

notice, we solicited comments for 60 days, ending on June 1, 2012. We received one comment regarding permits for the take of migratory birds, but the comment did not address the information collection requirements. We did not make any changes to the information collection.

We again invite comments concerning this information collection on:

- Whether or not the collection of information is necessary, including whether or not the information will have practical utility;
- The accuracy of our estimate of the burden for this collection of information;
- Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. 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 OMB in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that it will be done.

Dated: August 21, 2012.

Tina A. Campbell,

Chief, Division of Policy and Directives Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 2012-21290 Filed 8-28-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R3-R-2012-N121;
FXRS1265030000S3-123-FF03R06000]

Hamden Slough National Wildlife Refuge, Becker County, 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 the Hamden Slough 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 September 28, 2012. We will hold open house-style meetings 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 “Hamden Slough Draft CCP/EA” in the subject line of the message.
- *Fax:* Attention: Refuge Manager, Hamden Slough NWR, 218-847-4156.
- *U.S. Mail:* Attention: Ryan Frohling, Refuge Manager, Hamden Slough NWR (managed by Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District), 26624 N. Tower Road, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501.
- *In-Person Drop Off:* You may drop off comments during regular business hours at the above addresses.

You will find the draft CCP/EA, as well as information about the planning process and a summary of the CCP, on the planning Web site: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/planning/hamdenslough/index.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ryan Frohling, 218-847-4431.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Introduction

With this notice, we continue the CCP process for Hamden Slough National Wildlife Refuge, which we began by publishing a notice of intent in the **Federal Register** (75 FR 7289) on February 18, 2010. 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-668ee) (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 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.

Additional Information

The draft CCP/EA may be found at <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/planning/hamdenslough/index.html>. That document incorporates an EA, prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (43 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.). The draft CCP/EA includes detailed information about the planning process, refuge, issues, and management alternatives considered and proposed. The EA includes discussions of three alternative refuge management options. The Service’s preferred alternative is reflected in the draft CCP.

The alternatives analyzed in detail include:

- **Alternative A: Current Management (No Action)**—This alternative reflects the current management direction of Hamden Slough NWR. It provides the baseline against which to compare other alternatives. For NEPA purposes, this is referred to as the “No Action” alternative.

- **Alternative B: Wetland Focus**—This alternative would focus on increasing the quantity and quality of habitat for waterfowl. Acquisition and full restoration of Pierce Lake would be emphasized over the next 15 years. The hydrologic regime would better emulate natural seasonal and long-term variability. More diverse, sustainable vegetation patterns would be restored on Refuge wetlands.

- **Alternative C: Wetland and Prairie Focus (Preferred Alternative)**—This alternative would focus on increasing the quantity and quality of habitat for wetland and grassland birds. Acquisition and full restoration of

Pierce Lake would be emphasized over the next 15 years. The hydrologic regime would better emulate natural seasonal and long-term variability. More diverse, sustainable vegetation patterns would be restored on Refuge wetlands and prairies. A detailed description of objectives and actions included in this preferred alternative is found in chapter 4 of the Draft CCP.

Public Involvement

We will give the public an opportunity to provide input at a public meeting. You can obtain the schedule from the address or Web site listed in this notice (see **ADDRESSES**). You may also submit comments anytime during the comment period.

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.

Chris Jensen,

*Assistant Regional Director, Midwest Region,
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*

[FR Doc. 2012-21301 Filed 8-28-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Request for Nominations of Members To Serve on the Bureau of Indian Education Advisory Board for Exceptional Children

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Request for Nominations.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) requests nominations of individuals to serve on the Advisory Board for Exceptional Children (Advisory Board). There are five positions available. The BIE will consider nominations received in response to this Request for Nominations, as well as other sources. The **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for this notice provides committee and membership criteria.

DATES: Nominations must be received on or before October 1, 2012.

ADDRESSES: Submit nomination applications to Sue Bement, Designated Federal Officer, Bureau of Indian Education, Albuquerque Service Center, Division of Performance and Accountability, 1011 Indian School Road NW., Suite 332, Albuquerque, NM 87104-1088, telephone (505) 563-5274 or fax (505) 563-5281, Attention: Sue Bement.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sue Bement, Education Specialist, at the above-listed address and telephone number.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Advisory Board was established in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2. The following provides information about the Committee, the membership and the nomination process.

1. Objective and Duties

(a) Members of the Advisory Board will provide guidance, advice and recommendations with respect to special education and related services for children with disabilities in Bureau-funded schools in accordance with the requirements of IDEA;

(b) The Advisory Board will:

(1) Provide advice and recommendations for the coordination of services within the BIE and with other local, state and federal agencies;

(2) Provide advice and recommendations on a broad range of policy issues dealing with the provision of educational services to American Indian children with disabilities;

(3) Serve as advocates for American Indian students with special education needs by providing advice and recommendations regarding best practices, effective program coordination strategies, and recommendations for improved educational programming;

(4) Provide advice and recommendations for the preparation of information required to be submitted to the Secretary of Education under 20 U.S.C. 1411(h)(2);

(5) Provide advice and recommend policies concerning effective inter/intra-agency collaboration, including modifications to regulations, and the elimination of barriers to inter/intra-agency programs and activities;

(6) Report and direct all correspondence to the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs through the Director, BIE with a courtesy copy to the Designated Federal Officer (DFO).

2. Membership

(a) Pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 1411(h)(6), the Advisory Board will be composed of

up to 15 individuals involved in or concerned with the education and provision of services to Indian infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities. The Advisory Board composition will reflect a broad range of viewpoints and will include at least one member representing each of the following interests: Indians with disabilities; teachers of children with disabilities; Indian parents or guardians of children with disabilities; service providers; state education officials; local education; state interagency coordinating councils (for states having Indian reservations); Tribal representatives or Tribal organization representatives; and other members representing the divisions and entities of the BIE.

(b) The Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs may provide the Secretary of the Interior recommendations for the chairperson; however, the chairperson and other Advisory Board members will be appointed by the Secretary. Advisory Board members shall serve staggered terms of two years or three years from the date of their appointment.

3. Miscellaneous

(a) Members of the Advisory Board will not receive compensation, but will be reimbursed for travel, including subsistence, and other necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in the same manner as persons employed intermittently in government service under 5 U.S.C. 5703.

(b) A member may not participate in matters that will directly affect, or appear to affect, the financial interests of the member or the member's spouse or minor children, unless authorized by the appropriate ethics official. Compensation from employment does not constitute a financial interest of the member so long as the matter before the committee will not have a special or distinct effect on the member or the member's employer, other than as part of a class. The provisions of this paragraph do not affect any other statutory or regulatory ethical obligations to which a member may be subject.

(c) The Advisory Board meets at least twice a year, budget permitting, but additional meetings may be held as deemed necessary by the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs or DFO.

(d) All Advisory Board meetings are open to the public in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act regulations.