

or revised management goals. In such cases, the Services will work with the licensee to the extent possible to develop measures necessary to adapt the existing fishway to meet the passage needs of the plan's target resources before prescribing new facilities, structures, devices, operations, or measures. For all of these and other similar circumstances, the Services will meet with the licensee and other interested parties to identify the need for and specific type of modification required. The fishway prescription process is initiated post-licensing (i.e., when new information is available or when there is a license amendment), by the Services' filing a motion with FERC, with copies to the licensee and interested entities. The motion may be made pursuant to a reservation of authority, standard reopener, or license amendment proceeding. In all other respects, the prescription process is the same during both the pre- and the post-licensing periods.

VII. Intervention in the FERC Process

FERC's regulations allow any participant with a demonstrable interest in a licensing, post-licensing, or amendment proceeding to file a motion to intervene, and to seek status as a party to the licensing proceeding. In order to preserve their ability to fully participate in the process and to appeal any adverse final licensing decision, the Services should file a timely intervention in all proceedings in which they have an interest, in accordance with FERC's regulations and applicable Departmental procedures. However, party status is not required for the Services to provide fish passage prescriptions.

VIII. Relationship to the Endangered Species Act

This policy is intended to guide the Services in the exercise of their authorities under section 18 of the FPA. The requirements for conserving threatened and endangered species are separately set forth in the ESA and implementing regulations at 50 CFR part 402. Where fish passage for both listed and nonlisted species is involved, Services' personnel will fully coordinate fish passage efforts with endangered species efforts to provide consistent and unified fishway prescriptions for the safe, timely, and effective passage of fish. Fishway prescription formulation should be fully integrated with the ESA section 7 consultation process in FERC's licensing or during the license term.

IX. National Environmental Policy Act Compliance

The Services provide preliminary prescriptions to FERC for inclusion in FERC's NEPA analysis of the proposed project. This allows the prescriptions to be analyzed in the context of the entire project. After FERC completes the NEPA analysis, the Services then modify the prescriptions if necessary, based on the NEPA analysis, and provide them to FERC for inclusion in the final NEPA document and in the license.

X. Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to all activities of the Services related to the prescription of fishways at non-Federal hydroelectric projects licensed by FERC pursuant to the FPA. It does not expand the authorities of the Departments or the Services beyond those that currently exist and does not place additional requirements on anyone outside the Departments beyond those that already exist in the FPA and FERC's regulations at 18 CFR, Chapter I. This policy provides guidance for Services' personnel, but allows variations appropriate to individual circumstances.

XI. Authority for This Policy

The authority for this policy is section 18 of the Federal Power Act, (16 U.S.C. 811).

Dated: November 20, 2000.

Jamie Rappaport Clark,
*Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
Department of the Interior.*

Dated: December 18, 2000.

Penelope Dalton,
*Assistant Administrator for Fisheries,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*
[FR Doc. 00-32723 Filed 12-21-00; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODES 3510-22-S; 4310-55-S

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Availability of Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Summary for Flint Hills National Wildlife Refuge, Hartford, KS

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Availability.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Refuge Improvement Act of 1997, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has published the Flint Hills National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Summary. This Plan describes how the

FWS intends to manage the Flint Hills NWR for the next 10-15 years.

ADDRESSES: A copy of the Plan or Summary may be obtained by writing to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Flint Hills NWR, P.O. Box 128, Hartford, KS 66854 or download from <http://www.r6.fws.gov/larp/>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jerre Gamble, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Flint Hills NWR, P.O. Box 128, Hartford, KS 66854; 316/392-5553.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Flint Hills National Wildlife Refuge straddles the Neosho River in eastern Kansas. The area is dominated by complex resource management issues revolving around the flood control function of John Redmond Reservoir. Activities associated with agriculture, flood control, and public recreation have placed increasing demands on the landscape and identified the need for more responsible utilization of land and water resources that support the remaining native ecosystem components.

Flint Hills National Wildlife Refuge will continue to conserve habitat for the diverse array of native plants and animals that rely upon the resources of the Refuge for survival. This Plan describes the conservation activities that the Fish and Wildlife Service intends to carry out on Flint Hills NWR.

Dated: December 18, 2000.

Ralph O. Morgenweck,
Regional Director, Denver, Colorado.
[FR Doc. 00-32759 Filed 12-21-00; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WO-09310-091310-09PB-0901-0924 1A]

Extension of Approved Information Collection, OMB Approval Number 1004-090160

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces its intention to request extension of an existing approval to collect certain information from lessees who submit a Geothermal Leasing Report. BLM uses the information to determine if a lessee qualifies for a lease extension. The implementing regulations are found at (43 CFR 3208).