DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of the Secretary

Vendor Outreach Workshop for Small IT Businesses in the National Capitol Region of the United States

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization of the Department of the Interior is hosting a Vendor Outreach Workshop for small IT businesses in the National Capitol region of the United States that are interested in doing business with the Department. This outreach workshop will review market contracting opportunities for the attendees. Business owners will be able to share their individual perspectives with Contracting Officers, Program Managers and Small Business Specialists from the Department.

DATES: The workshop will be held on April 1, 2010 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

ADDRESS: The workshop will be held at the U.S. Department of the Interior Main Auditorium, 1849 C Street, NW., Washington, DC 20240. Register online at: http://www.doigov/osdbu.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with the Small Business Act, as amended by Public Law 95–507, the Department has the responsibility to promote the use of small and small disadvantaged business for its acquisition of goods and services. The Department is proud of its accomplishments in meeting its business goals for small, small disadvantaged, 8(a), woman-owned, HUBZone, and service-disabled veteran-owned businesses. In Fiscal Year 2009, the Department awarded 56 percent of its $2.6 billion in contracts to small businesses.

This fiscal year, the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization is reaching out to our internal stakeholders and the Department’s small business community by conducting several vendor outreach workshops. The Department’s presenters will focus on contracting and subcontracting opportunities and how small IT businesses can better market services and products. Over 3,000 small IT businesses have been targeted for this event. If you are a small IT business interested in working with the Department, we urge you to register online at: http://www.doigov/osdbu and attend the workshop. These outreach events are a new and exciting opportunity for the Department’s bureaus and offices to improve their support for small business. Additional scheduled events are posted on the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization Web site at http://www.doigov/osdbu.

Mark Oliver, Director, Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization.

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BILLING CODE 4310–RK–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service


Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Tucker and Grant Counties, WV: Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Finding of No Significant Impact for Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce the availability of the final comprehensive conservation plan (CCP) and finding of no significant impact (FONSI) for Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). In this final CCP, we describe how we will manage this refuge for the next 15 years.

ADDRESS: You may view or obtain copies of the final CCP and FONSI by any of the following methods. You may request a hard copy or a CD–ROM.


E-mail: Send document requests to northeastplanning@fws.gov. Include “Canaan Valley NWR CCP” in the subject line of your e-mail.

U.S. Postal Service: Send document requests to Ken Sturm, Acting Refuge Manager, Canaan Valley NWR, 6263 Appalachian Highway, Davis, WV 26260–8061.

Fax: Attention: Ken Sturm, 304–866–3852.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ken Sturm, Acting Refuge Manager, Canaan Valley NWR, 6263 Appalachian Highway, Davis, WV 26260–8061; phone: 304–866–3858; electronic mail: ken_sturm@fws.gov.
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Introduction

With this notice, we finalize the CCP process for Canaan Valley NWR. We started this plan’s development through a notice in the Federal Register (72 FR 2709) on January 22, 2007. We released the draft CCP/EA to the public, announcing and requesting comments in a notice of availability in the Federal Register (75 FR 30423) on June 1, 2010. The 16,193-acre Canaan Valley NWR was established in 1994 to conserve and protect fish and wildlife resources and the unique wetland and upland habitats of this high-elevation valley. The refuge is located in Tucker County, WV, and has an approved acquisition boundary of 24,000 acres. It includes the largest wetland complex in the State, and encompasses the headwaters of the Blackwater and Little Blackwater Rivers. The refuge supports species of concern at both the Federal and State levels, including the West Virginia northern flying squirrel, bald eagle, and the Federally listed Cheat Mountain salamander and Indiana bat. Its dominant habitats include wet meadows, peatlands, shrub and forested swamps, beaver ponds and streams, northern hardwood forest, old fields and shrubland, and managed grassland.

Refuge visitors engage in wildlife observation and photography, environmental education, interpretation, hunting, and fishing. Management activities include maintaining and perpetuating the ecological integrity of the Canaan Valley wetland and perpetuating the ecological integrity of upland northern hardwood and northern hardwood-conifer forests to sustain wildlife and plant communities, providing a diversity of successional habitats in upland and wetland-edge shrublands, grasslands, old fields, and hardwood communities, and supporting wildlife-dependent recreation and education.

We announce our decision and the availability of the FONSI for the final CCP for Canaan Valley NWR in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (40 CFR 1506.6(b)) requirements. We completed a thorough analysis of impacts on the human environment, which we included in the draft CCP/EA.

The CCP will guide us in managing and administering Canaan Valley NWR for the next 15 years. Alternative B, as we described in the draft CCP/EA, is the foundation for the final CCP.

Background

The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd–668ee) (Administration Act), as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, requires us to develop a CCP for each national wildlife refuge. The purpose for 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 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.

CCP Alternatives, Including the Selected Alternative

Our draft CCP/EA (75 FR 30423) addressed several key issues, including the improvement of early successional habitat, the creation of trail connections on- and off-refuge, and the need for better hunter access.

To address these issues and develop a plan based on the purposes for establishing the refuge, and the vision and goals we identified, four alternatives were evaluated in the EA. The alternatives have some actions in common, such as protecting cultural resources, controlling invasive plant species, encouraging research that benefits our resource decisions, continuing to acquire land from willing sellers within our approved refuge boundary, and distributing refuge revenue-sharing payments to counties.

