

Landholding Agency: Interior
 Property Number: 61201220006
 Status: Excess
 Comments: Narrow strip of land;
 construction or structures are prohibited;
 assemblage to an adjoining parcel; as
 standalone parcel does not conform to
 county regs. for residential or commercial
 use

[FR Doc. 2012-11091 Filed 5-10-12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R4-R-2012-N080;
 FXRS1265040000S3-123-FF04R02000]

Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge, FL; Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service,
 Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability; request
 for comments.

SUMMARY: We, the Fish and Wildlife
 Service (Service), announce the
 availability of a draft comprehensive
 conservation plan and environmental
 assessment (Draft CCP/EA) for
 Chassahowitzka National Wildlife
 Refuge (NWR) in Citrus and Hernando
 Counties, Florida, for public review and
 comment. In this Draft CCP/EA, we
 describe the alternative we propose to
 use to manage this refuge for the 15
 years following approval of the final
 CCP.

DATES: To ensure consideration, we
 must receive your written comments by
 June 11, 2012.

ADDRESSES: You may obtain a copy of
 the Draft CCP/EA by contacting Mr.
 Michael Lusk via U.S. mail at
 Chassahowitzka National Wildlife
 Refuge, 1502 SE. Kings Bay Drive,
 Crystal River, Florida 34429.
 Alternatively, you may download the
 document from our Internet Site at
<http://southeast.fws.gov/planning> under
 "Draft Documents." Comments on the
 Draft CCP/EA may be submitted to the
 above postal address or by email to:
ChassCCP@fws.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms.
 Mary Morris at 850/567-6202
 (telephone); or via email at:
ChassCCP@fws.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Introduction

With this notice, we continue the CCP
 process for Chassahowitzka NWR
 started through a notice in the **Federal**

Register on June 8, 2009 (74 FR 27173).
 For more about the refuge and our CCP
 process, please see that notice.

Located about 60 miles north of
 Tampa, the 30,843-acre Chassahowitzka
 NWR was established by authority of
 the Migratory Bird Conservation Act on
 June 15, 1943, as "an inviolate
 sanctuary" for wintering waterfowl and
 other migratory birds. In 1976, Congress
 designated roughly three-quarters of the
 refuge (23,579 acres) as wilderness
 under the Wilderness Act of 1964 (16
 U.S.C. 1131-1136).

The refuge's diverse ecosystems,
 including prime, estuarine habitat, hosts
 a myriad and abundance of flora and
 fauna. The marshlands, swamplands,
 shallow bays, and tidal streams provide
 both the quantity and quality of aquatic
 plant and animal life required to
 support thousands of wintering
 waterfowl, marsh and waterbirds,
 shorebirds, fishes, and a variety of
 animal species that depend on a marine
 environment. The refuge also has 2,560
 acres of hardwood swamplands and 250
 acres of upland forest. Notable
 imperiled species include Florida
 manatees and an experimental
 population of whooping cranes
 introduced to the marsh habitats over a
 decade ago by means of a partnership.

Background

The CCP Process

The National Wildlife Refuge System
 Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C.
 668d-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, wildlife
 photography, and environmental
 education and interpretation. We will
 review and update the CCP at least
 every 15 years in accordance with the
 Administration Act.

Priority resource issues addressed in
 the Draft CCP/EA include: (1) Priority
 imperiled species (e.g., manatees and
 whooping crane); (2) determining the
 habitat needs of migratory birds and the

cause of waterfowl population declines
 on the refuge since the 1970s; (3)
 evaluating the external threats of
 potential loss of water quality and
 quantity; (4) controlling invasive plant
 and pest animal species; (5)
 documenting climate change effects on
 refuge resources (6) protecting natural,
 cultural and wilderness resources; (7)
 limited accessibility issues; (8)
 administrative resources; and (9)
 partnerships.

CCP Alternatives, Including Our Proposed Alternative

We developed three alternatives for
 managing the refuge (Alternatives A, B,
 and C), with Alternative C as our
 proposed alternative. A full description
 of each alternative is in the Draft CCP/
 EA. We summarize each alternative
 below.

