

(6) *An estimate of the total public burden (in hours) associated with the collection:* 325 annual burden hours.

If you have additional comments, suggestions, or need a copy of the information collection instrument, please contact Richard A. Sloan, Chief, Regulatory Management Division, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, 111 Massachusetts Avenue, NW., Suite 3008, Washington, DC 20529; Telephone 202-272-8377.

Dated: May 9, 2007.

**Richard Sloan,**

*Chief, Regulatory Management Division, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security.*

[FR Doc. E7-9247 Filed 5-14-07; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4410-10-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Office of the Secretary

#### Statement of Findings: Snake River Water Rights Act of 2004

**AGENCY:** Office of the Secretary, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of Statement of Findings in accordance with Public Law 108-447.

**SUMMARY:** The Secretary of the Interior is causing this notice to be published as required by section 10(a)(5) of the Snake River Water Rights Act of 2004 (Settlement Act), Public Law 108-447, Division J, Title X, 118 Stat. 3431, 3438-39. The publication of this notice causes the waivers and releases of certain claims to become effective as required by the Settlement Act.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** In accordance with section 10(a)(5) of the Settlement Act, the waivers and releases of claims described in section 10(a) of the Settlement Act are effective on May 15, 2007.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Address all comments and requests for additional information to Duane Mecham, Chair, Nez Perce Water Rights Settlement Federal Implementation Team, Office of the Regional Solicitor, Department of the Interior, 500 NE Multnomah Street, Suite 607, Portland, OR 97232. (503) 231-6299.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On April 20, 2004, the United States, State of Idaho (State), and Nez Perce Tribe (Tribe) submitted a document entitled Mediator's Term Sheet (Agreement) to the Snake River Basin Adjudication Court (SRBA Court) in SRBA Consolidated Subcase 03-10022 and SRBA Consolidated Subcase 67-13701.

The Agreement established the basis to resolve all of the Tribe's on-

reservation and fisheries water right claims in the Snake River basin in Idaho. It also provided innovative and collaborative solutions for providing additional and protected flows for Snake River salmon runs protected under the Endangered Species Act without disrupting other uses for the water. Finally, the Agreement forged an increased role for the Tribe in the management of its water and other natural resources. On December 8, 2004, the Settlement Act was enacted into law to implement the Agreement.

Section 10(a)(5) of the Settlement Act required, in order to make effective certain waivers and releases of claims, that the Secretary publish in the **Federal Register** a statement of findings that the actions set forth in section IV.L of the Agreement: (A) Have been completed, including issuance of a judgment and decree by the SRBA Court from which no further appeal may be taken; and (B) have been determined by the United States on behalf of the Tribe and the allottees, the Tribe, and the State to be consistent in all material aspects with the Agreement. Section IV.L of the Agreement required: (1) Execution of all documents that comprise the settlement agreement; (2) Congressional approval and authorization of all Federal expenditures; (3) State legislative approval and enactment of all required State legislation; (4) Tribal approval; (5) SRBA Court entry of judgment and decree incorporating the agreement; and (6) issuance of biological opinions anticipated by the upper Snake component of the Agreement.

#### Statement of Findings

As required by section 10(a)(5)(A) of the Settlement Act and as required by section IV.L of the Agreement, I find on behalf of the Secretary as follows:

1. The parties executed all necessary component documents that make up the settlement agreement as required in section IV.L of the Agreement.

2. As part of Public Law 108-447, Congress approved the Agreement and authorized all Federal expenditures required by the Agreement.

3. Pursuant to Idaho House of Representatives Bills 152, 153, 154 and 399, 2005 Idaho Session Laws chapters 148-150 and 400, the State's legislature enacted the required State legislation and approved the Agreement.

4. By adoption of Resolution No. 05-210, the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee approved the Agreement for the Tribe.

5. On January 30, 2007, the SRBA Court issued a Consent Decree and Final Partial Decrees, including springs and fountains partial decrees, negotiated

agreements regarding on-reservation claims, and in-stream flows to the Idaho Water Resources Board, and no further appeal may be taken.

