

Dated: August 18, 2010.

**Hugh Morrison,**

*Acting Regional Director.*

[FR Doc. 2010-23234 Filed 9-16-10; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[LLWYP07000; L16100000.DU0000]

#### Notice of Availability of the Draft Buffalo Resource Management Plan Amendment for the Fortification Creek Planning Area and Environmental Assessment, Wyoming

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of Availability.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared a Draft Resource Management Plan Amendment and Environmental Assessment (RMPA/EA) for the Buffalo Field Office (BFO) and by this notice is announcing the opening of the comment period. The RMPA/EA will amend the 1985 Buffalo Resource Management Plan. The BLM also announces the availability of information regarding a proposed Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) considered in the Draft RMPA/EA.

**DATES:** The BLM must receive written comments on the Draft RMPA/EA and on the proposed ACEC information within 60 days following the date that this Notice of Availability appears in the **Federal Register**.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments related to the Draft RMPA/EA by any of the following methods:

- *Web site:* [http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/bfodocs/fortification\\_creek.html](http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/bfodocs/fortification_creek.html).

- *E-mail:* Fort\_Crk\_WYMail@blm.gov.

- *Fax:* (307) 684-1122.

- *Mail:* Buffalo RMP Amendment/ Fortification Creek EA, BLM Buffalo Field Office, 1425 Fort Street, Buffalo, Wyoming 82834.

Copies of the Draft RMPA/EA are available in the Buffalo Field Office at the above address and at the following location:

- Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming State Office, 5353 Yellowstone Road, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information contact Thomas

Bills, Buffalo RMPA Team Leader, telephone at 307-684-1133; mailing address at BLM Buffalo Field Office, 1425 Fort Street, Buffalo, Wyoming 82834; e-mail at [tom\\_bills@blm.gov](mailto:tom_bills@blm.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Fortification Creek Planning Area (FCPA) is described as requiring "special management" in the Powder River Basin Oil and Gas Project Environmental Impact Statement (PRB EIS). The FCPA also contains an isolated elk herd, a Wilderness Study Area (WSA) and a citizen-proposed ACEC. The FCPA is 100,655 acres in size and located in the center of the Powder River Basin in parts of Campbell, Johnson, and Sheridan Counties, Wyoming.

An RMP amendment has been initiated to simplify, consolidate and unify overlapping planning decisions in the FCPA while ensuring the viability of the existing elk herd and maintaining other management activities in the planning area.

The Draft RMPA/EA documents the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts of three alternatives for management of BLM-administered public lands and mineral resources within the Fortification Creek Area of the BFO. The alternatives incorporate best management practices for oil and gas development and other measures necessary to address impacts to transportation, public safety, cultural resources, recreational opportunities, wildlife, threatened and endangered species, visual resources, air quality, wilderness characteristics, and other relevant issues. The following descriptions of alternatives considered in the Draft RMPA/EA have been included to provide context for reviewers. Three alternatives are analyzed in detail:

*Alternative 1 (No Action Alternative):* Continues the existing management direction in conformance with the current RMP and would not designate an ACEC in the FCPA;

*Alternative 2:* Amends the existing RMP to allow overhead power lines on BLM surface within pre-defined corridors, applies elk security habitat standards as recommended by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD), prescribes acceptable mitigation measures, and would designate an ACEC based on citizen proposed boundaries (33,757 acres; primarily public surface); and

*Alternative 3 (Agency Preferred Alternative):* Amends the existing RMP by allowing overhead power lines along roads on BLM surface, applies elk security habitat standards developed

jointly by the BLM and WGFD, establishes standards for performance based mitigation, and does not designate any area as an ACEC.

There are no ACECs in the existing BFO land use plan. As proposed in the Draft RMPA/EA, there is potential for designation of a Fortification Creek ACEC. Values of concern include steep slopes, erosive soils, elk habitat, cultural resources, and visual resources.

When commenting, please include reference to either the page or section in the Draft RMPA/EA to which the comment applies. To facilitate analysis of comments and information submitted, the BLM encourages those individuals submitting comments to submit them in electronic format.

Please note that public comments and information submitted including names, street addresses, and e-il addresses of respondents will be available for public review and disclosure at the above address during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

**Donald A. Simpson,**

*State Director.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R5-R-2010-N150; 50133-1265-CHNP-S3]

#### Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge and Wallops Island National Wildlife Refuge, Accomack County, VA; Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

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

**ACTION:** Notice of intent; announcement of public scoping and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), are gathering information to prepare a comprehensive conservation plan (CCP) and associated environmental impact statement (EIS)

for Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and Wallops Island NWR. We provide this notice in compliance with our policy to advise other agencies and the public of our intentions to conduct detailed planning on refuges, and obtain suggestions and information about the scope of issues to consider in the planning process.