Alternative A: Current Management (No Action)

This refuge is closer to pristine and
 has much less public use than most
 areas of Florida, so the goal under all
 three alternatives is to maintain its
 resources. To date, this has been done
 with minimal management by a small
 staff. Under this alternative, ongoing
 programs would continue. Species of
 Federal responsibility, such as
 threatened and endangered species and
 migratory birds, would continue to be
 monitored at present levels. High-
 profile, imperiled species, such as
 manatees and whooping cranes, would
 remain the focus. Additional species
 monitoring would occur as
 opportunistic events when contacts
 outside our staff offer support. Current
 habitat management, including
 prescribed fire, would continue (to
 improve crane habitat and to address
 fuel loads in uplands). Management of
 exotic, invasive, and nuisance animal
 and plant species would continue to be
 opportunistic. The public use programs
 of hunting, fishing, wildlife observation,
 wildlife photography, and
 environmental education and
 interpretation and other existing uses
 would continue at present levels.
 Acquisition of inholding lands into the
 refuge would occur as willing sellers
 and funding become available. There is
 no staff dedicated exclusively to this
 refuge; instead, refuge staff draws from
 the staff assigned to the Crystal River
 NWR Complex (Complex), which also
 includes the Tampa Bay Refuges. This
 includes mostly the manager, deputy
 manager, wildlife biologist, and three
 park rangers (i.e., two wildlife officers
 and one visitor services staff).
 Alternative A presents the baseline
 upon which the other two alternatives

are expanded, but with differing management approaches.

Alternative B: Increased Research and Management via Partnerships

Alternative B proposes increased research and management capability, primarily through the use of cooperative partnerships and outside funding, with a modest increase of staff (three positions for the Complex). Research would be enhanced beyond priority, high-profile imperiled species. Because much baseline data are needed beyond the current surveying and monitoring protocols, this alternative would seek to initiate studies of a broader suite of species and to document noted declines of refuge habitat and species (waterfowl) and climate-change impacts. Since the refuge is accessible mostly by water from off-site, non-Service-owned ramps, we would provide more complete information to help the public locate the refuge via water. Studies would be conducted to assess visitor and commercial use effects on refuge resources; further, in Citrus County, commercial uses would require a special use permit issued by the refuge. A volunteer coordinator position is proposed to expand the volunteer corps and programs and to train and use volunteers to promote interpretation, voluntary compliance with refuge regulations, and the new environmental education programs of the refuge.

Alternative C: Adaptive Management (Proposed Alternative)

Alternative C would also heavily rely on our extensive partnerships and promote some new ones. We would rely on and use a volunteer corps for every program area and investigate the use of prison crews for maintenance work. This alternative assumes Service funding above current levels for research studies and facilities development and proposes additional staffing (eight positions for the Complex), to provide optimal resource protection and management capability. Research would include a broader suite of species, as well as habitat studies to adaptively manage for wildlife populations. The impacts of commercial and visitor use and external threats to the refuge would be studied and the results of those studies applied to refuge management and public use. Upland uses would be promoted through the development of improved facilities and access, and an observation platform and kayak landing would be added to the Dog Island facility, accessed by boat. The addition of key positions, such as a law enforcement officer, a volunteer coordinator, and biological and

computer-mapping technicians, would allow for greater resource study, mapping, data analysis, and enforcement. The hiring of a wildlife refuge specialist and office assistant would support staff and provide a dedicated outreach coordinator. Refuge facilities would be improved for both visitor services and personnel, including projects to replace the headquarters office (to reduce flooding potential) and build a pole barn and make other smaller improvements to the maintenance area and shop. For all alternatives, "green" options, materials, and energy efficiency would be included in the design and construction of new facilities and in equipment replacement.

Next Step

After the comment period ends, we will analyze the comments and address them.

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.

Authority

This notice is published under the authority of the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 668dd et seq.).

Dated: April 17, 2012.

Mark J. Musaus,

Acting Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 2012-11393 Filed 5-10-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Renewal of Agency Information Collection for Bureau of Indian Education Collection Activities; Request for Comments

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of request for comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is seeking comments on renewal of Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

approval for the collection of information for the Tribal Colleges and Universities Application for Grants, authorized by OMB Control Number 1076-0018, and the Tribal Colleges and Universities Annual Report Form, authorized by OMB Control Number 1076-0105. Both of these information collections expire September 30, 2012.

DATES: Submit comments on or before July 10, 2012.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments on the information collection to Juanita Keesing, U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Education, 1849 C Street NW., Washington, DC 20240; email: Juanita.Keesing@bie.edu.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Juanita Keesing, (202) 208-3559.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

Each tribally-controlled college or university requesting financial assistance under the Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities Assistance Act of 1978, as amended, 25 U.S.C. 1801 et seq. (Act) is required by 25 U.S.C. 1807(a) and 25 CFR 41.8 to provide information for the purpose of securing a grant. Similarly, each tribally-controlled college or university that receives financial assistance under the Act is required by 25 U.S.C. 1808(c)(1) and 25 CFR 41.9 to provide a report on the use of funds received.

II. Request for Comments

The BIA requests your comments on these collections concerning: (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.

Please note that an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and an individual need not respond to, a collection of information unless it has a valid OMB Control Number.

It is our policy to make all comments available to the public for review at the location listed in the **ADDRESSES** section. Before including your address, phone number, email address or other personally identifiable information, be