6. The National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service have issued the biological opinions anticipated by the upper Snake component of the Agreement.

As required by section 10(a)(5)(B) of the Settlement Act, I find on behalf of the Secretary as follows:

a. The United States on behalf of the Tribe and the allottees has determined that all actions required in section IV.L of the Agreement have been completed consistent in all material aspects with the Agreement.

b. The Governor of Idaho, by Proclamation signed pursuant to Idaho House of Representatives Bill 152, Section 4, in 2005 Idaho Session Laws, Chapter 148, has certified and determined that all actions required in section IV.L of the Agreement have been completed consistent in all material aspects with the Agreement.

c. The Chairman and Secretary of the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee, pursuant to the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee Resolution No. 05-210, has provided written certification to the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee and has determined that all actions required in section IV.L of the Agreement have been completed consistent in all material aspects with the Agreement.

Dated: April 29, 2007.

**Carl J. Artman,**

*Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs.*

[FR Doc. E7-9332 Filed 5-14-07; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge Complex, Malta, MT

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare a comprehensive conservation plan and environmental assessment; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service, we) intend to gather information necessary to prepare a comprehensive conservation plan (CCP) and associated environmental documents for Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) Complex (Complex) in Malta, Montana. This Complex includes the Bowdoin, Black Coulee, Creedman Coulee, Hewitt Lake,

and Lake Thibadeau NWRs. It also includes the Wetland Management District (WMD) comprised of seven waterfowl production areas and thousands of acres of wetland, grassland, and conservation easements on private lands. We furnish this notice in compliance with our CCP policy to advise other agencies and the public of our intentions, and to obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues to be considered in the planning process.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, we must receive your written comments by June 14, 2007.

**ADDRESSES:** Send your comments or requests for more information to Laura King, Planning Team Leader, Tewaukon NWR, Division of Refuge Planning, 9754 143½ Avenue, SE., Cayuga, North Dakota 58013-9764.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Laura King, 701-724-3598, or John Esperance, 303-236-4369.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** With this notice, the Service initiates a CCP for the Bowdoin NWR Complex in Malta, Montana.

## Background

### *The CCP Process*

The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 668dd-668ee), requires the Service to develop a CCP for each national wildlife refuge. The purpose in developing a CCP is to provide refuge managers with a 15-year strategy for achieving refuge purposes and contributing toward the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System, consistent with sound principles of fish and wildlife management, conservation, legal mandates, and Service policies. In addition to outlining broad management direction on conserving wildlife and their habitats, CCPs identify wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities available to the public, including opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, wildlife photography, and environmental education and interpretation.

The Service established each unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System, including those for the Complex with specific purposes. We use these purposes to develop and prioritize management goals and objectives within the National Wildlife Refuge System mission, and to guide which public uses will occur on these NWRs. The planning process is a way for the Service and the public to evaluate management goals

and objectives for the best possible conservation efforts of this important wildlife habitat, while providing for wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities that are compatible with each NWR and the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

The Service will conduct a comprehensive conservation planning process that will provide opportunity for Tribal, State, and local governments; agencies; organizations; and the public to participate in issue scoping and public comment. We request input for issues, concerns, ideas, and suggestions for the future management of these NWRs and the WMD in Montana. We invite anyone interested to respond to the following two questions.

(1) What problems or issues do you want to see addressed in the CCP?

(2) What improvements would you recommend for these five NWRs and one WMD?

We have provided the above questions for your optional use; you are not required to provide information to us. The planning team developed these questions to gather information about individual issues and ideas concerning these NWRs and the WMD. Our planning team will use the comments it receives as part of the planning process; however, we will not reference individual comments in our reports or directly respond to them.

We will also give the public an opportunity to provide input at an open house to scope issues and concerns. You can obtain the schedule from the planning team leader (see **ADDRESSES**). You may also submit comments anytime during the planning process by writing to the above address. All information provided voluntarily by mail, phone, or at public meetings becomes part of our official public record (i.e., names, addresses, letters of comment, input recorded during meetings). If a private citizen or organization requests this information under the Freedom of Information Act, we may provide informational copies.

