

northern limit of the range of the species, and the best available scientific information suggests that no area within the United States is critical for the survival of the species (Rabinowitz 1997, 1999). Loss of or threats to features in the United States that may support these sporadic foraging events is not limiting the recovery of the species. Therefore, these features are not essential to the conservation of the species. Further, we are unaware that any physical and biological features within the United States are in need of special management considerations or protection for the purpose of jaguar conservation as jaguar conservation does not require habitat within the United States. Based on this information, we determine that the physical and biological features occasionally used by the jaguar within the geographical range occupied by the jaguar in the United States are not essential to the conservation of the species and, therefore, do not meet the definition of critical habitat.

We are not allowed to designate habitat outside of the United States as critical habitat (50 CFR 424.12(h)). Further, section 3(5)(C) of the Act, indicates that except in circumstances determined by the Secretary, critical habitat shall not include the entire geographical area which can be occupied by the species. In other words, not all areas which can be occupied by individuals of a species are necessarily essential to the conservation of the species as a whole.

The specific areas outside of the geographical area occupied in the United States by the species at the time of the July 22, 1997, listing (62 FR 39147), that is, the historical range, included portions of New Mexico, Arizona, California, Texas, and possibly Louisiana. For areas outside the geographical area occupied by the species at the time of listing, critical habitat is defined as the areas that are essential for the conservation of the species. The area in the United States that is sporadically used by jaguars is only a small part of the range of the northernmost population(s), which are based in Mexico, and appears to be less than one percent of the current range of the species (Wildlife Conservation Society 2006). Because the area used by jaguars in the United States is such a small part of the overall range of the species and because of nomadic use by jaguars, the range of the jaguar in the United States is not enough area to provide for the conservation (i.e., recovery) of the jaguar or even make a significant contribution to the conservation of the jaguar, and cannot

be defined as essential to the conservation of the species. Any conservation actions for the jaguar that may bring the species to the point that the measures of the Act are no longer necessary will need to be implemented in Mexico and Central and South America. Thus, recovery of the species as a whole depends on conservation efforts in Mexico and Central and South America.

In summary, we do not find any habitats within the jurisdiction of the United States that meet the definition of critical habitat, i.e., habitats within the United States that contain the features essential for the conservation of the species and which may require special management considerations and protection, or areas outside of the geographical area occupied by the species that are considered essential to its conservation. Because there are no areas or features essential to the conservation of the jaguar in the United States that meet the definition of critical habitat, designation of critical habitat for the jaguar is not beneficial. We, therefore, determine that critical habitat for the jaguar is not prudent.

Although we have determined that it is not prudent to designate critical habitat for the jaguar, areas occupied by jaguars in the United States will continue to be subject to conservation actions implemented under section 7(a)(1) of the Act, as well as consultation pursuant to section 7(a)(2) of the Act for Federal activities that may affect jaguars, as determined on the basis of the best available information at the time of the action. In addition, the prohibition of taking jaguars under section 9 of the Act (e.g., prohibitions against killing, harming, harassing, and capturing jaguars) continues to apply, which addresses the single greatest threat to the species in the United States, as discussed in the final listing rule.

We will also use our authorities to work with agencies and other partners in Mexico and Central and South America to conserve and recover jaguars outside of the United States. We are currently working with the Jaguar Conservation Team and other partners in developing a framework for the conservation of the northern jaguar populations, including providing recommendations on research needs and procedures in the United States, continuing education efforts, and providing recommendations regarding predator control in areas where jaguars may occur. We are coordinating with Mexico and other partners on jaguar conservation in Mexico through the Trilateral Commission and other

processes. Mexico and countries in Central and South America, along with their non-governmental partners, are continuing conservation efforts, including implementing research programs and developing conservation plans. Specifically, Federal and State agencies in Mexico are developing jaguar conservation plans; we intend to coordinate with Mexico in their development to maintain travel corridors for jaguars to the United States.

References Cited

A complete list of all references cited in this finding is available upon request from the Arizona Ecological Services Office (see **ADDRESSES**).

Author(s)

The primary author of this notice is the staff of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Authority

The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

Dated: June 30, 2006.

H. Dale Hall,

Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. E6-10644 Filed 7-11-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability: Final comprehensive conservation plan and finding of no significant impact.

SUMMARY: The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces the availability of the final Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and Finding of No Significant Impact for the Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). Prepared in conformance with the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the plan describes how we intend to manage that refuge over the next 15 years.

