

plan qualifies as low-effect under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). To make this determination, we used our environmental action statement and low-effect screening form, which are also available for review.

DATES: To ensure consideration, please send your written comments by April 23, 2012.

ADDRESSES: If you wish to review the application and HCP, you may request documents by email, U.S. mail, or phone (see below). These documents are also available for public inspection by appointment during normal business hours at the office below. Send your comments or requests by any one of the following methods.

Email: northflorida@fws.gov. Use “Attn: Permit number TE65123A-0” as your message subject line.

Fax: David L. Hankla, Field Supervisor, (904) 731-3045, Attn.: Permit number TE65123A-0.

U.S. mail: David L. Hankla, Field Supervisor, Jacksonville Ecological Services Field Office, Attn: Permit number TE65123A-0, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 7915 Baymeadows Way, Suite 200, Jacksonville, FL 32256.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Erin M. Gawera, telephone: (904) 731-3121; email: erin_gawera@fws.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Section 9 of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and our implementing Federal regulations in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 50 CFR 17 prohibit the “take” of fish or wildlife species listed as endangered or threatened. Take of listed fish or wildlife is defined under the Act as “to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct” (16 U.S.C. 1532). However, under limited circumstances, we issue permits to authorize incidental take—i.e., take that is incidental to, and not the purpose of, the carrying out of an otherwise lawful activity.

Regulations governing incidental take permits for threatened and endangered species are at 50 CFR 17.32 and 17.22, respectively. The Act’s take prohibitions do not apply to federally listed plants on private lands unless such take would violate State law. In addition to meeting other criteria, an incidental take permit’s proposed actions must not jeopardize the existence of federally listed fish, wildlife, or plants.

Applicant’s Proposal

The applicant is requesting take of approximately 1.57 ac of occupied sand skink foraging and sheltering habitat incidental to construction of a commercial development, and seeks a 5-year permit. The 7.7-ac project is located on parcel #09-22-26-110000900000 within Section 09, Township 22 South, Range 26 East, Lake County, Florida. The project includes construction of a commercial development and the associated infrastructure, and landscaping. The applicant proposes to mitigate for the take of the sand skink by the purchase of 3.14 mitigation credits within the Hatchineha Ranch Conservation Bank.

Our Preliminary Determination

We have determined that the applicant’s proposal, including the proposed mitigation and minimization measures, would have minor or negligible effects on the species covered in the HCP. Therefore, we determined that the ITP is a “low-effect” project and qualifies for categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as provided by the Department of the Interior Manual (516 DM 2 Appendix 1 and 516 DM 6 Appendix 1). A low-effect HCP is one involving (1) Minor or negligible effects on federally listed or candidate species and their habitats, and (2) minor or negligible effects on other environmental values or resources.

Next Steps

We will evaluate the HCP and comments we receive to determine whether the ITP application meets the requirements of section 10(a) of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). If we determine that the application meets these requirements, we will issue ITP #TE65123A-0. We will also evaluate whether issuance of the section 10(a)(1)(B) ITP complies with section 7 of the Act by conducting an intra-Service section 7 consultation. We will use the results of this consultation, in combination with the above findings, in our final analysis to determine whether or not to issue the ITP. If the requirements are met, we will issue the permit to the applicant.

Public Comments

If you wish to comment on the permit application, HCP, and associated documents, you may submit comments by any one of the methods in

ADDRESSES.

Public Availability of Comments

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other

personal identifying information in your comments, 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.

Authority

We provide this notice under Section 10 of the Act and NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

Dated: March 16, 2012.

David L. Hankla,

Field Supervisor, Jacksonville Field Office, Southeast Region.

[FR Doc. 2012-6891 Filed 3-21-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R5-R-2011-N196; BAC-4311-K9-S3]

John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum, Delaware and Philadelphia Counties, PA; Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (we, the Service), announce the availability of a draft comprehensive conservation plan and environmental assessment (CCP/EA) for John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) at Tinicum, located in Delaware and Philadelphia Counties, Pennsylvania, for public review and comment. The draft CCP/EA describes our proposal for managing the refuge for the next 15 years.

Also available for public review and comment are the draft findings of appropriateness and draft compatibility determinations for uses to be allowed upon initial completion of the plan, if alternative B is selected, and the draft habitat management plan. These are included as appendix B and appendix C, respectively, in the draft CCP/EA.

