

current habitat management. Hunting and fishing will continue with greater emphasis on increasing opportunities and enhancing the quality of the experience, including those for youth and disabled hunters/anglers. Education and interpretation will be promoted while providing programs and partnerships with local schools. Wildlife observation and photography opportunities will be expanded. Information guides and signage that highlight management programs, as well as unique wildlife habitats, will also be developed. Efforts will be undertaken to improve road maintenance in order to provide better visitor access.

The Service intends to construct a visitor center and headquarters office on Reelfoot, Chicksaw, and Lower Hatchie Refuges, with space for interpretation, environmental education, and staff.

Research studies will continue to be fostered and partnerships developed with other agencies and universities, with the refuges providing needed resources and study sites. Research will also provide benefits to conservation efforts throughout the Lower Mississippi River Valley to conserve, enhance, restore, and manage bottomland hardwood habitat. Inventorying and monitoring of birds, freshwater mussels, reptiles, and amphibians will be continued and expanded in order to assess population trends, correlate with environmental pressures, and provide baseline data to be used in development of appropriate management strategies. Providing additional staff (e.g., wildlife biologist, outdoor recreation planner, maintenance workers, and an additional full-time law enforcement officer) will enable the Service to fully develop and manage fish and wildlife resources and habitats, provide opportunities and facilities for wildlife observation and photography, provide environmental educational programs that promote a greater understanding of natural resources, and protect natural and cultural resources.

Under this alternative, the refuges will continue to acquire lands within the present acquisition boundaries for the use of compatible wildlife-dependent public recreation and environmental education opportunities. Tracts that provide better-quality habitat and connectivity to existing refuge lands will receive higher priority for acquisition. The refuges will also use other important acquisition tools, including partnerships with conservation organizations, conservation easements with adjacent landowners, and leases/cooperative agreements.

Public comments were requested, considered, and incorporated throughout the planning process in numerous ways. Public outreach included open houses, public meetings, technical workgroups, planning update mailings, and **Federal Register** notices. During the draft comprehensive conservation plan/environmental assessment comment period for each refuge, the Service received several comments, which were incorporated, when appropriate, and responded to in the final comprehensive conservation plan.

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

Dated: April 4, 2006.

**Cynthia K. Dohner,**

*Acting Regional Director.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310-55-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Draft Study Plan

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), on behalf of the Department of the Interior (DOI) as a natural resource trustee, announces the release for public review of the Draft Study Plan for a mink injury study for the Hudson River Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA). The Draft Study Plan describes the Trustees' proposed approach to conducting this investigation, and seeks public feedback.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before July 15, 2006.

**ADDRESSES:** Requests for copies of the Draft Study Plan may be made in person or by mail to: Ms. Kathryn Jahn, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, New York Field Office, 3817 Luker Road, Cortland, New York 13045. Written comments or materials regarding the Draft Study Plan should be sent to the same address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kathryn Jahn, Environmental Contaminants Branch, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, New York Field Office, 3817 Luker Road, Cortland, New York 13045.

Interested parties may also call 607-753-9334, send electronic mail to [kathryn\\_jahn@fws.gov](mailto:kathryn_jahn@fws.gov), or visit the FWS Hudson River NRDA Web site (<http://www.fws.gov/contaminants/restorationplans/HudsonRiver/HudsonRiver.cfm>) where the Draft Study Plan is posted.

*www.fws.gov/contaminants/restorationplans/HudsonRiver/HudsonRiver.cfm*) where the Draft Study Plan is posted.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Natural resources of the Hudson River have been contaminated though past and ongoing discharges of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). The Hudson River Natural Resource Trustees—New York State, the U.S. Department of Commerce, and the U.S. Department of the Interior, are conducting a NRDA to assess those natural resources injured by PCBs. The Draft Study Plan is being released for public review and comment in accordance with the Trustees' NRDA Plan for the Hudson River issued in September 2002. That NRDA Plan was released in accordance with the Natural Resource Damage Assessment regulations found at Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations, part 11.

Pursuant to the Hudson River NRDA plan, the Trustees have developed this Study Plan for a mink injury determination effort. Interested members of the public are invited to review and comment on the Draft Study Plan (see **ADDRESSES, FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**). All comments received on the Draft Study Plan will be considered and a response provided either through incorporation into the Final Study Plan or by letter to the commenter. The Trustees will also prepare a Responsiveness Summary, responding to public comments, that will be released to the public.

**Author:** The primary author of this notice is Ms. Kathryn Jahn, New York Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 3817 Luker Road, Cortland, NY 13045.

**Authority:** The authority for this action is the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, as amended ("CERCLA"), 42 U.S.C. 9601 *et seq.*

Dated: June 14, 2006.

**Richard O. Bennett,**

*Acting Regional Director, Region 5, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

#### National Register of Historic Places; Notification of Pending Nominations and Related Actions

Nominations for the following properties being considered for listing or related actions in the National Register were received by the National Park Service before June 3, 2006.