**DATES:** We will hold public scoping open house meetings between August and November of 2010 in Accomack County, Virginia, and Worcester County, Maryland. The meetings will be announced through our Web site (<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/planning>), local newspapers, a newsletter, and personal contacts. See the **ADDRESSES** section for information about where to submit your comments. To ensure consideration of your written comments regarding the scope of the refuge management plan, you should submit them no later than *January 18, 2011*.

**ADDRESSES:** Send your comments or requests for more information on the planning process by any of the following methods:

*Electronic mail:* [northeastplanning@fws.gov](mailto:northeastplanning@fws.gov). Include "Chincoteague NWR" in the subject line of the message.

*Facsimile:* Attention: Thomas Bonetti, at 413-253-8468.

*U.S. mail:* Thomas Bonetti, Refuge Planner, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 300 Westgate Center Drive, Hadley, MA 01035.

*In person drop-off:* You may drop off comments during regular business hours at the above address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** To obtain more information on the refuge, contact Louis Hinds, Refuge Manager, at Chincoteague NWR, P.O. Box 62, Chincoteague Island, VA 23336; phone: 757-336-6122; facsimile: 757-336-5273; electronic mail: [fw5rw\\_cnwr@fws.gov](mailto:fw5rw_cnwr@fws.gov) or Web site: <http://chincoco.fws.gov/>.

For additional questions about the planning process, you may contact Thomas Bonetti via the above methods or by calling 413-253-8307.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

#### **Introduction**

This notice initiates the CCP process for Chincoteague NWR and Wallops Island NWR, located in Accomack County, Virginia.

#### **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 us to develop a CCP for each national wildlife refuge. The purpose of 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 (NWRS), consistent with sound principles of fish and wildlife management, conservation, legal mandates, and our 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 and photography, and environmental education and interpretation. We will review and update the CCP at least every 15 years in accordance with the Administration Act.

We establish each refuge for specific purposes, and use those purposes to develop and prioritize its management goals, objectives, and public uses. The planning process is one way for us and for the public to evaluate those goals and objectives for the best possible conservation of important wildlife habitat, while providing opportunities for wildlife-dependent recreation compatible with those purposes and the mission of the NWRS.

We request your input on all issues, concerns, ideas, improvements, and suggestions for the future management of Chincoteague NWR. In addition to this opportunity to participate in the scoping for the project, you may submit additional comments during the planning process by writing to the refuge planner (see **ADDRESSES** section).

We will conduct the environmental review of this project in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations on NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), other appropriate Federal laws and regulations, and our policies and procedures for complying with them.

#### **Chincoteague NWR and Wallops Island NWR**

Under the authority of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act, Chincoteague NWR was established on May 13, 1943, for the protection and management of migratory birds, especially migrating and wintering waterfowl. Since that time, objectives have been expanded to protect and manage threatened and endangered species and other wildlife,

and provide for wildlife-oriented public use.

The refuge encompasses 14,032 acres, of which all but 418 acres in Maryland are located in Accomack County on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. The refuge also manages three smaller divisions that are located on the Virginia Barrier Islands: Assawoman Island Division, which contains 1,434 acres and encompasses the entire island; Metompkin Island Division, which consists of 174 acres on the north end of the island; and Cedar Island Division, which contains over 1,412 acres in fee title and 600 acres in easements. Additional refuge lands include 546 acres on Wildcat Marsh (located on the north end of Chincoteague Island) and 427 acres on Morris Island (located between Chincoteague and Assateague Islands).

The refuge's location along the Atlantic Flyway makes it a vital resting and feeding spot for a large number and diversity of birds. Within a one-day drive to millions of people, Chincoteague NWR is one of the most visited refuges in the United States, providing visitors with outstanding opportunities to learn about and enjoy wildlands and wildlife.

Refuge staff manages this barrier island habitat to allow many species of wildlife to co-exist, each establishing its own place in the environment. For example, the refuge supports breeding populations of the federally endangered Delmarva Peninsula fox squirrel and the threatened piping plover. Additionally, the Atlantic loggerhead sea turtle is a threatened species that nests occasionally on the refuge. Refuge management programs are targeted to provide feeding and resting areas for birds in migration, and nesting and brood-rearing habitat for those birds that find the refuge suitable for reproduction.

The refuge is also one of the top shorebird migratory staging areas in the United States east of the Rocky Mountains. In 1990, the barrier islands that make up Chincoteague NWR, along with other barrier islands of the Eastern Shore of Virginia and Maryland, were designated an International Shorebird Reserve. This coastal barrier island/lagoon system has also been designated a World Biosphere Reserve by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization in recognition of its great ecological value. Moreover, the Department of Interior designated the area a National Natural Landmark in recognition of its outstanding natural values.

The refuge is an important recreational destination point for people

living in the Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York City areas. Attracted to the beautiful beach and the aesthetically pleasing nature of the island, hundreds of thousands of people visit Assateague Island annually. Managed jointly by the National Park Service and the FWS, Assateague Island supports a growing tourism economy in the town of Chincoteague and Accomack County.

