Service is beginning the planning/compliance process for the proposed Alameda National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). This process includes preparation of an environmental document to establish an approved refuge boundary and to evaluate management alternatives and preparation of a comprehensive