

Dated: February 1, 2000.

Paul R. Schmidt,

Acting Assistant Director for Refuges and Wildlife.

[FR Doc. 00-2809 Filed 2-8-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-U

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Information Collection To Be Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Approval

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice, information collection.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR part 1320, which implement provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-13), require that interested members of the public and affected agencies have an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping activities (see 5 CFR 1320.8(d)). We will submit a request to OMB to renew its approval of the collection of information for the Federal Subsistence Hunt Application and Permit, Designated Hunter Permit Application and Report, and Federal Subsistence Fish/Shellfish Harvest/Designated Harvester Application. We are requesting a 3-year term of approval of this new information collection activity. Pursuant to our request for OMB approval of this new information collection, we invite comments on (1) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of our functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of our estimate of burden, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used, and (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before April 10, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Harvest Data Coordinator, Alaska Subsistence Office, 1011 East Tudor Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99503. Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS 224-ARLSQ, 1849 C Street, NW., Washington, DC 20240.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Charles Miller, Alaska Subsistence Office, 907/786-3888 or Rebecca

Mullin, Service Information Collection Clearance Officer 703/358-2287.

Title: Federal Subsistence Hunt Application and Permit and Designated Hunter Permit Application and Permit.

OMB Approval Number: 1018-0075.

Service Form Number(s): 7-FW 1 and 7-FW 2.

Abstract: The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) and Fish and Wildlife Service regulations, found in 50 CFR 100, require that persons engaged in taking fish and wildlife must comply with reporting provisions of the Federal Subsistence Board. The harvest activity must be reported. In many cases, a special permit is required for the rural resident to be able to participate in special hunts. The harvest information is needed in order to evaluate subsistence harvest success; the effectiveness of season lengths, harvest quotas, and harvest restrictions; hunting patterns and practices; and hunter use. Once harvest success information is evaluated, the Federal Subsistence Board utilizes this information, along with other information, to set future seasons and harvest limits for Federal subsistence resource users. These seasons and harvest limits are set in order to meet the needs of subsistence hunters without adversely impacting the health of existing wildlife populations. The Federal Subsistence Hunt Application and Permit also provides a mechanism to allow Federal subsistence users the opportunity to participate in special hunts that are not available to the general public but are provided for by Title VIII of ANILCA. Both reports provide for the collection of the necessary information; however, the Designated Hunter Report is unique in that it allows the reporting of the harvest of multiple animals by a single hunter who is acting for others. The Designated Hunter Application and Permit also serves as a special permit allowing qualified subsistence users to harvest fish or wildlife for others. The collection of information is needed prior to the expiration of time periods established under 5 CFR 1320, and is essential to the missions of the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Federal Subsistence Board. Without this information public harm would occur as a result of the Service's inability to set subsistence seasons and harvest limits to meet users' needs without adversely impacting the health and the animal population.

Frequency: On occasion.

Title: Federal Subsistence Fish/Shellfish Harvest/Designated Harvester Application.

OMB Approval Number: (not yet assigned).

Service Form Number(s): 7-FW3.

Abstract: Under the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) allows the taking of fish and wildlife on public lands in Alaska for subsistence use. In order to take fish and wildlife in public lands for subsistence uses, users must possess and comply with the provisions of any pertinent permit, harvest tickets, or tags required by the State, or Federal permits, harvest tickets or tags as required by the Federal subsistence board (Board). All Alaskans who are residents of rural areas or communities are eligible to participate in subsistence taking of that stock or population under the regulations in 50 CFR 100. Information on the fisherman, qualified subsistence users fished for, the fish/shellfish harvested, and the location of harvest is needed by the board in making recommendations on subsistence use. Once harvest success information is evaluated, the Federal Subsistence Board utilizes this information, along with other information, to set future seasons and harvest limits for Federal subsistence resource users. These seasons and harvest limits are set in order to meet the needs of subsistence fisherman without adversely impacting the health of existing fish/shellfish populations. The Federal Subsistence Hunt Application and Permit also provides a mechanism to allow Federal subsistence users the opportunity to participate in special fishing opportunities that are not available to the general public but are provided for by Title VIII of ANILCA.

Description of Respondents: Individuals and households.

Estimated Completion Time: The reporting burden is estimated to be .25 hours or 15 minutes each.

Annual Responses: 5,200 (Federal Subsistence Hunt Application and Permit); 700 (Designated Hunter Permit Application and Report); 1,000 (Federal Subsistence Fish/Shellfish Harvest/Designated Harvester Application).