DATES: To ensure consideration, please send your comments no later than April 23, 2012. We will announce upcoming public meetings in local news media, via our project mailing list, and on our regional planning Web site: <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/planning/John%20Heinz/ccphome.html>.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments or requests for copies or more information by any of the following methods. You may request hard copies or a CD-ROM of the documents.

Email: northeastplanning@fws.gov. Please include "John Heinz NWR Draft CCP" in the subject line of the message.

Fax: Attn: Lia McLaughlin, 413-253-8468.

U.S. Mail: Lia McLaughlin, Natural Resource Planner, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 300 Westgate Center Drive, Hadley, MA 01035.

In-Person Drop-off, Viewing, or Pickup: Call 215-365-3118 to make an appointment (necessary for view/pickup only) during regular business hours at 8601 Lindbergh Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA 19152. [For more information on locations for viewing or obtaining documents, see "Public Availability of Documents" under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**]

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gary Stoltz, Refuge Manager, phone: 215-365-3118, or Lia McLaughlin, Planning Team Leader, phone: 413-253-8575; email: northeastplanning@fws.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Introduction

With this notice, we continue the CCP process for John Heinz NWR. We started this process through a notice in the **Federal Register** (75 FR 25285; May 7, 2010).

John Heinz NWR was established in 1972 to preserve and restore the natural area known as Tinicum Marsh, to promote environmental education, and to afford visitors an opportunity to study wildlife in its natural habitat. The total approved acquisition boundary encompasses 1,200 acres along the Delaware River in Pennsylvania. Currently, John Heinz NWR includes 993 acres of freshwater tidal marsh, open water, grassland, and forest habitats. It is an important migratory stopover for birds along the Atlantic Flyway, and provides habitat for State-listed threatened and endangered species such as the red-bellied turtle (*Pseudemys rubriventris*). The refuge offers unique opportunities for environmental education and interpretation in an urban setting. Visitors to the refuge also participate in wildlife observation, photography, and fishing.

Background

The CCP Process

The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd-668ee) (Refuge 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 Refuge Administration Act.

Public Outreach

We started pre-planning for the John Heinz NWR CCP in January 2010. In April 2010, we distributed our first newsletter and press release announcing our intent to prepare a CCP for the refuge. In May through June 2010, we had a formal public scoping period. The purpose of the public scoping period was to solicit comments from the community and other interested parties on the issues and impacts that should be evaluated in the draft CCP/EA. To help solicit public comments, we held two public meetings at the refuge during the formal public scoping period. Throughout the rest of the planning process, we have conducted additional outreach by participating in community meetings, events, and other public forums, and by requesting public input on managing the refuge and its programs. We received comments on topics such as the potential effects of climate change, improving biological connectivity, invasive species control, environmental contaminants, environmental education programs, and other public uses of the refuge.

CCP Alternatives We Are Considering

During the public scoping process, we, the Pennsylvania Game Commission, other governmental partners, and the public, raised several issues. To address these issues, we developed and evaluated three alternatives in the draft CCP/EA. Here we present a brief summary of each of the alternatives; a full description of each alternative is in the draft CCP/EA.

Alternative A (Current Management)

Alternative A (current management) satisfies the National Environmental

Policy Act (40 CFR 1506.6(b)) requirement of a "No Action" alternative, which we define as "continuing current management." It describes our existing management priorities and activities, and serves as a baseline for comparing and contrasting alternatives B and C. It would maintain our present levels of approved refuge staffing and the biological and visitor programs now in place. We would continue to focus on providing native tidal marsh habitat for migrating and nesting wading birds; wintering marshbirds, waterfowl, and shorebirds; and other wildlife. We would also continue to actively control invasive species, manage grassland habitats, and maintain dikes and water levels in the impoundment. Our environmental education program would continue to focus on providing training for teachers so they could guide field trips on refuge property.

Alternative B (Focus on Environmental Education for Urban Youth)

This alternative is the Service-preferred alternative. It combines the actions we believe would most effectively achieve the refuge's purposes, vision, and goals, and respond to the issues raised during the scoping period. Under alternative B, we would expand our freshwater tidal marsh restoration efforts, implement additional forest habitat restoration and management efforts, and increase monitoring efforts for species and for climate change effects. Our environmental education program would focus on expanding staff-led and volunteer-led programs for urban youth. We would also develop environmental education programs that focus on this audience, and work to develop long-term relationships with schools and school districts. We would work to expand environmental interpretation opportunities and infrastructure on the refuge as well.