Other actions distinguish the alternatives. Alternative A, or the “No Action Alternative,” is defined by our current management activities. It serves as the baseline against which to compare the other three alternatives. Our habitat management and visitor services programs would not change under this alternative. We would continue to use the same tools and techniques, and not expand existing facilities.

Alternative B, the “Service-Preferred Alternative,” is designed to balance the conservation of a mixed-forest matrix landscape with the management of early successional habitats and the protection of wetlands. The habitat-type objectives in the plan identify focal species whose life and growth requirements would guide management activities in each respective habitat. We would facilitate the removal of more deer from the refuge by increasing access and opening more lands to rifle hunting, and we would officially open the refuge to fishing. We would create more trail connections, expand visitor center hours, build a new environmental education pavilion, and increase the number of environmental education and interpretation programs.

In Alternative C, we would increase access and infrastructure to support more priority public uses than any of the other alternatives. We would create a cross-valley trail that would run east-west through the northern part of the valley, and we would allow limited off-trail use in a designated area. With an increase in public access and infrastructure development, we anticipate a greater need for monitoring and control of invasive plants. We would also encourage additional research that would assess whether increased public use affects wildlife behavior, including nesting, feeding, and resting. Within the biological objectives, differences between this alternative and the others are more subtle, but generally emphasize early successional habitat management over forest stand improvement.

Alternative D strives to establish and maintain the ecological integrity of natural communities within the refuge. Management would range from passive, or “letting nature take its course,” to actively manipulating vegetation to create or hasten the development of mature forest structural conditions shaped by natural disturbances such as infrequent fires, ice storms, and small patch blow-downs. Under this alternative, no particular wildlife species would be a management focus. We would promote research and development of applied management practices to sustain and enhance the natural composition, patterns, and processes within their natural range in the Central Appalachian Forest. We would limit new visitor services infrastructure to already disturbed areas. We would enhance hunting and fishing opportunities in ways similar to Alternatives B and C.

Comments

We solicited comments on the draft CCP/EA for Canaan Valley NWR from June 1, 2010, to July 16, 2010 (75 FR 30423). During the comment period, we received 312 responses, both oral and written. All comments we received were evaluated. A summary of those comments and our responses to them is included as Appendix J in the CCP.
Selected Alternative

After considering the comments we received on our draft CCP/EA, we have selected Alternative B for implementation, for several reasons. Alternative B comprises the mix of actions that, in our professional judgment, works best towards achieving refuge purposes, our vision and goals, and the goals of other State and regional conservation plans. We also believe it most effectively addresses the key issues raised during the planning process. The basis of our decision is detailed in the FONSI, located in Appendix K of the CCP.

Public Availability of Documents

You can view or obtain documents as indicated under ADDRESSES.

Dated: January 19, 2011.

Wendi Weber,
Acting Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Bruce Collins, CO 80525–5596 (mail);
Susan Johnson@nps.gov (e-mail); or
(303) 987–6694 (phone).

I. Abstract

The Clean Air Act (Sections 169A, 169B, and 110(a)(2)(I)) charges the NPS with an “affirmative responsibility to protect air quality related values (including visibility).” The NPS believes the value of visibility changes should be represented in cost-benefit analyses regarding state and Federal efforts that may affect visibility (including the Regional Haze Rule, Title 40, Part 51 of the Code of Federal Regulations). Updated estimates of visibility benefits are required because the studies conducted in the 1970s and 1980s do not reflect current baseline visibility conditions in national parks and wilderness areas.

The NPS plans to conduct a nationwide stated preference survey to estimate the value of visibility changes in national parks and wilderness areas. Survey development and pre-testing have already been conducted under a previous IC (OMB Control Number 1024–0253). The purpose of this IC is to conduct a pilot study to test the survey instrument and implementation procedures prior to the full survey. After the pilot is completed, the NPS will submit a revised IC request to OMB for the full survey.

II. Data

OMB Number: None. This is a new collection.

Title: Visibility Valuation Survey Pilot Study.

Type of Request: New.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Respondent Obligation: Voluntary.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,676 potential respondents; 800 households.

Estimated Time and Frequency of Response: This is a one-time survey estimated to take 20 minutes per respondent to complete.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 267 hours.

III. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (1) The practical utility of the information being gathered; (2) the accuracy of the burden hour estimate; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden to respondents, including use of automated information techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Robert Gordon,
Information Collection Clearance Officer,
National Park Service.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Denali National Park and Preserve
Aircraft Overflights Advisory Council
Within the Alaska Region Meeting

ACTION: Notice of meeting for the Denali National Park and Preserve Aircraft Overflights Advisory Council. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss mitigation of impacts from aircraft overflights at Denali National Park and Preserve. The Aircraft Overflights Advisory Council is authorized to operate in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

Public Availability of Comments: These meetings are open to the public and will have time allocated for public testimony. The public is welcome to present written or oral comments to the Aircraft Overflights Advisory Council. Each meeting will be recorded and meeting minutes will be available upon request from the park superintendent for public inspection approximately six weeks after each meeting. Before including your address, telephone 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 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.

DATES: The Denali National Park and Preserve Aircraft Overflights Advisory Council meeting will be held on Thursday, March 24, 2011, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Alaska Standard Time. The