

42(h)(4)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code (Code), the lists are effective if the bonds are issued and the building is placed in service after December 31, 2003.

HUD typically issues a notice in the **Federal Register** in the last quarter of a calendar year designating Difficult Development Areas for the forthcoming calendar year. HUD attempts to publish the designation notice early enough to allow low-income housing tax credit (LIHTC) allocating agencies sufficient time to ensure applicant projects in DDAs and QCTs. HUD did not publish the 2004 notice until December 19, 2003, which did not provide adequate time before the effective date for allocating agencies or applicants for tax credits or tax-exempt bond financing to take actions to meet the conditions necessary to capture the benefits of the 2003 DDA designations before they expired.

Therefore, on November 2, 2004 (69 FR 63551), HUD published a notice amending the 2004 notice to extend 2003 eligibility for areas that were designated as 2003 DDAs in a notice published on December 12, 2002 (67 FR 76451) (the 2003 notice) but were not so designated in the 2004 notice. The November 2, 2004, notice (the 2004 amendatory notice) established an applicant for LIHTCs must submit to its credit-allocating agency a complete application filed after December 31, 2002, and before December 17, 2004. (Emphasis added).

It has come to HUD's attention that the phrasing of the end date of the effective time period of the extended 2003 Difficult Development Areas as "before December 17, 2004," was misinterpreted by an LIHTC-allocating agency in establishing its due date for applications. This LIHTC-allocating agency required that applications be submitted on or before December 17, 2004. The result was that some applications for LIHTC assistance for projects to be located in the extended 2003 Difficult Development Areas came in one day past the end of the extended effective period of the 2003 Difficult Development Areas, which ended on December 16, 2004. HUD has determined that financing arrangements for these affordable housing developments, made in good faith and contingent on the applicability of the extended 2003 Difficult Development Areas, should not be jeopardized by any confusion caused by misinterpretation of its notice.

Therefore, through this notice, HUD changes the 2004 amendatory notice so that the effective date language pertaining to 2003 Difficult

Development areas that were not designated 2004 Difficult Development Areas reads "on or before December 17, 2004," everywhere such phrases appear in the 2004 amendatory notice.

Dated: April 5, 2006.

**Darlene F. Williams,**

*Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research.*

[FR Doc. E6-5242 Filed 4-10-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4210-67-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Crocodile Lake National Wildlife Refuge

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of the Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Finding of No Significant Impact for Crocodile Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Monroe County, Florida.

**SUMMARY:** The Fish and Wildlife Service announces that a Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Finding of No Significant Impact for Crocodile Lake National Wildlife Refuge are available for distribution. The plan was prepared pursuant to the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, and in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and describes how the refuge will be managed for the next 15 years.

**ADDRESSES:** A copy of the plan may be obtained by writing to the National Key Deer Refuge, 28950 Watson Boulevard, Big Pine Key, Florida 33043. The plan may also be accessed and downloaded from the Service's Internet Web site <http://southeast.fws.gov/planning/>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Crocodile Lake National Wildlife Refuge is located on North Key Largo in Monroe County, Florida, approximately 40 miles southeast of Miami. The refuge was established in April 1980 under the authorities of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended), and the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (as amended in 1976). It currently covers 6,700 acres, including 650 acres of open water. It contains a mosaic of habitat types including tropical hardwood hammock, mangrove forests, and salt marshes. These habitats are vital for hundreds of plants and animals, including six federally listed species.

The availability of the Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment for a 60-day

public review and comment period was announced in the Federal Register on August 16, 2005 (70 FR 48187). The plan and environmental assessment identified and evaluated three alternatives for managing the refuge over the next 15 years. Alternative 2 was chosen as the "preferred alternative." Under Alternative 2, 6,700 acres of refuge lands will be conserved, maintained, and enhanced. Increased efforts related to habitat restoration, exotics control, pest management, and monitoring are characteristics of this alternative. The increased management action will help to achieve the long-term goals and objectives in a timelier manner. This alternative will result in a more ecosystem-based management approach will views the refuge as a single system rather than separate habitat types. Federally listed species will still be primary concern, but needs of other resident and migratory wildlife will also be considered. This alternative will be the most effective for meeting the purposes of the refuge by conserving habitats and associated wildlife. It best achieves national, ecosystem, and refuge-specific goals and objectives and positively addresses significant issues and concerns expressed by the public.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Van Fischer, Natural Resource Planner, National Key Deer Refuge Complex; telephone: 305/872-2239; Fax: 305/872-3675; E-mail: [van\\_fischer@fws.gov](mailto:van_fischer@fws.gov).

