

Management and Budget (OMB) for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act. The department is soliciting public comments on the subject proposal.

**DATES:** *Comment Due Date:* March 7, 2008.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments regarding this proposal. Comments should refer to the proposal by name and/or OMB Control Number and should be sent to: Lillian Deitzer, Departmental Reports Management Officer, QDAM, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20410; e-mail [Lillian.L.Deitzer@HUD.gov](mailto:Lillian.L.Deitzer@HUD.gov) or telephone (202)402-8048.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John Lucey, Deputy Director, Asset Sales Office, Room 3136, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20410-8000; telephone 202-708-2625, extension 3927 or Gregory Bolton, Senior Attorney, Office of Insured Housing, Multifamily Division, Room 9230; telephone 202-708-0614, extension 5245. Hearing- or speech-impaired individuals may call 202-708-4594 (TTY). These are not toll-free numbers.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Department is submitting the proposed information collection to OMB for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended).

This Notice is soliciting comments from members of the public and affected agencies concerning the proposed collection of information to: (1) Evaluate whether the proposed collection is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond; including the use of appropriate automated collection techniques of other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

This notice list the following information:

*Title of Proposal:* HUD Loan Sale Bidder Qualification Statement.

*OMB Control Number:* 2502—New.

*Agency form numbers, if applicable:* None.

*Description of the need for the information and proposed use:* The

Qualification Statement solicits from Prospective bidders to the HUD Loan Sales the basic qualifications required for bidding including but not limited to, Purchaser Information (Name of Purchaser, Corporate Entity, Address, Tax ID), Business Type, Net Worth, Equity Size, Prior History with HUD Loans and prior sales participation. By executing the Qualification Statement, the purchaser certifies, represents and warrants to HUD that each of the statements included are true and correct as to the purchaser and thereby qualifies them to bid.

*Estimation of the total numbers of hours needed to prepare the information collection including number of respondents, frequency of response, and hours of response:* The Bidder Qualification Statement is released to a pool of 22,900 potential investors, of which 520 respond annually. The estimated number of burden hours needed to prepare the information collection is 260; the frequency of response is on occasion; and the estimated time needed to prepare the response is near thirty (30) minutes and cost on the respondent to complete the statement is estimated to be close to ten (10) dollars.

**Authority:** The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C., Chapter 35, as amended.

Dated: December 28, 2007.

**Frank L. Davis,**

*General Deputy Assistant Secretary for Housing—Deputy Federal Housing Commissioner.*

[FR Doc. E7-25663 Filed 1-4-08; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4210-67-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Catahoula National Wildlife Refuge

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of the Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Catahoula National Wildlife Refuge in LaSalle and Catahoula Parishes, Louisiana.

**SUMMARY:** The Fish and Wildlife Service announces that a Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for Catahoula National Wildlife Refuge is available for distribution. The CCP 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 hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, wildlife photography, environmental education and interpretation, all-terrain vehicle use, cooperative farming, and resource research studies, are also available within the plan.

**ADDRESSES:** A copy of the CCP/FONSI may be obtained by writing to: Catahoula National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Drawer Z, Rhinehart, LA 71363. The CCP/FONSI may also be accessed and downloaded from the Service's Web site: <http://southeast.fws.gov/planning/>. **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Tina Chouinard, Natural Resource Planner, North Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex; Telephone: 318/305-0643; Fax: 318/726-4667; e-mail: [tina\\_chouinard@fws.gov](mailto:tina_chouinard@fws.gov); or by writing to the refuge manager at the address in the **ADDRESSES** section.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** With this notice, we finalize the CCP process for Catahoula National Wildlife Refuge, begun as announced in the **Federal Register** on March 2, 2005 (70 FR 10109). For more about the process, see that notice. We released the Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment (Draft CCP/EA) to the public, requesting comments in a notice of availability in the **Federal Register** on April 19, 2007 (72 FR 19719).

The plan and environmental assessment identified and evaluated three alternatives for managing the refuge over the next 15 years. Alternative A represents no change from current management of the refuge. All management actions would be directed towards achieving the refuge's primary purposes, which include: (1) To provide migrating and wintering habitat for migratory waterfowl consistent with the overall objectives of the Mississippi Flyway; (2) to provide nesting habitat for wood ducks; (3) to provide habitat and protection for threatened and endangered species; and (4) to manage bottomland hardwoods and provide habitat for a natural wildlife diversity. Under Alternative B, the refuge would add more staff, equipment, and facilities in order to provide greater enhancement and management of bottomland hardwood forest, grassland, and moist-soil habitats for the greatest benefit of wildlife. The primary focus under Alternative C would be to maximize the endemic bottomland hardwood forest with minimal management. Under this alternative, there would be no active management of refuge resources.