Popular attractions within the refuge include the undeveloped beach, the historic, functioning Assateague Lighthouse, the Wildlife Loop for automobiles, and 6.5 miles of walking trails (including some compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act) that provide viewing opportunities of the Chincoteague ponies, wildlife such as the sika elk, and migratory birds. The Herbert H. Bateman Educational and Administrative Center, a green facility that opened in 2003, is the refuge's visitor center and offers 5,000 square feet of interpretive natural history exhibits, educational programming, a 125-seat auditorium, and a classroom/wet laboratory. The refuge also provides wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities such as fishing, hunting, and wildlife photography.

Wallops Island NWR was created on July 10, 1975, when 373 acres of land were transferred to the FWS from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Wallops Island NWR is located entirely in Accomack County, Virginia. The refuge, comprised mainly of salt marsh and woodlands, contains habitat for a variety of trust species, including upland- and wetland-dependent migratory birds. Wallops Island NWR was opened for the first time to public hunting in 2002 to reduce the effects of overbrowsing on refuge habitat by white-tailed deer, and to reduce the potential of deer collisions with vehicles on the adjacent State Highway 175 and neighboring NASA flight facility.

#### Public Availability of Comments

Before including your address, phone number, electronic mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Dated: August 10, 2010.

**Anthony D. Léger,**

*Acting Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Hadley, MA 01035.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

**[FWS-R1-ES-2010-NXXX; 10120-1112-0000-F2]**

#### **Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Habitat Conservation Plan Along the Pacific Coast in Clatsop, Tillamook, Lincoln, Lane, Douglas, Coos, and Curry Counties, OR**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability: final environmental impact statement and habitat conservation plan.

**SUMMARY:** Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is advising the public of the availability of the final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) associated with an application received from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) for an incidental take permit (permit) pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA). We also announce the availability of the OPRD Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) as required by section 10(a)(2)(B) of the ESA. OPRD submitted the HCP, as well as a proposed Implementing Agreement (IA), as part of its incidental take permit application. If issued, the permit would authorize incidental take of the federally listed as threatened western snowy plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*) caused by the OPRD and private landowners that engage in activities related to public use and recreation, beach management, and resource management activities along Oregon's coastal shores. The OPRD is requesting a 25-year permit term.

We request comments from the public on the permit application, the HCP, the IA, and the FEIS, all of which are available for review. The Service is furnishing this notice to allow other agencies and the public an opportunity to review and comment on these documents. All comments received will become part of the public record and will be available for review pursuant to section 10(c) of the ESA. For locations to review the documents, please see the Availability of Documents section below.

**DATES:** Comments must be received from interested parties on or before October 18, 2010. The Service's decision on issuance of the permit will occur no sooner than 30 days after the publication of the Environmental Protection Agency notice of the FEIS in the **Federal Register** and will be documented in a Record of Decision.

**ADDRESSES:** All written comments and requests for information should be addressed to: Laura Todd, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Newport Field Office, 2127 SE OSU Drive, Newport, OR 97365-5258; facsimile (541) 867-4551. You may submit comments by postal mail/commercial delivery or by e-mail. Submit comments by e-mail to [FW1ORDHCP@fws.gov](mailto:FW1ORDHCP@fws.gov); in the subject line of the e-mail include the identifier OPRD HCP EIS. Comments and materials received also will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Laura Todd at (541) 867-4558 or see **ADDRESSES** above.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **Availability of Documents**

You may obtain copies of the documents for review by contacting Laura Todd (*see FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT*); or by making an appointment to view the documents at the above address during normal business hours. You may view or download the HCP and FEIS on the Internet at [www.fws.gov/oregonfwo/Species](http://www.fws.gov/oregonfwo/Species) or the HCP from OPRD's Web site at [egov.oregon.gov/OPRD/PLANS/osmp\\_hcp.shtml](http://egov.oregon.gov/OPRD/PLANS/osmp_hcp.shtml).

Copies of the HCP and FEIS will be available at the following libraries: Astoria Public Library, 450 Tenth St., Astoria, Oregon 97103; Bandon Public Library, City Hall, Hwy. 101, Bandon, Oregon 97411; Chetco Community Public Library, 405 Alder St., Brookings, Oregon 97415; Coos Bay Public Library, 525 Anderson, Coos Bay, Oregon 97420; Siuslaw Public Library District, 1460 9th St., Florence, Oregon 97439; Garibaldi Branch Library, Garibaldi City Hall, 107 Sixth St., Garibaldi, Oregon 97118; Curry Public Library, 29775 Colvin St., Gold Beach, Oregon 97444; Langlois Public Library, 48234 Hwy. 101, Langlois, Oregon 97450; Driftwood Public Library, 801 SW. Highway 101, Suite 201, Lincoln City, 97367-2720; Manzanita Branch Library, 571 Laneda, Manzanita, Oregon 97130; Newport Public Library, 35 NW. Nye St., Newport, Oregon 97365; Marilyn Potts Guin Library, Hatfield Marine Science Center, Oregon State University, 2030