The Service will conduct the environmental review of this project in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*); NEPA Regulations (40 CFR parts 1500-1508); other appropriate Federal laws and regulations; and our policies and procedures for compliance with those regulations. All comments we receive from individuals on our environmental assessments and environmental impact statements become part of the official public record. We will handle requests for such comments in accordance with the

Freedom of Information Act, NEPA (40 CFR 1506.6(f)), and other Departmental and Service policies and procedures.

### *Bowdoin NWR Complex*

This Complex encompasses 75,521 acres, of which 49,260 acres are designated as easements. The Complex lies in the short and mixed-grass prairie region of north-central Montana and has both saline and freshwater wetlands which provide habitat for thousands of migrating waterfowl and shorebirds, including the endangered piping plover. Each refuge has various establishing purposes. Bowdoin NWR was established: (1) “\* \* \* as a refuge and breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife.”; (2) “\* \* \* and that such part of said lands as the Secretary of Agriculture may deem proper be reserved for use as a shooting area to be operated under a cooperative agreement or lease with the Montana State Game Commission or such other operating agency as may be approved.”; (3) “The reservation of these lands as a migratory waterfowl refuge is subject to the use thereof by [the Department of Interior] for irrigation and other incidental purposes \* \* \*” and (4) “\* \* \* for any other management purpose, for migratory birds.” Black Coulee, Creedman Coulee, and Lake Thibadeau NWRs were established for: (1) “\* \* \* water conservation, drought relief, and migratory bird and wildlife conservation purposes \* \* \* wildlife conservation demonstration unit and closed refuge \* \* \*”; and (2) “\* \* \* as a refuge and breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife \* \* \*”; and Hewitt Lake NWR was established for: (1) “\* \* \* water conservation, drought relief, stock water, and migratory waterfowl and wildlife conservation purposes \* \* \* and maintain a closed refuge \* \* \* wildlife conservation demonstration unit and closed refuge \* \* \*”; (2) “\* \* \* water conservation, drought relief, and migratory bird and wildlife conservation purposes \* \* \* wildlife conservation demonstration unit and closed refuge \* \* \*”; (3) “\* \* \* as a refuge and breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife \* \* \* nothing herein shall affect the disposition of the oil and gas deposits therein \* \* \*”; (4) “\* \* \* purposes of land-conservation and land utilization program \* \* \*”; (5) “\* \* \* for use and administration under applicable laws as refuges for migratory and other wildlife.” Bowdoin WMD was established: (1) “as Waterfowl Production Areas subject to \* \* \* all of the provisions of such Act [Migratory Bird Conservation Act] \* \* \* except the inviolate sanctuary provisions \* \* \*”; (2) “\* \* \* as a refuge and breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife \* \* \* nothing herein shall affect the disposition of the oil and gas deposits therein \* \* \*”; (3) “\* \* \* purposes of land-conservation and land utilization program \* \* \*”; (4) “\* \* \* for use and administration under applicable laws as refuges for migratory and other wildlife.”

and (2) “\* \* \* for any other management purpose, for migratory birds.”

Dated: March 30, 2007.

**Elliott Sutta,**

*Acting Regional Director, Region 6, Denver, Colorado.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska

**AGENCY:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of Availability of the Draft Revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment for Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge; request for comments; announcement of public meetings.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service, we) announce that the Draft Revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge is available for public comment. We prepared this CCP pursuant to the Alaska National Interests Land Conservation Act of 1980 (ANILCA), the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (Refuge Administration Act), as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (Refuge Improvement Act), and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). In this plan, we describe how the Service proposes to manage this refuge over the next 15 years.