Based on the environmental assessment and the comments received, the Service adopted Alternative B as its

preferred alternative. This alternative was considered to be the most effective for meeting the purposes of the refuge by conserving, restoring, and managing the bottomland hardwood forest, grassland, and moist-soil habitats and associated wildlife. Alternative B best achieves national, ecosystem, and refuge-specific goals and objectives and positively addresses significant issues and concerns expressed by the public.

Catahoula National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1958, primarily as a wintering area for migratory waterfowl. The refuge, located in east-central LaSalle Parish and west-central Catahoula Parish, Louisiana, about 30 miles northeast of Alexandria and 12 miles east of Jena, now totals 25,242 acres. The 6,671-acre Headquarters Unit borders nine miles of the northeast shore of Catahoula Lake, a 26,000-acre natural wetland renowned for its large concentrations of migratory waterfowl. The 18,571-acre Bushley Bayou Unit, located 8 miles west of Jonesville, was established in May 2001. The acquisition was made possible through a partnership agreement between The Conservation Fund, American Electric Power, and the Fish and Wildlife Service. The refuge consists of a complex of bottomland hardwood forests, moist-soil areas, and dirt access roads and trails. The six priority public uses of the refuge are fishing, hunting, wildlife photography, wildlife observation, and environmental education and interpretation.

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

Dated: August 16, 2007.

**Cynthia K. Dohner,**  
*Acting Regional Director.*

**Editorial Note:** This document was received at the Office of the Federal Register on January 2, 2008.

[FR Doc. E8-4 Filed 1-4-08; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-55-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Vieques National Wildlife Refuge, Vieques, PR

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability: Record of decision.

**SUMMARY:** We, the Fish and Wildlife Service, announce the decision and availability of the Record of Decision

(ROD) for the Vieques National Wildlife Refuge Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). We completed a thorough analysis of the environmental, social, and economic considerations and presented it in the Final CCP/EIS. The availability of the Final CCP/EIS was announced in the **Federal Register** on August 22, 2007. The ROD documents our decision to adopt and implement Alternative C.

**DATES:** The Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Southeast Region, signed the ROD on October 24, 2007.

**ADDRESSES:** A copy of the ROD may be obtained from Mr. Matthew Connolly, Refuge Manager, Vieques National Wildlife Refuge, Vieques Office Park, Road 200, KM 0.04, Vieques, PR 00765, or you may call Mr. Connolly at 787/741-2138. The Final CCP/EIS and a copy of the ROD are available for viewing and downloading at the Service's Web site: <http://southeast.fws.gov/planning>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Matthew Connolly, Refuge Manager, Vieques National Wildlife Refuge, at the address in the **ADDRESSES** section.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

#### **Introduction**

With this notice, we complete the CCP process for Vieques National Wildlife Refuge, begun as announced in the **Federal Register** on September 3, 2003 (68 FR 52418). We released the Draft CCP/EIS to the public for a 60-day review and comment period on February 28, 2007 (72 FR 9018). We announced the availability of the Final CCP/EIS on August 22, 2007 (72 FR 47063).

Vieques National Wildlife Refuge was created from former Navy managed lands by congressional actions in 2001 and 2003. It consists of approximately 17,771 acres—3,100 acres on western Vieques and 14,671 acres on eastern Vieques. The transferred lands are to be managed in accordance with the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act (as amended).

The refuge lands were historically used for agricultural purposes and more recently for military training activities. As a result, the wildlife habitats and communities are significantly altered and non-native invasive species are common along with remnants of native habitats. As a result of the military training, portions of the refuge contain unexploded ordnance and other contaminants. These areas have been classified as a "superfund site" under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability

Act (CERCLA). Cleanup of these portions of the refuge is being conducted by the Navy in accordance with CERCLA. In addition, a Federal Facilities Agreement between the Navy, Environmental Protection Agency, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Commonwealth of Puerto Rico will help to guide the cleanup process.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (40 CFR 1506.6(b)) requirements, this notice announces our decision and the availability of the ROD for the Final CCP/EIS. We completed a thorough analysis of the environmental, social, and economic considerations, which we included in the Final CCP/EIS. The ROD documents our selection of Alternative C, the preferred alternative.

The CCP will guide us in managing and administering Vieques National Wildlife Refuge for the next 15 years. Alternative C is the foundation for the CCP.

#### **Background**

##### *The CCP Process*

The National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 668dd-668ee) (Improvement Act), which amended the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, requires us to develop a CCP for each national wildlife refuge. The purpose in developing a CCP is to provide refuge managers with a 15-year plan 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 our policies. In addition to outlining broad management direction to conserve 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. We will review and update the CCP at least every 15 years in accordance with the Improvement Act and NEPA.

#### **CCP Alternatives and Selected Alternative**

Our Draft CCP and NEPA document addressed several priority issues raised by us, other governmental partners, and the public. To address these priority issues, we developed and evaluated three alternatives during the planning process. Alternative A would have provided for a continuation of the existing level of management. Alternative B would have focused on