

Dated: July 23, 1997.

**Michael H. Trujillo,**

*Assistant Surgeon General, Director.*

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

BILLING CODE 4160-16-M

## 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

management plan. An open house will be held in Alameda on August 12, 1997. Issues and concerns expressed by the public at this meeting will be considered in the development of the CMP and NEPA documentation. The Service will inform interested parties of the open house through a "Planning Update," news release, and legal notice.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service policy is to have all lands within the National Wildlife Refuge System managed in accordance with an approved CMP. The CMP guides management decisions and identifies refuge goals, long-range objectives, and strategies for achieving refuge purposes. Public input into this planning process is encouraged. The CMP will provide other agencies and the public with a clear understanding of the desired conditions for the Refuge and how the Service will implement management strategies.

The 2,796-acre Naval Air Station Alameda was closed on April 25, 1997. The Service has requested 900 acres (525 acres of land and 375 acres of open water) for use as a wildlife refuge.

A CMP is needed because no formal, long-term management direction exists for managing the proposed Alameda NWR. Until the CMP is completed, Refuge management will be guided by official Refuge purposes; Executive Order 8104; Federal legislation regarding management of national wildlife refuges; and other legal, regulatory, and policy guidance.

Upon implementation, the CMP would apply only to Federal lands within the proposed boundaries of the Alameda NWR. Issues to be addressed in the plan include habitat management, public use, nuisance species management, and secondary uses, such as a limited-use airport. The plan will include the following topics:

(a) Population monitoring of the California least terns an endangered species;

(b) Wildlife habitat management including control of exotic vegetation; maintenance, habitat enhancement, and expansion of the existing California Least tern breeding site; installation of additional electric fence around tern nesting sites; and construction and maintenance of a chain-link perimeter fence to protect terns from terrestrial predators, human trespass, and other disturbance;

(c) Nuisance species management including the reduction of predator habitat and raptor perches immediately adjacent to the tern nesting site; trapping and removal of nonnative target animals;

(d) Public use including environmental education, docent-led

tours, perimeter trail, interpretive signs and panels, viewing platform;

(e) Non-recreational uses, such as a limited-use private airport;

(f) Road access to pedestrians and bicycles;

(g) Law enforcement;

(h) Facilities management including existing bunkers and small supply buildings.

Alternatives that address the issues and management strategies associated with these topics will be included in the environmental document.

With the publication of this notice, the public is encouraged to send written comments on these and other issues, courses of action that the Service should consider, and potential impacts that could result from CMP implementation on the proposed Alameda NWR.

Comments already received are on record and need not be resubmitted.

The environmental review of this project will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1500-1509), other appropriate Federal laws and regulations, Executive Order 12996, and Service policies and procedures for compliance with those regulations.

We estimate that the draft environmental document will be available in November 1997.

#### Electronic Access and Filing Address

You may submit comments by sending electronic mail (e-mail) to [r1planning\\_guest@fws.gov](mailto:r1planning_guest@fws.gov) (with "Alameda NWR" typed in the subject line). Submit comments as an ASCII file, avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption.

Dated: July 28, 1997.

**Thomas J. Dwyer,**

*Acting Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.*

[FR Doc. 97-20436 Filed 8-1-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Availability of an Environmental Assessment, Finding of No Significant Impact, and Receipt of an Application for an Incidental Take Permit for Construction of a Single Family Residence in Charlotte County, Florida

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Mr. E.J. Mouhot (Applicant), is seeking an incidental take permit

(ITP) from the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), pursuant to Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended. The ITP would authorize the take of one family of the threatened Florida scrub jay (FSJ), *Aphelocoma coerulescens coerulescens* for a period of six months. The proposed taking is incidental to construction of a single family home on about 0.69 acres (Project) in section 9, Township 40 South, Range 19 East, Charlotte County, Florida. The Applicant's Project is located within an existing (though incomplete) residential subdivision known as Manasota Gardens. A description of the mitigation and minimization measures outlined in the Applicant's Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) to address the effects of the Project to the protected species is as described further in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section below.

The Service also announces the availability of an environmental assessment (EA) and HCP for the incidental take application. Copies of the EA and/or HCP may be obtained by making a request to the Regional Office (see **ADDRESSES**). Requests must be in writing to be processed. This notice also advises the public that the Service has made a preliminary determination that issuing the ITP is not a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended. The Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is based on information contained in the EA and HCP. The final determination will be made no sooner than 30 days from the date of this notice. This notice is provided pursuant to Section 10 of the Act and NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1506.6). The Service specifically requests comment on the appropriateness of the "No Surprises" assurances should the Service determine that an ITP will be granted and based upon the submitted HCP. Although not explicitly stated in the HCP, the Service has, since August 1994, announced its intention to honor a "No Surprises" Policy for applicants seeking ITPs. Copies of the Service's "No Surprises" Policy may be obtained by making a written request to the Regional Office (see **ADDRESSES**). The Service is soliciting public comments and review of the applicability of the "No Surprises" Policy to this application and HCP.

**DATES:** Written comments on the permit application, EA, and HCP should be sent to the Service's Regional Office (see