

93.846-93.878, 93.892, 93.893, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: February 18, 1999.

Anna Snouffer,

Acting Committee Management Officer, NIH.

[FR Doc. 99-4551 Filed 2-19-99; 3:09 pm]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Intent To Prepare a Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Associated Environmental Impact Statement for the Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge Complex

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) intends to gather information necessary to prepare a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and its implementing regulations, for those Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge Complex refuges located in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. These refuges include Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Mashpee NWR, Massasoit NWR, Monomoy NWR, Nantucket NWR, Nomans Land Island NWR, and Oxbow NWR. Also included in the CCP is Assabet NWR, a parcel of land formerly known as Sudbury Annex, that is to transfer to the Service in 1999. The Refuges are in Middlesex, Plymouth, Barnstable, Nantucket, Dukes, and Worcester Counties, Massachusetts.

The Service is furnishing this notice in compliance with the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 668dd *et seq.*): (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 documents.

DATES: Inquire at the address below for dates of planning activity and due dates for comments.

ADDRESSES: Address comments and requests for more information to the following: Refuge Manager, Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, Weir Hill Road, Sudbury, Massachusetts 01776, (978) 443-4661.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: By Federal law, all lands within the National Wildlife Refuge System are to be managed in accordance with an approved CCP. The CCP guides

management decisions and identifies refuge goals, long-range objectives, and strategies for achieving refuge purposes. The planning process will consider many elements, including habitat and wildlife management, habitat protection and acquisition, public use, and cultural resources. Public input into this planning process is essential. The CCP will provide other agencies and the public with a clear understanding of the desired conditions for the Refuges and how the Service will implement management strategies.

The Service will solicit information from the public via open houses, meetings, and written comments. Special mailings, newspaper articles, and announcements will inform people in the general area near each refuge of the time and place of opportunities for public input to the CCP.

The Great Meadows NWR Complex is a diverse group of coastal and inland refuges. Habitats include forest, field, riparian, barrier island beach, freshwater marsh, and pond. Assabet NWR will contain 2,300 acres; Great Meadows NWR contains 3,400 acres; Mashpee 281 acres; Massasoit 184 acres; Monomoy 2,700 acres, a portion of which is Federal Wilderness Area; Nantucket 40 acres; Nomans Land Island 628 acres; and Oxbow 1,547 acres. Two refuges in the Complex are in New Hampshire, John Hay NWR and Wapack NWR. They are not included in the CCP. Seven of the refuges are open to wildlife-dependent public use.

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 1500-1508), other appropriate Federal laws and regulations, and Service policies and procedures for compliance with those regulations.

We estimate that the draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available in late spring 2000 for public review and comment.

Dated: February 16, 1999.

Ronald E. Lambertson,

Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Hadley, Massachusetts.

[FR Doc. 99-4511 Filed 2-23-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Availability of a Draft Recovery Plan for the Plant Holy Ghost Ipomopsis for Review and Comment

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability and public comment period.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announces the draft Holy Ghost Ipomopsis (*Ipomopsis sancti-spiritus*) Recovery Plan is available for public review. This plant is known from only one site in the southern Sangre de Cristo Mountains on the Santa Fe National Forest in San Miguel County, New Mexico. We are soliciting review and comment from the public on this draft plan.

DATES: We must receive comments on the draft plan on or before April 26, 1999 to ensure their consideration.

ADDRESSES: Anyone wanting a copy of the plan should contact the Field Supervisor, New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2105 Osuna, NE, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87113 (Telephone 505/346-2525). Written comments on the plan and other materials should be sent to the Field Supervisor at the above address.

Comments and materials received are available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Charles B. McDonald, Botanist, at the address and telephone number (Ext. 112) given above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

A primary goal of the endangered species program is to restore endangered or threatened animals and plants to the point where they are again secure, self-sustaining members of their ecosystems. To help guide recovery, we prepare recovery plans for most endangered or threatened species native to the United States. Recovery plans describe needed conservation actions for the species, time and cost estimates for the actions, and recovery goals for downlisting or delisting.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended, (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) requires that each endangered or threatened species be included in a recovery plan unless a plan would not promote a species' conservation. Section 4(f) of the Act as amended in 1988 requires the public be notified and given

an opportunity to review and comment on draft recovery plans. We consider all information presented during the comment period prior to approving any new or revised recovery plan. We and other Federal agencies also consider these comments when implementing approved recovery plans.