Total Annual Burden Hours: 1,725 hours.

Dated: February 2, 2000.

Thomas H. Boyd,

Acting Chairman, Federal Subsistence Board.

[FR Doc. 00-2901 Filed 2-8-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent To Prepare a Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Associated Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is preparing a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, Thurston and Pierce Counties, Washington. The Service is furnishing this notice in compliance with Service CCP policy and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and implementing regulations to advise other agencies and the public of our intentions.

DATES: Submit comments on or before March 10, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Address comments and requests for more information to: Refuge Manager, Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, 100 Brown Farm Road, Olympia, Washington, 98516.

Submit electronic mail comments to: FW1Public_Comments@Nisqually@fws.gov. See Submitting Comments under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for file formats and other information about electronic commenting.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Refuge Manager Jean Takekawa at (360) 753-9467 (see **ADDRESSES** section for mailing address).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

During the Environmental Assessment development process, a further determination was made that an EIS should be prepared to address NEPA requirements for the development of the CCP. A previous notice to prepare a CCP was published in the **Federal Register** (62 FR 52764-52765, Oct. 9, 1997).

It is Service policy to have all lands within the National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) System 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. Public input into this planning process is encouraged. The CCP 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 Nisqually NWR was established in 1974, “* * * for use as an inviolate sanctuary, or for any other management purposes, for migratory birds” (16 U.S.C. 715d). A CCP is needed to update the 1978 Nisqually NWR Conceptual

Plan and facilitate potential changes in habitat management and public uses, with full public participation. The major issues to be addressed in the CCP include habitat protection and enhancement, boundary expansion and completion of the Refuge, riparian and tidal restoration, control of invasive and exotic vegetation, future flooding, compatibility of secondary uses, public access and accessibility, fishing, and waterfowl hunting.

Starting in 1996, issues, goals, and other comments on the CCP were submitted by persons and organizations involved in the scoping process including: the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife; Ft. Lewis; the Nisqually Indian Tribe; Thurston and Pierce Counties; members of national, state, and local conservation organizations; neighboring landowners; and other interested citizens. Comments and concerns received are being used to draft alternatives.

Five planning updates have been mailed out to approximately 600 addresses. The first two updates soliciting comments were mailed in August and November 1996. The third update, which announced the public open houses, was mailed in November 1997. Comments received were used to develop goals, key issues, and habitat management strategies that were presented at public open houses in the fall of 1997. In addition, more than 600 issues workbooks were mailed or distributed at the open houses. The workbook, offered people a chance to provide input on the CCP, draft Refuge goals, and four main issues, including: (1) Changing the mix of habitat types at the Refuge; (2) trail access and configuration; (3) waterfowl hunting; and (4) Refuge expansion and land protection. Planning update number four, mailed in April 1998, summarized the comments received from the workbook. Update number five was mailed in December 1998, and summarized the results of three workshops which focused on: public use; grasslands; and estuarine and freshwater wetlands restoration and management. Copies of these planning updates may be requested from the Refuge.

Submitting Comments

With the publication of this notice, the public is encouraged to send written comments. Comments already received are on record and need not be resubmitted. All comments received from individuals on a draft EIS become part of the official public record. Requests for such comments will be handled in accordance with the

Freedom of Information Act, Council on Environmental Quality’s NEPA regulations 40 CFR 1506.6(f), and other Service and Department policy and procedures. When requested, the Service generally will provide comment letters with the names and addresses of the individuals who wrote the comments. However, the telephone number of the commenting individual will not be provided in response to such requests to the extent permissible by law. Additionally, public comment letters are not required to contain the author’s name, address, or other identifying information. Such comments may be submitted anonymously to the Service.

You may submit comments by sending electronic mail (e-mail) to: FW1Public_Comments@Nisqually@fws.gov. Submit comments as an ASCII file, avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. On the e-mail message title line, please note that your message is in response to the Nisqually NWR Draft CCP and Draft EIS.

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 1500-1508), other appropriate Federal laws and regulations, Executive Order 12996, and Service policies and procedures for compliance with those regulations. We estimate that the Draft CCP and Draft EIS will be available by Summer 2000.

Dated: January 28, 2000.

Thomas Dwyer,

Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.
[FR Doc. 00-2871 Filed 2-8-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Endangered and Threatened Species Permit Application

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of application.

The following applicant has applied for a permit to conduct certain activities with endangered species. This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531, *et seq.*).

Permit Number TE022454-0

Applicant: The Nature Conservancy, Michigan Chapter, East Lansing, Michigan; Helen Taylor, State Director