

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service****Availability of Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Rainwater Basin Wetland Management District, Kearney, NE**

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces that the final Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the Rainwater Basin Wetland Management District (WMD) is available. This CCP, prepared pursuant to the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, describes how the Service intends to manage the Rainwater Basin WMD, which administers 61 waterfowl production areas and 35 conservation easements for the next 15 years.

ADDRESSES: A copy of the CCP or Summary may be obtained by writing to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Refuge Planning, 134 Union Boulevard, Suite 300, Lakewood, Colorado 80228; or download from <http://mountain-prairie.fws.gov/planning>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bernardo Garza, 303-236-4377 (phone); 303-236-4792 (fax); or bernardo_garza@fws.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

The District encompasses Adams, Clay, Fillmore, Franklin, Gosper, Hall, Hamilton, Kearney, Phelps, Polk, Saline, Seward, and York Counties in south-central Nebraska.

The WMD was established in 1963 when the Service began acquiring critical migratory waterfowl habitat in south-central and southeast Nebraska with Duck Stamp dollars. The WMD's establishment purposes are:

(1) “* * * to assure the long-term viability of the breeding waterfowl population and production through the acquisition and management of Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs), while considering the needs of other migratory birds, threatened and endangered species and other wildlife.” (purpose statement developed for all WMDs in Region 6 in June 2004);

(2) To acquire small wetland and pothole areas to be designated as ‘Waterfowl Production Areas’ as an inviolate sanctuary or for any other management purpose, for migratory birds and to restore and develop

adequate wildlife habitat under the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Promotion Act “see” [16 U.S.C. 715d(2), 715i(a) & 718(c)];

(3) “for conservation purposes” under the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act [7 U.S.C. 2002 (a)];

(4) “promote * * * the conservation of the wetlands of the Nation in order to maintain the public benefits they provide and to help fulfill international obligations in various migratory bird treaties and conventions with Canada, Mexico, Japan, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and with various countries in the Western Hemisphere” under the Emergency Wetlands Resources Act [16 U.S.C. 3901(b)]; and

(5) “to protect waterfowl production areas” under Public Land Orders 6979 [May 25, 1993], and 7206 [June 24, 1996].

Today, the WMD manages 24,210.09 acres in 61 waterfowl production areas within the geographic area called the Rainwater Basin. Current public use opportunities at this WMD include hunting, environmental education and interpretation, wildlife observation, and photography. All WPAs are subject to all provisions of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act except the inviolate sanctuary provisions, for any other management purposes, for migratory birds, and for conservation purposes.

This final CCP identifies goals, objectives, and strategies for the management of Rainwater Basin WMD that emphasize restoration and maintenance of native habitats in vigorous condition for migratory birds. The CCP places high importance on the control of invasive plant species with partners and integrated pest management. It seeks to provide habitats in order to contribute to conservation, enhancement, and production of migratory bird species while protecting federally listed species.

The availability of the draft CCP and Environmental Assessment (EA) for a 30-day public review and comment period was announced in the **Federal Register** on July 18, 2007. The draft CCP/EA evaluated two alternatives for managing Rainwater Basin WMD for the next 15 years.

The preferred alternative will expand the scope and level of efforts of the current management of habitats by maintaining existing and seeking new partnerships. This alternative will seek to address all management aspects in a holistic manner. The WMD will work with formal and informal partnerships, including landowners, to improve waterfowl production areas at a landscape level. Actions would strive to

build a “neighborly interaction” between privately-owned, State, and WMD lands within each watershed. The WMD would work with partners to complete the engineering and funding and would continue to support and work cooperatively to further the goals of the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture.

This alternative was selected because it best meets the purposes and goals of the WMD, as well as the mission and goals of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The preferred alternative also will benefit federally listed species, shore birds, migrating and nesting waterfowl, neotropical migrants, and resident wildlife. Environmental education and partnerships will result in improved wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities. Cultural and historical resources as well as federally listed species will be protected.

The Service is furnishing this notice to advise other agencies and the public of the availability of the final Plan, to provide information on the desired conditions for the Wetland Management District, and to detail how the Service will implement management strategies. Based on the review and evaluation of the information contained in the EA, the Regional Director has determined that implementation of the Final Plan does not constitute a major federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2) (c) of the National Environmental Policy Act. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

Dated: February 5, 2008.

Gary G. Mowad,

Acting Regional Director, Denver, Colorado.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Indian Affairs****Certificate of Degree of Indian or Alaska Native Blood Information Collection (CDIB), Submission**

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of submission of information collection.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is submitting to OMB an information collection from persons seeking proof of American Indian or Alaska Native blood for reinstatement, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act. The information collected under OMB Control No. 1076-0153 will be used to document an applicant's Indian

ancestry and degree of Indian or Alaska Native blood. CDIBs are used by individuals applying for BIA programs and services available to Indians because they are Indian.