Holy Ghost ipomopsis was given endangered status under the Act on March 23, 1994 (59 FR 13840). It is known from a single canyon in the Santa Fe National Forest in northwestern San Miguel County, New Mexico. An estimated 2,500 plants occupy about 80 hectares (200 acres) along a U.S. Forest Service road. Impacts from road maintenance, recreation, and catastrophic forest fire are immediate management concerns. In the long term, present land uses influence management away from frequent disturbances that produce the preferred habitat for this species.

Recovery will focus on protecting and enhancing the existing population. Additional recovery work will include research to determine the biological and ecological requirements of the species, establishment of a botanical garden population and a seed bank, and establishment of seven more populations in suitable habitat in the upper Pecos River Basin.

Public Comments Solicited

We are soliciting written comments on the draft Holy Ghost Ipomopsis Recovery Plan. All comments received by the date specified above will be considered prior to approval of the plan.

Authority: The authority for this action is section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1533(f).

Dated: February 3, 1999.

Lynn B. Starnes,

Acting Regional Director, Southwest Region, Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 99-3345 Filed 2-23-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Receipt of Application for Approval

The following applicant has applied for approval to conduct certain activities with birds that are protected in accordance with the Wild Bird Conservation Act of 1992. This notice is provided pursuant to Section 112(4) of the Wild Bird Conservation Act of 1992, 50 CFR 15.26(c).

Applicant: Judith A. Robben, Goddard, KS. The applicant wishes to

establish a cooperative breeding program for the Roseifron conure (*Pyrrhura picta roseifrons*), the Rose-crowned conure (*Pyrrhura rhodoccephala*) and the Fiery-shouldered conure (*Pyrrhura egregia egregia* and *Pyrrhura egregia obscura*). Ms. Robben wishes to be an active participant in this program with five other private individuals. The Coastal Carolina Bird Society has assumed the responsibility for the oversight of the program.

Written data or comments should be submitted to the Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203 and must be received by the Director within 30 days of the date of this publication.

Documents and other information submitted with these applications are available for review, *subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act*, by any party who submits a written request for a copy of such documents to the following office within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203. Phone: (703/358-2095); FAX: (703/358-2298).

Dated: February 17, 1999.

Dr. Rosemarie Gnam,

Chief, Branch of Operations, Office of Management Authority.

[FR Doc. 99-4477 Filed 2-23-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Oil and Gas Management Plan, Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Padre Island National Seashore, Texas

AGENCY: National Park Service, DOI.

ACTION: Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Oil and Gas Management Plan for Padre Island National Seashore, Texas.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the National Park Service (NPS) announces the availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Oil and Gas Management Plan (DEIS/OGMP) for Padre Island National Seashore, Texas.

DATES: The DEIS/OGMP will remain available for public review through May 12, 1999. If any public meetings are held concerning the DEIS/OGMP, they will be announced at a later date.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the DEIS/OGMP should be sent to the Superintendent, Padre Island National Seashore, P.O. Box 181300, Corpus Christi, Texas 78480-1300. Public reading copies of the DEIS/OGMP will be available for review at the following locations:

Office of the Superintendent, Padre Island National Seashore, 20301 Park Road 22, Corpus Christi, Texas, Telephone: 361-949-8173

Office of Minerals/Oil and Gas Support, Intermountain Support Office-Santa Fe, National Park Service, 1100 Old Santa Fe Trail, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501, Telephone 505-988-6095

Planning and Environmental Quality, Intermountain Support Office-Denver, National Park Service, 12795 W. Alameda Parkway, Lakewood, CO 80228, Telephone: (303) 969-2851

Office of Public Affairs, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, 18th and C Streets NW, Washington, DC 20240, Telephone: (202) 208-6843

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Oil and Gas Management planning objectives are: 1) identify which park resources and values are most sensitive to oil and gas exploration and development disturbance, and define impact mitigation requirements to protect such resources, 2) establish reasonable oil and gas exploration and development performance standards to protect park resources and values, and 3) provide pertinent information to oil and gas operators that will facilitate operations planning and compliance with all applicable regulations. Three alternatives are analyzed in the DEIS/OGMP for managing surface uses associated with the exploration, development, and transportation of nonfederal oil and gas underlying Padre Island National Seashore. Under Alternative A: Proposed Action, there would be no surface occupancy in some sensitive resource areas that have important natural, cultural and visitor use values. Alternative B is the No Action/Current Management alternative that provides for the continuing evaluation and permitting of operations on a case-by-case basis. Under Alternative C: Maximum Protection Alternative there would be no access in any sensitive resource area for any type of nonfederal oil and gas activity.

The DEIS/OGMP evaluates the environmental consequences of the proposed action and the other alternatives on oil and gas exploration and development, soil and water resources, wetlands, cultural resources,