**DATES:** We must receive your comments on or before July 16, 2007.

**ADDRESSES:** To provide written comments or to request a paper copy or compact disk of the Draft CCP/EA, contact: Peter Wikoff, Planning Team Leader, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1011 East Tudor Rd., MS. 231, Anchorage, Alaska 99503, or at [fw7\\_kanuti\\_planning@fws.gov](mailto:fw7_kanuti_planning@fws.gov), or at 907-786-3837. You may view or download a copy of the Draft CCP/EA at: <http://www.r7.fws.gov/nwr/planning/plans.htm>. Copies of the Draft CCP/EA may be viewed at the Kanuti Refuge Office in Fairbanks, Alaska; at local libraries; and at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Office in Anchorage, Alaska.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Peter Wikoff at the above address.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The National Wildlife Refuge System

Administration Act of 1966, as amended by the Refuge Improvement Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 668dd *et seq.*), requires each refuge to develop and implement a CCP. The purpose of developing CCPs is to provide refuge managers with a 15-year strategy for achieving refuge purposes and contributing toward the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System, consistent with sound principles of fish and wildlife science, conservation, legal mandates, and Service policies. In addition to outlining broad management direction on conserving wildlife and their habitats, the 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 these CCPs at least every 15 years. The original CCP for the Kanuti Refuge was approved in 1987. After reviewing that plan, we decided to revise it to comply with current policies and to provide more complete management direction.

**Background:** The Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge was established on December 2, 1980 by ANILCA. The purposes for which the Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge was established include:

1. To conserve fish and wildlife populations and habitats in their natural diversity including, but not limited to, white-fronted geese and other waterfowl and migratory birds, moose, caribou (including participation in coordinated ecological studies and management of the Western Arctic caribou herd), and furbearers;

2. to fulfill the international treaty obligations of the United States with respect to fish and wildlife and their habitats;

3. to provide, in a manner consistent with the purposes set forth in 1 and 2 above, the opportunity for continued subsistence uses by local residents; and

4. to ensure, to the maximum extent practicable and in a manner consistent with the purposes set forth in 1 above, water quality and necessary water quantity within the refuge.

The refuge is roadless and lies on the Arctic Circle about 150 miles northwest of Fairbanks. It is situated in a broad basin formed by the Koyukuk and Kanuti rivers between the Brooks Range and the Ray Mountains. The Dalton Highway and Alyeska pipeline lie within eight miles of its eastern boundary. The refuge consists of nearly 1.3 million acres of Federal lands within an external boundary that encompasses approximately 1.6 million acres of Federal, State, and private lands. The

landscape consists primarily of rolling hills, wetlands, ponds, and streams. Elevations range from 500 feet to over 3,000 feet. The major natural resources are wildlife, fisheries, and their associated habitats.

**Issues and Alternatives:** Conservation of the natural, unaltered character of the refuge: During scoping, many people expressed a desire that the refuge remain in a natural, wild state. They wanted minimal intrusion on natural systems and for the refuge to remain wild for the future. This was true for people from both urban and rural backgrounds. The Kanuti Refuge is one of the few refuges in Alaska that is both roadless and without permanent villages or towns. These characteristics help to maintain the natural wild state with minimal intrusion that people expressed a desire for during the scoping process.

Acceptance and integration of new management policies and guidelines for refuges in Alaska into the plan: Management of refuges in Alaska is governed by Federal law including ANILCA and the Refuge Administration Act as amended by the Refuge Improvement Act, by regulations implementing these laws, by intergovernmental treaties, by Service policies, and by principles of sound resource management, all of which establish standards for resource management or limit the range of potential activities that may be allowed on refuges. Management policies and guidelines, described in the plan, were developed as part of the region-wide refuge comprehensive planning effort and provide direction for National Wildlife Refuges in the Alaska Region of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. These policies and guidelines would be applied to the Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge. Management categories (wilderness, wild rivers, minimal, moderate, and intensive) are used to describe management levels throughout the refuges in Alaska. A management category is a set of refuge management directions applied to an area, in light of its resources and existing and potential uses, to facilitate management and the accomplishment of refuge purposes and goals. Two management categories, moderate and minimal, apply to the Kanuti Refuge.

Three alternatives for management of the refuge are evaluated in the EA.

Alternative A (the no-action alternative) is required by NEPA, describes what would happen under continuation of current management activities, and serves as a baseline against which to compare other alternatives. Under this alternative, management of the refuge would