DATES: Submit comments on or before March 13, 2008.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments on the information collection to the Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior either by facsimile at 202-395-6566 or by e-mail at

OIRA_DOCKET@omb.eop.gov. Please submit copy of comments to Iris Drew, Office of Indian Services, Bureau of Indian Affairs, 1001 Indian School Road, NW., Albuquerque, New Mexico 87104. Fax number: (505) 563-3060.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Iris Drew, Tribal Relations Specialist, Tribal Government Services, (505) 563-3530.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This collection was originally approved and assigned OMB Control No. 1076-0153 when it was submitted with a proposed rulemaking, 25 CFR part 70, which was published in the **Federal Register** on April 18, 2000 (66 FR 20775). The proposed rulemaking was not finalized due to various reasons. We are in the process of revising the proposed rulemaking for processing applications for Certificates of Degree of Indian or Alaska Native Blood (CDIB). A request for comments on this information collection request appeared in the **Federal Register** (72 FR 61366) on October 30, 2007. One comment was received during or before the close of the public comment period of December 31, 2007.

Comment: We received one comment regarding (1) who needs to fill out the form? Is it to be used only for new recognition applications or for all enrolled persons; (2) does this establish a new "blood" requirement, i.e., 1/8 or 1/4?; and (3) do not reinvent Enrollment for those who have already done it but have reasonable requirements for new enrollees or those denied.

Response: (1) Most of the individuals who fill out the form are non-enrolled Indians who wish to document their Indian or Alaska native ancestry. Non-enrolled persons with one-quarter (1/4) or more degree Indian blood may be eligible to receive various services provided to Indians and Alaska Natives by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Other Federal Agencies will accept a CDIB as proof of Indian ancestry. In general, enrolled tribal members who can show proof of tribal membership do not need a CDIB to demonstrate eligibility for services.

(2) Minimum Indian blood degree requirements are established by Congress through federal statute or by tribes and Alaska Native villages through tribal law. The Certificate Degree of Indian or Alaska Native Blood does not establish a new "blood" requirement. Rather, CDIBs are used by individuals who want to document their Indian or Alaska native ancestry and degree of Indian blood. CDIBs do not establish membership in any Indian or Alaska Native tribe.

(3) A CDIB is not an enrollment document. Tribes determine their own membership and the BIA does not enroll tribal members.

Request for Comments: The Bureau of Indian Affairs requested comments about the proposed collection to evaluate:

(a) The accuracy of the burden hours, including validity of the methodology used and assumptions made;

(b) The necessity of the information for proper performance of the bureau functions, including its practical utility;

(c) The quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(d) Suggestions to reduce the burden including use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other forms of information technology.

The public is advised that an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information that does not display a valid OMB clearance number. For example, this collection is listed by OMB as control No. 1076-0153, and it expired 11/30/07. The response is voluntary to obtain or retain a benefit.

Please submit your comments to the persons listed in the **ADDRESSES** section. Please note that comments, names and addresses of commentators, are open for public review. Be aware that your name and address may be available to the public on the OMB Web site. We cannot guarantee that your personal information will be safeguarded.

Your comments should address: (a) The necessity of this information collection for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (hours and cost) of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways we could enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways we could minimize the burden of the collection of the information on the respondents, such as through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

OMB has up to 60 days to make a decision on the submission for renewal, but may make the decision after 30 days. Therefore, to receive the best consideration of your comments, you should submit them closer to 30 days than 60 days.

OMB Approval Number: 1076-0153.
Title: Request for Certificate of Degree of Indian or Alaska Native Blood, 25 CFR part 70.

Brief Description of Collection: Submission of this information is voluntary. However, not providing information may result in a determination that an individual is not eligible to receive program services based upon his/her status as an American Indian or Alaska Native. The information to be collected includes: Certificates of birth and death, probate determinations, court orders, affidavits, Federal or Tribal census records and Social Security records.

Type of Review: Reinstatement.

Respondents: Individual Indians who may be eligible to receive program services based upon their status and/or degree of Indian or Alaska Native blood.

Number of Respondents: 154,980.

Estimated Time per Response: The reporting and record keeping burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1.5 hours for each response for an estimate 154,980 requests per year or 232,470 hours, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources and gathering needed data. Thus, the estimated total annual reporting and record keeping burden for this entire collection is estimated to be 232,470 hours.

Frequency of Response: All information and documentation is to be collected once from each requester.

Total Annual Burden to Respondents: 232,470 hours.

Total Annual Cost to Respondents: \$6,199,200.

Dated: February 6, 2008.

Carl J. Artman,

Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Notice of Deadline for Submitting Completed Applications To Begin Participation in the Tribal Self-Governance Program in Fiscal Year 2009 or Calendar Year 2009

AGENCY: Office of Self-Governance, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.