DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service

Proposed Information Collection; Electronic Duck Stamp Program

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve the information collection (IC) described below. As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 and as part of our continuing efforts to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, we invite the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on this IC. We may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

DATES: To ensure that we are able to consider your comments on this IC, we must receive them by April 15, 2013.

ADDRESSES: Send your comments on the IC to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS 2042–PDM, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22203 (mail); or hope.grey@fws.gov (email).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request additional information about this IC, contact Hope Grey at hope.grey@fws.gov (email) or 703–358–2482 (telephone).

I. Abstract

On March 16, 1934, President Roosevelt signed the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act (16 U.S.C. 718a et seq.) requiring all migratory waterfowl hunters 16 years of age or older to buy a Federal migratory bird hunting and conservation stamp (Federal Duck Stamp) annually. The stamps are a vital tool for wetland conservation. Ninety-eight cents out of every dollar generated by the sale of Federal Duck Stamps goes directly to purchase or lease wetland habitat for protection in the National Wildlife Refuge System. The Federal Duck Stamp is one of the most successful conservation programs ever initiated and is a highly effective way to conserve America’s natural resources. Besides serving as a hunting license and a conservation tool, a current year’s Federal Duck Stamp also serves as an entrance pass for national wildlife refuges where admission is charged. Duck Stamps and products that bear stamp images are also popular collector items.

The Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2005 (Pub. L. 109–266) required the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a 3-year pilot program under which States could issue electronic Federal Duck Stamps. The electronic stamp is valid for 45 days from the date of purchase and can be used immediately while customers wait to receive the actual stamp in the mail. After 45 days, customers must carry the actual Federal Duck Stamp while hunting or to gain free access to national wildlife refuges. Eight States participated in the pilot. At the end of the pilot, we provided a report to Congress outlining the successes of the program. The program improved public participation by increasing the ability of the public to obtain required Federal Duck Stamps.

Under our authorities in 16 U.S.C. 718b(a)(2), we have continued the Electronic Duck Stamp Program in the eight States that participated in the pilot. In September 2013, we will expand the program by inviting all State fish and wildlife agencies to participate. Anyone, regardless of State residence, may purchase an electronic Duck Stamp through any State that participates in the program. Interested States must submit an application (FWS Form 3–2341). We will use the information provided in the application to determine a State’s eligibility to participate in the program. Information includes, but is not limited to:

• Information verifying the current systems the State uses to sell hunting, fishing, and other associated licenses and products.
• Applicable State laws, regulations, or policies that authorize the use of electronic systems to issue licenses.
• Example and explanation of the codes the State proposes to use to create and endorse the unique identifier for the individual to whom each stamp is issued.
• Mockup copy of the printed version of the State’s proposed electronic stamp, including a description of the format and identifying features of the licensee to be specified on the stamp.
• Description of any fee the State will charge for issuance of an electronic stamp.
• Description of the process the State will use to account for and transfer the amounts collected by the State that are required to be transferred under the program.
• Manner by which the State will transmit electronic stamp customer data.

Each State approved to participate in the program must provide the following information on a weekly basis:

• First name, last name, and complete mailing address of each individual that purchases an electronic stamp from the State.
• Face value amount of each electronic stamp sold by the State.
• Amount of the Federal portion of any fee required by the agreement for each stamp sold.

II. Data

OMB Control Number: 1018–0135.

Title: Electronic Duck Stamp Program.

Service Form Number: 3–2341.

Type of Request: Reinstatement with change of a previously approved collection.

Description of Respondents: State fish and wildlife agencies.

Respondent’s Obligation: Required to obtain or retain a benefit.

Frequency of Collection: One time for applications and weekly for fulfillment reports.

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III. Comments

We 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. We will include or summarize each comment in our request to OMB to approve this IC. 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: February 6, 2013.

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

[FR Doc. 2013–03286 Filed 2–12–13; 8:45 am]

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service


Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Receipt of an Application for an Incidental Take Permit; Availability of Proposed Low-Effect Habitat Conservation Plan; Martin County, FL

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability; request for comment/information.

SUMMARY: We, the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce the availability of an incidental take permit (ITP) application and a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). SP Behavioral, LLC (the applicant) requests an ITP under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). The applicant anticipates taking about 2.99 acres of foraging, breeding, and sheltering habitat used by the Florida scrub-jay ( Aphelocoma coerulescens) (scrub-jay), Eastern indigo snake ( Drymarchon courei cooperi) (indigo snake), and gopher tortoise ( Gopherus polyphemus), incidental to land preparation and for the construction of the Sandy Pines Residential Treatment Center Addition in Martin County, Florida. The applicant’s HCP describes the minimization and mitigation measures proposed to address the effects of the project on the covered species.

DATES: We must receive your written comments on the ITP application and HCP on or before March 15, 2013.

ADDRESSES: See the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section below for information on how to submit your comments on the ITP application and HCP. You may obtain a copy of the ITP application and HCP by writing to the South Florida Ecological Services Office, Attn: Permit number TE95653A–0, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1339 20th Street, Vero Beach, FL 32960–3559. In addition, we will make the ITP application and HCP available for public inspection by appointment during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Elizabeth Landrum, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, South Florida Ecological Services Office (see ADDRESSES); telephone: 772–469–4304.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Submitting Comments

If you wish to comment on the ITP application and HCP, you may submit comments by any one of the following methods:

Email: Elizabeth_Landrum@fws.gov. Use Attn: Permit number “TE95653A–0” as your message subject line.

Fax: Elizabeth Landrum, 772–562–4288, Attn: Permit number “TE95653A–0.”

U.S. mail: Elizabeth Landrum, South Florida Ecological Services Field Office, Attn: Permit number “TE95653A–0,” U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1339 20th Street, Vero Beach, FL 32960–3559.

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

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 request in your comments that your personal identifying information be withheld from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Applicant’s Proposed Project

We received an application from the applicant for an incidental take permit, along with a proposed habitat conservation plan. The applicant requests a 15-year permit under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). If we approve the permit, the applicant anticipates taking a total of approximately 2.99 acres of scrub-jay, indigo snake, and gopher tortoise breeding, feeding, and sheltering habitat, incidental to land preparation and construction of additional residential and educational facilities, installation of associated infrastructure, construction of courtyards for recreation, expansion of the parking area and storm water management facility, and construction of a stabilized service road, in Martin County, Florida. Construction activities associated with the project will take place within Section 24, Township 40S, Range 42E, Martin County, Florida.

The applicant proposes to mitigate for impacts by one of the three following methods: (1) Establish and manage in perpetuity a 6-acre on-site conservation area; (2) establish and manage in perpetuity a 4.54-acre on-site conservation area and contribute $53,375 to the Florida Scrub-jay Conservation Program Fund; or (3) contribute $219,348 to the Florida Scrub-jay Conservation Program Fund. The Service listed the scrub-jay as threatened in 1987 (June 3, 1987; 52 FR 20715), effective July 6, 1987. The Service listed the indigo snake as threatened in 1978 (January 31, 1978; 43 FR 4028), effective March 3, 1978. The Service identified the gopher tortoise as a candidate species in the eastern portion of its range in 2011 (July 27, 2011; 76 FR 45130) and determined that listing this species as threatened was warranted but precluded by higher priority listing actions.

Our Preliminary Determination

The Service has made a preliminary determination that the applicant’s project, including the mitigation measures, will individually and cumulatively have a minor or negligible effect on the species covered in the HCP. Therefore, issuance of the ITP is a “low-effect” project and qualifies as a categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as provided by the Department of the Interior Manual (516 DM 2 Appendix 1.