DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS–R1–R–2013–N096; 12560–0000–10137 S3]

Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge, Clallam County, WA; Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Finding of No Significant Impact for Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce the availability of our comprehensive conservation plan (CCP) and finding of no significant impact (FONSI) for the environmental assessment (EA) for the Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge). In this CCP, we describe how we will manage the Refuge for the next 15 years.

ADRESSES: You may view or obtain copies of the CCP and FONSI by any of the following methods. You may request a hard copy or a CD–ROM of the document:


Fax: Attn: Deputy Project Leader, (360) 457–9778.


In-Person Viewing or Pickup: Call (360) 457–8451 to make an appointment during regular business hours at the above address.

For more information on locations for viewing or obtaining documents, see “Public Availability of Documents” under SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lorenz Sollmann, Deputy Project Leader, phone (360) 457–8451.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Introduction

With this notice, we finalize the CCP process for the Refuge. We started this process through a notice in the Federal Register (76 FR 61378; October 4, 2011). We released the draft CCP/EA to the public, announcing it and requesting comments in a notice of availability in the Federal Register (77 FR 71011; November 28, 2012).

We announce the availability of the FONSI for the CCP/EA in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR 1506.6(b)) requirements. We completed a thorough analysis of impacts on the human environment in the draft CCP/EA.

The CCP will guide us in managing and administering the Refuge for the next 15 years. Alternative B in the draft CCP/EA was selected for implementation. To address public comments received on the draft CCP/EA, changes and clarifications were made to the final CCP where appropriate. A summary of the public comments we received is included in the final CCP with our responses.

Background

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 compatible wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities available to the public, including hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education and interpretation. We will review and update each CCP at least every 15 years in accordance with the Refuge Administration Act.

Selected Alternative

Under the selected alternative, our emphasis on protecting and maintaining forested, near shore, freshwater wetland, and stream-riparian habitats will continue, with an increased level of active habitat management, monitoring, and enhancement.

The Refuge’s public use activities will include: Saltwater fishing, shell-fishing (clams and crabs), wildlife observation and photography, hiking, no-wake boating, jogging, horseback riding (with stipulations), beach use, and environmental education and interpretation. The areas and timing of public access will remain the same with some exceptions, including new boat-launching hours and jogging stipulations. Jogging will be allowed on the trail adjacent to the Refuge’s parking lots and along the west beach from the end of the upland forested trail to the Refuge’s western boundary. Horseback riding would be allowed with stipulations, on the beach west of where the main trail meets Dungeness Spit, if a safe and legal alternate access route can be obtained. If an alternate access route is obtained from the east, horseback riding on a Refuge-owned road to the beach would be allowed. Staff and volunteer time devoted to visitors and community outreach will increase. New orientation materials, regulatory signage, and volunteer opportunities will be developed.

The effects of climate change on Refuge resources will be considered during management activities, and we will reduce the Refuge’s carbon footprint. Invasive species will be monitored and controlled. Other management activities include fire management, maintenance of existing structures, coordination with State, Tribal, and other partners; cultural resources protection, and land protection within the approved Refuge boundary. All actions are subject to funding availability.

Public Availability of Documents

Printed copies will be available at the Refuge and at the following libraries:

- North Olympic Public Library Sequim Branch, 630 N. Sequim Ave., Sequim, WA 98382.
- North Olympic Public Library Port Angeles Branch, 2210 South Peabody St., Port Angeles, WA 98362.
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Kathy Konishi, Permit Coordinator, Ecological Services, (303) 236–4212 (phone); permitsR6ES@fws.gov (email).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) prohibits activities with endangered and threatened species unless a Federal permit allows such activity. Along with our implementing regulations in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 50 CFR part 17, the Act provides for permits and requires that we invite public comment before issuing these permits.

A permit granted by us under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Act authorizes the permittees to conduct activities with U.S. endangered or threatened species for scientific purposes, enhancement of propagation or survival, or interstate commerce (the latter only in the event that it facilitates scientific purposes or enhancement of propagation or survival). Our regulations implementing section 10(a)(1)(A) for these permits are found at 50 CFR 17.22 for endangered wildlife species, 50 CFR 17.32 for threatened wildlife species, 50 CFR 17.62 for endangered plant species, and 50 CFR 17.72 for threatened plant species.

Applications Available for Review and Comment

We invite local, State, and Federal agencies and the public to comment on the following applications. Documents and other information the applicants have submitted with their applications are available for review, subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a) and Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552).

Permit Application Number TE080647
Applicant: Wildlife Specialties, LLC, P.O. Box 1231, Lyons, CO.

The applicant requests a permit to conduct presence/absence surveys in Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico for Southwestern willow flycatcher (Empidonax traillii extimus) for the purpose of enhancing the species’ survival.

Permit Application Number TE96435A
Applicant: Laura Steger, 2169 East Francisco Blvd., Suite G, San Rafael, CA.

The applicant requests a permit to conduct presence/absence surveys in Colorado for Southwestern willow flycatcher (Empidonax traillii extimus) for the purpose of enhancing the species’ survival.

National Environmental Policy Act

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), we have made an initial determination that the proposed activities in these permits are categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement (516 DM 6 Appendix 1, 1.4C(1)).

Public Availability of Comments

All comments and materials we receive in response to these requests will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the address listed in the ADDRESSES section of this notice.

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

We provide this notice under section 10 of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

Dated: November 6, 2013.

Michael G. Thabault,
Assistant Regional Director, Mountain-Prairie Region.

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

National Park Service

[NPS–WASS–NRRS–SSD–14447; PPWWONRADA0, PPMRSNR1Y.NA0000]

Proposed Information Collection; Visibility Valuation Survey

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We (National Park 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...