ADDRESSES: You may obtain copies of this CCP on compact disk or in print by writing to Wallkill River NWR, 1547 County Route 565, Sussex, New Jersey, 07461, or by calling 973-702-7266. You

can also access and download a copy from the Web site <http://library.fws.gov/ccps.htm>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Edward Henry, Refuge Manager, Wallkill River NWR, at 973-702-7266, or by e-mail at Edward_Henry@fws.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 requires CCPs for all refuges to provide refuge managers with 15-year strategies for achieving refuge purposes and furthering the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Developing CCPs is done according to the sound principles of fish and wildlife science and laws, while adhering to Service planning and related policies. In addition to outlining broad management direction on conserving refuge wildlife and habitat, CCPs identify wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities available to the public, including opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education and interpretation. We will review and update this CCP at least once every 15 years.

The 566-acre refuge lies in the Town of Shawangunk, Ulster County, New York. Its purpose is "carrying out the national migratory bird management program" (16 U.S.C. 667b). State and regional conservation plans identify its regional importance for breeding and migrating grassland birds and wintering raptors. In 1999, we accepted a transfer of land from the United States Military Academy at West Point through the General Services Administration. That transfer occurred under the legislative authority of the Transfer of Certain Real Property for Wildlife Conservation Purposes Act (16 U.S.C. 667b) and the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act (40 U.S.C. 471 et seq.; repealed by Public Law 107-217, August 21, 2002). Since then, we have not added any land to the refuge.

In December 2005, we distributed a draft CCP/EA for public review and comment for 57 days between December 5, 2005, and January 31, 2006. Its distribution was announced in the **Federal Register** on December 5, 2005 (70 FR 72463). That draft analyzed three alternatives for managing the refuge. We also held one public meeting on January 17, 2006, to obtain public comments. We received 590 responses. Appendix I of the final CCP includes a summary of those comments and our responses to them.

We selected Alternative B (the Service-preferred alternative) from the draft CCP/EA as the alternative for

implementation. Our final CCP fully describes its details. Staff from the Wallkill River NWR headquarters office in Sussex, New Jersey, will continue to administer the Shawangunk Grasslands NWR. A small, seasonally staffed visitor contact facility and an improved parking area and kiosk will increase opportunities for visitor outreach and improve the visibility of the Service. Other highlights of the final CCP include:

(1) Managing 430 acres of grassland habitat using a diversity of tools and techniques with the objective to sustain high quality habitat for wintering raptors and nesting, foraging, and migrating grassland-dependent birds;

(2) Opening the refuge to fishing in the small pond;

(3) Initiating an archery hunt for white-tailed deer in the fall;

(4) Constructing an interpretive trail with observation platforms and photography blinds;

(5) Reducing the scope of the original proposed restoration of the former military airport runways and taxiways to grassland to account for areas being used effectively by nesting grassland birds, and look for opportunities to recycle waste materials onsite or nearby;

(6) Restoring the natural hydrology of the area, to the extent it does not impede grasslands management, and

(7) Identifying a 3,486-acre Shawangunk Grasslands Focus Area, where the Service will participate in cooperative conservation activities.

Dated: June 14, 2006.

Richard O. Bennett,

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

[FR Doc. E6-10915 Filed 7-11-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Geological Survey

Public Workshop on Future Land Imaging for the United States

AGENCY: U.S. Geological Survey, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of public workshop.

SUMMARY: The first public workshop on future land imaging for the United States will be held in the main auditorium in the Main Interior Building, 1849 C Street, NW., Washington, DC. The workshop, directed by the Office of Science and Technology Policy of the Executive Branch, is designed to inform the satellite user community of plans for moderate resolution, Landsat-type

multispectral imaging. The workshop will include presentations by the Future of Land Imaging Interagency Working Group, industry, the user community and government representatives. Attendees will be given an opportunity to express views and perspectives on future land imaging needs and capabilities.

DATES: July 26, 2006, 1 p.m.–5 p.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Barron Bradford, U.S. Geological Survey, 517 National Center, Reston, Virginia 20192 (703) 648-5774 or brbradford@usgs.gov.

Dated: July 7, 2006.

Barbara J. Ryan,

Associate Director for Geography.

[FR Doc. 06-6167 Filed 7-11-06; 8:45am]

BILLING CODE 4311-AM-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Submission of Request to Office of Management and Budget for Extension of Self-Governance Information Collection

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is submitting a request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to extend an information collection from potential and existing Self-Governance Tribes, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act. The information collected under OMB Clearance Number 1076-0143 will be used to establish requirements for entry into the pool of qualified applicants for self-governance, to provide information for awarding planning and negotiation grants, and to meet reporting requirements of the Self-Governance Act.

DATES: Submit comments on or before August 11, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Written comments can be sent to: The Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior via telefacsimile at (202) 395-6566 or by e-mail to OIRA_DOCKET@omb.eop.gov. A copy should be sent to Ken Reinfeld, Office of Self-Governance, 1849 C Street, NW., Mail Stop 4622 MIB, Washington, DC 20240.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: You may obtain copies of the information collection request submission and the **Federal Register** notice by contacting Ken Reinfeld, (202) 208-5734.