FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ann Marie Oliva, Director, Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs, Office of Community Planning and Development, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW., Room 7262, Washington, DC 20410; telephone (202) 708–1590 (This is not a toll-free number).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department will submit 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 of information 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 through the use of appropriate automated collection techniques or other forms or information technology; e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses. This Notice also lists the following information:

Title of Proposal: HEARTH Continuum of Care Program Application.

Description of the need for the information proposed: This submission is to request a reinstatement with revisions of an expired information collection for the reporting burden associated with registration requirements that Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance (CoC) program lead agencies will be expected to complete. This submission is limited to the reporting burden under the CoC program, formerly including the Supportive Housing Program, the Shelter Plus Care program, and the Section 8 and Single Room Occupancy Program, and changed to match the new inclusive program name created through the HEARTH Act. To see the regulations for the new CoC program and applicable supplementary documents, visit HUD’s Homeless Resource Exchange ESG page at http://www.hudhre.info/esg/. The statutory provisions and the implementing interim regulations that govern the program require new registration requirements.

Agency Form Numbers: Members of the affected public: State and local governments, public housing authorities, and nonprofit organizations.

Estimation of the total number of hours needed to prepare the information collection including number of respondents, frequency of response, and hours of response: The CoC Application will be completed by all 450 Continuum’s of Care, as well as 7,559 project applicants, and will require approximately 314,000 hours to complete. The application process will occur once per year after the release of the annual CoC Notice of Funding Availability.

Status of proposed information collection: Reinstatement, with change, of previously approved collection for which approval has expired.


Dated: May 2, 2012.

Clifford D. Tafet,
General Deputy Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development.

[FR Doc. 2012–11177 Filed 5–8–12; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4210–67–P

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Disaster Recovery Grant Reporting (DRGR) System

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development, HUD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The proposed information collection requirement described below will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act. The Department is inviting public comments on the subject proposal.

DATES: Comments Due Date: July 9, 2012.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments regarding this proposal. Comments should refer to the proposal by name or OMB Control number and should be sent to: LaRuth Harper, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW., Room 7233, Washington, DC 20410.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information contact: Stanley Gimont, Director, Office of Block Grant Assistance at (202) 708–3587.
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department will submit 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 of information 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 through the use of appropriate automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

The Notice also lists the following information:

Title of Proposal: Disaster Recovery Grant Reporting System.

OMB Control Number: 2506–0165.

Description of the need for the Information and proposed use: The Disaster Recovery Grant Reporting (DRGR) System is a grants management system used by the Office of Community Planning and Development to monitor special appropriation grants under the Community Development Block Grant program. This collection pertains to Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG–DR) and Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) grant appropriations.

The CDBG program is authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended. Following major disasters, Congress appropriates supplemental CDBG funds for disaster recovery. According to Section 104(b)(1) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, HUD is responsible for reviewing grantees’ compliance with applicable requirements and their continuing capacity to carry out their programs. Grant funds are made available to states and units of general local government, Indian tribes, and insular areas, unless provided otherwise by supplemental appropriations statute, based on their unmet disaster recovery needs.

The Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) was established for the purpose of stabilizing communities that have suffered as a result of foreclosures and property abandonment. On July 21, 2010, President Obama signed the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (Dodd-Frank Act) into law (Pub. L. 111–203). This law provides $1 billion of formula grant funding for the redevelopment of foreclosed and abandoned homes to be allocated under the terms of Title XII, Division A, Section 2 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) and by the formula factors provided in Title III of Division B of the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110–289) (HERA). In 2008, HERA provided for an initial round of formula funding to regular State and entitlement Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) grantees through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP1). The Recovery Act provided for a neighborhood stabilization grant competition open to state and local governments, as well as non-profit groups and consortia that may include for-profit entities (NSP2). The Dodd-Frank Act is the third round of Neighborhood Stabilization Funding (NSP3).

Although NSP funds are otherwise to be considered CDBG funds, HERA, the Recovery Act and the Dodd-Frank Act make substantive revisions to the eligibility, use, and method of distribution of NSP3 funds. For NSP1 and NSP3, grantees are required to submit substantial amendments to their consolidated plans to secure funding they are entitled to under the formula grants.

NSP3 Technical Assistance grants were appropriated under Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (Dodd-Frank Act) (Pub. L. 111–203). Grantees were selected through a competitive process set forth in the NSP3–TA Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), with the purpose of assessing the need for technical assistance and targeting technical assistance in order to achieve the highest level of performance and results for the programs administered by HUD’s Office of Community Planning and Development. Eligible applicants include states, units of local government, public housing authorities, non-profit organizations, for-profit entities, and joint applicants.

Agency form numbers, if applicable: SF–424 Application for Federal Assistance.

Members of affected public: DRGR is used to monitor CDBG–DR, NSP, and NSP–TA grants. CDBG–DR and NSP grant funds are made available to states and units of general local government, Indian tribes, and insular areas, unless provided otherwise by supplemental appropriations statute. NSP–TA grant funds are awarded on a competitive basis and are open to state and local governments, as well as non-profit groups and consortia that may include for-profit entities.