Alternative C

Alternative C would focus on restoring degraded forests and converting specific grassland areas to shrubland habitat. As in alternative B, we would emphasize invasive species management, freshwater tidal marsh restoration, and monitoring for climate change adaptation. However, under alternative C, we would delay much of these efforts to more fully assess the potential effects of climate change and propose restoring all of the impoundment to tidal marsh. Under alternative C, environmental educational programming would concentrate on providing high school

and college-level programs focused on encouraging and training the next generation of conservation professionals and environmentally concerned citizens. We would also focus on playing a more regional role in conservation efforts.

Public Availability of Documents

In addition to any methods in **ADDRESSES**, you can view or obtain documents at the following locations:

- Our Web site: <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/planning/John%20Heinz/ccphome.html>.
- *Public Library*: the Northeast Regional Library, located at 2228 Cottman Avenue, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19149, during regular library hours.

Submitting Comments/Issues for Comment

We are seeking substantive comments, particularly on the following issues:

- Issue 1—Our environmental education program;
- Issue 2—Management and restoration options for the refuge's impoundment; and,
- Issue 3—Partnership opportunities.

We consider comments substantive if they:

- Question, with reasonable basis, the accuracy of the information in the document;
- Question, with reasonable basis, the adequacy of the EA;
- Present reasonable alternatives other than those presented in the EA; and/or
- Provide new or additional information relevant to the EA.

Next Steps

After this comment period ends, we will analyze the comments and address them in the form of a final CCP and finding of no significant impact.

Public Availability of Comments

Before including your address, phone number, email 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: January 25, 2012.

Wendi Weber,

Regional Director, Northeast Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Hadley, MA 01035.

[FR Doc. 2012-6892 Filed 3-21-12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLNMP0000 L13110000.XH0000]

Notice of Public Meeting, Pecos District Resource Advisory Council Meeting, New Mexico

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Pecos District Resource Advisory Council (RAC), will meet as indicated below.

DATES: The meeting will be held on April 11, 2012, from 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. and April 12, 2012, from 8 a.m.–3 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be at the Bureau of Land Management Pecos District Office, 2909 W. 2nd Street, Roswell, NM, on April 11, with a tour for RAC members of Restore New Mexico vegetative treatment and reclamation sites on April 12, 2012. The public may send written comments to the RAC, 2909 W. 2nd Street, Roswell, NM 88201.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Betty Hicks, Pecos District, Bureau of Land Management, 2909 W. 2nd Street, Roswell, NM 88201, 575-627-0242. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8229 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The 10-member RAC advises the Secretary of the Interior, through the Bureau of Land Management, on a variety of planning and management issues associated with public land management in New Mexico. Planned agenda items include: Discussion on candidate species (Dunes Sagebrush Lizard and Lesser-prairie chicken) and Restore New Mexico processes.

A half-hour public comment period during which the public may address the Council is scheduled to begin at 3:30 p.m. on April 11. All RAC meetings are open to the public. Depending on the number of individuals wishing to comment and time available, the time

for individual oral comments may be limited.

Douglas J. Burger,

District Manager.

[FR Doc. 2012-6885 Filed 3-21-12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLAK910000-L13100000.PP0000-L.X.SS.052L0000]

Notice of Public Meeting, BLM-Alaska Resource Advisory Council

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Office, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Alaska Resource Advisory Council (RAC) will meet as indicated below.

DATES: The meeting will be held April 18, 19 and 20, 2012. On April 18, the meeting will be at the Office of Aircraft Services, Alaska Regional Office, 4405 Lear Court, Anchorage, Alaska 99502 starting at 9 a.m. in the first floor conference room. The council will accept public comment on April 18 from 3 to 4 p.m. On April 19 and 20, the meeting location changes to the Borealis Conference Room at the Crown Plaza Hotel, 109 W. International Airport Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99518 and begins at 8:30 a.m. each day.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Thom Jennings, RAC Coordinator; BLM-Alaska State Office; 222 W. 7th Avenue #13, Anchorage, AK 99513.

Telephone 907-271-3335 or email tjenning@blm.gov. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The 15-member Council advises the Secretary of the Interior, through the Bureau of Land Management, on a variety of planning and management issues associated with public land management in Alaska. At this meeting, topics planned for discussion include: