

Committees on Appropriations quarterly on the obligation and expenditure of the CDBG funds appropriated under the Emergency Response Fund. Therefore, 42 U.S.C. 12708(a)(1) and 24 CFR 91.520 are waived with respect to these funds, and HUD is establishing an alternative requirement that the State must submit a quarterly report, as HUD prescribes, no later than 30 days following each calendar quarter, beginning after the first full calendar quarter after grant award and continuing until all funds have been expended and that expenditure reported. Each quarterly report will include information on the project name, activity, location, national objective, funds budgeted and expended, Federal source and funds (other than CDBG disaster funds), numbers and North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes of businesses assisted by activity, total number of jobs created and retained by activity, numbers of such jobs by salary ranges (to be defined by HUD), numbers of properties and housing units assisted; for activities benefiting low- and moderate-income persons, the number of jobs taken by persons of low- and moderate-income, and numbers of low- and moderate-income households benefiting. For the Bridge Loan program included in the Empire State Development Corporation's January 30, 2002, Action Plan, and for the Retail Recovery Grant program, the grantee is not required to report by salary ranges on the numbers of created and retained jobs. Quarterly reports must be submitted using HUD's web-based Disaster Recovery Grant Reporting system. Annually (*i.e.*, with every fourth submission), the report shall include a financial reconciliation of funds budgeted and expended, and calculation of the status of administrative costs.

Section 434 of the FY 2002 HUD Appropriations Act requires HUD to publish these waivers in the **Federal Register** no later than five days before their effective date. The effective date of these waivers is April 19, 2004.

Dated: April 2, 2004.

Roy A. Bernardi,

Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of final Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge, Located in Noxubee, Oktibbeha, and Winston Counties, Mississippi.

SUMMARY: The Fish and Wildlife Service announces that a final Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge is available for distribution. The plan was prepared pursuant to the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, and in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and describes how the refuge will be managed for the next 15 years. The compatibility determinations for recreational hunting, recreational fishing, wildlife observation and photography, environmental education and interpretation, forest habitat management, haying, and research and collections are also available within the plan.

ADDRESSES: A copy of the plan may be obtained by writing to the Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge, 224 Office Road, Brooksville, Mississippi 39739. The plan may also be accessed and downloaded from the Service's Internet Web Site: <http://southeast.fws.gov/planning>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge, located in east-central Mississippi, consists of 47,959 acres, of which 42,500 acres are in bottomland hardwood, upland hardwood, mixed pine/hardwood and pine forests. These forests support a variety of upland species including turkey, deer, and quail. The endangered red-cockaded woodpecker is found in the refuge's old-growth pine habitat. Many neotropical bird species benefit from refuge forests. Greentree reservoirs, natural ponds, and man-made impoundments provide important habitat for migratory birds, as well as wintering habitat for waterfowl and bald eagles. Annually, more than 150,000 visitors participate in refuge activities.

The availability of the Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment for a 60-day public review and comment period was announced in the **Federal Register** on May 21, 2003, volume 68, number 98. The plan and environmental assessment identified and evaluated three alternatives for managing the refuge over the next 15 years. Alternative 1, the "no action" alternative, would have continued current management of the refuge. Alternative 2, the "preferred alternative" emphasized old growth forest communities, with increased emphasis on education and recreation

programs. Alternative 3 emphasized providing early successional forest habitat and increases in certain education and recreation programs.

Based on the environmental assessment and the comments received, Alternative 2, the "preferred alternative," was selected for implementation. It was selected because it best meets the purposes and goals of the refuge, as well as the goals of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The preferred alternative will also benefit the public by providing opportunities to learn about, enjoy, and appreciate fish and wildlife. The preferred alternative also emphasizes providing habitat for red-cockaded woodpeckers and forest nesting birds dependent on mature forests and adequate habitat for resident and migratory waterfowl. A comprehensive cultural resources' survey will be conducted under this alternative, and protection and interpretation of cultural resources will be improved.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Refuge Manager, Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge, telephone: 662/323-5548; fax: 662/323-5806; e-mail: noxubee@fws.gov; or by writing to the Refuge Manager at the above address.

Authority: This notice is published under the authority of the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, Public Law 105-57.

Dated: November 14, 2003.

J. Mitch King,

Acting Regional Director.

Editorial Note: This document was received in the Office of the Federal Register on April 7, 2004.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CA-670-1220-00 PD; G0-00]

Notice of Supplementary Rule for Public Lands in California

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, El Centro Field Office, California Desert District, Interior.

ACTION: Camping closure of selected Federal lands, Imperial County, CA.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) El Centro Field Office is issuing a supplementary camping closure rule. This rule will apply to a portion of the public lands within the West Mesa adjacent to the Superstition Mountain Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) area. This rule is being