Estimation of the total numbers of hours needed to prepare the Information collection including number of respondents, frequency of response, and hours of response: Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG–DR) Grants: The DRGR system has approximately 72 open CDBG disaster recovery grants. HUD requires each grantee to report their performance into the system quarterly. In addition, grantees submit vouchers for drawdown of funds as needed. Some grantees have more than one open grant under different appropriation rules and are required to report on grants separately.

For average sized grantees (< $100m in grant funds), the Department estimates 9 hours for quarterly reporting in DRGR. Larger grantees with funds in excess of $100M+ require a substantially greater number of reporting activities, thus averaging approximately 57 hours per quarter. The estimated annual total number of hours for Disaster Grant reporting is 2,241.

Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) Grants: The system has 577 NSP1 and NSP3 grants in the system. The 270 NSP3 grantees must prepare and submit substantial amendments to their action plans, sign grant agreements, and set up activities in DRGR for a total of 15,323 hours.

The Department estimates that it takes 4 hours per grant for quarterly reporting and 38 hours for voucher submissions. The estimated annual total number of hours for all 577 NSP1 and 3 grantees to report in DRGR is 9,232 hours.

Voucher submissions are estimated at 3,899 burden hours per year. Total burden hours including application, grant setup and reporting are estimated at 28,494.

Neighborhood Stabilization Program 3 Technical Assistance (NSP3–TA) Grants: DRGR currently has 10 NSP3–TA grants in the system. The Department estimates 1,848 total hours including 42 applications and grant setup for the 10 selected applicants. Quarterly reporting for the 10 grants is estimated at 3 hours per grant, per response, for an annual total of 160 hours. Total annual voucher submissions are estimated at 68 hours.
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service


Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge, Big Stone and Lac Qui Parle Counties, MN

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce the availability of a draft comprehensive conservation plan (CCP) and environmental assessment (EA) for Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge, NWR) for public review and comment. In this draft CCP/EA we describe how we propose to manage the refuge for the next 15 years.

DATES: To ensure consideration, we must receive your written comments by June 8, 2012. We will hold an open house-style meeting during the comment period to receive comments and provide information on the draft plan. In addition, we will use special mailings, newspaper articles, internet postings, and other media announcements to inform people of opportunities for input.

ADDRESSES: Send your comments or requests for more information by any one of the following methods:

• Email: r3planning@fws.gov. Include “Big Stone Draft CCP/EA” in the subject line of the message.

• Fax: Attention: Alice Hanley, 320–273–2231.

• U.S. Mail: Attention: Refuge Manager, Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge, 44843 County Road 19, Odessa, MN 56276.

• In-Person Drop Off: You may drop off comments during regular business hours at the above address. You may also find information about the draft CCP/EA planning process on the planning Web site: http://www.fws.gov/midwest/Planning/BigStoneNWR/

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Alice Hanley, 320–273–2191.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Introduction

With this notice, we continue the CCP process for Big Stone NWR, which we began by publishing a notice of intent in the Federal Register (73 FR 76677) on December 17, 2008. For more about the initial process and the history of this refuge, see that notice.

Background

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–668eej) (Administration Act), 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 strategy 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 Service 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.

Each unit of the NWRS, including Big Stone NWR, was established for specific purposes. We use these purposes as the foundation for developing and prioritizing the management goals and objectives for each refuge within the NWRS mission, and to determine how the public can use each refuge. The planning process is a way for us and the public to evaluate management goals and objectives that will ensure the best possible approach to wildlife, plant, and habitat conservation, while providing for wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities that are compatible with each refuge’s establishing purposes and the mission of the NWRS.

Refuge Overview

Big Stone NWR was established in 1975 when lands, purchased by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as part of the Big Stone–Whetstone River Project authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1965, were transferred to the Service. Today the Refuge includes 11,586 acres and is managed for fish, wildlife, and their habitats.

CCP Alternatives and Our Preferred Alternative

Priority Issues

During the public scoping process, we, other stakeholders and partners, and the public identified several priority issues, which include habitat management, sedimentation, invasive species, and demand for additional recreation opportunities and visitor services. To address these issues, we developed and evaluated the following six alternatives during the planning process.

Alternative 1: Current Management/No Action

Alternative 1 is the No Action alternative, which means there would be no change from current management practices. Active management of Refuge habitats and visitor services would continue at present levels. Water movement and associated sediment delivery would continue to follow its current route through the Refuge, and the quality of riverine habitat would remain within its present range of conditions. There would be no change to the management capabilities of West Pool. Remnant prairie, restored grasslands, and prairie associated with granite outcrops would continue to be managed at present levels. The amount of partially restored grasslands would increase by 500 acres. The total area of nonnative grassland would decrease to 300 acres. Wildlife observation and photography, environmental education and interpretation, hunting, fishing, trapping, and gathering shed antlers and wild edible plants are recreational opportunities that would occur under this alternative if they meet the Service definition of compatibility. Refuge staff would continue to work with visitors and local communities and provide volunteer opportunities to build support for the Refuge.

Alternative 2

Under this alternative the natural alignment, channel capacity, and meander relationships would be restored to the upper 5 miles of the Minnesota River within the Refuge, and there would be an effort to improve water quality within the Minnesota River and its tributaries. Redistributing the timing and delivery of waters and sediment would improve the ability to increase distribution, and diversify submerged vegetation within West Pool. Remnant prairie and prairie associated