**Authority:** This notice is published under the authority of the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, Public Law 105-57.

Dated: February 23, 2006.

**Cynthia K. Dohner,**

*Acting Regional Director.*

[FR Doc. 06-3434 Filed 4-10-06; 8:45am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-55-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Initiation of 5-Year Reviews of 70 Species in Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and Hawaii, and Guam

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of review.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, announce the initiation of a 5-year review of 70 species under section 4(c)(2)(B) of the Endangered Species Act (Act). The purpose of a 5-year review is to ensure that the classification of a species as threatened or endangered on the List of

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants is accurate and consistent with the best scientific and commercial data currently available. We are requesting submission of any such information that has become available since the original listing of each of the 70 species identified in Table 1 below. Based on the results of these 5-year reviews, we will determine whether any species should be proposed for removal from the list or its listing status should be changed pursuant to section 4(c)(2)(B) of the Act.

**DATES:** We must receive your information no later than June 12, 2006. However, we will continue to accept new information about any listed species at any time.

**ADDRESSES:** See "Public Solicitation of New Information" section for

instructions on how to submit information.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For species-specific information, contact the appropriate individual named in "Public Solicitation of New Information."

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Why Is a 5-year Review Conducted?

Under the Endangered Species Act (Act) (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), we maintain a List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants (List) at 50 CFR 17.11 (for animals) and 17.12 (for plants). Section 4(c)(2)(A) of the Act requires that we conduct a review of listed species at least once every 5 years. Then, on the basis of such reviews under section 4(c)(2)(B), we determine whether or not any species should be removed from the List (delisted), or

reclassified from endangered to threatened or from threatened to endangered. Delisting a species must be supported by the best scientific and commercial data available and only considered if such data substantiates that the species is neither endangered nor threatened for one or more of the following reasons: (1) The species is considered extinct; (2) the species is considered to be recovered; and/or (3) the original data available when the species was listed, or the interpretation of such data, were in error (50 CFR 424.11(d)). Any change in Federal classification would require a separate rulemaking process. The regulations in 50 CFR 424.21 require that we publish a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing those species currently under active review. This notice announces our active review of the 70 species listed in Table 1.

TABLE 1.—SUMMARY OF THE LISTING INFORMATION FOR THE FOLLOWING 70 SPECIES IN IDAHO, OREGON, WASHINGTON, HAWAII, AND GUAM.

Common name	Scientific name	Status	Where listed	Final listing rule
<b>Animals:</b>				
Sucker, Warner .....	<i>Catostomus warnerensis</i> .....	Threatened ..	U.S.A. (OR) .....	50 FR 39117 (27–SEP–85)
Chub, Hutton tui .....	<i>Gila bicolor</i> ssp. ....	Threatened ..	U.S.A. (OR) .....	50 FR 12302 (28–MAR–85)
Chub, Borax Lake .....	<i>Gila boraxobius</i> .....	Endangered	U.S.A. (OR) .....	47 FR 43957 (05–OCT–82)
Dace, Fosskett speckled ...	<i>Rhinichthys osculus</i> ssp. ....	Threatened ..	U.S.A. (OR) .....	50 FR 12302 (28–MAR–85)
Snail, Utah valvata .....	<i>Valvata utahensis</i> .....	Endangered	U.S.A. (ID, UT) .....	57 FR 59244 (14–DEC–92)
Springsnail, Bruneau Hot	<i>Pyrgulopsis bruneauensis</i> .....	Endangered	U.S.A. (ID) .....	63 FR 32981 (17–JUN–98)
Limpet, Banbury Springs	<i>Lanx</i> sp. ....	Endangered	U.S.A. (ID) .....	57 FR 59244 (14–DEC–92)
Caribou, woodland .....	<i>Rangifer tarandus caribou</i> .....	Endangered	U.S.A. (ID, WA); Canada (SE. B.C.).	49 FR 7390 (29–FEB–84)
Akepa, Maui (honeycreeper).	<i>Loxops coccineus ochraceus</i>	Endangered	U.S.A. (HI) .....	35 FR 16047 (13–OCT–70)
Creeper, Oahu .....	<i>Paroreomyza maculata</i> .....	Endangered	U.S.A. (HI) .....	35 FR 16047 (13–OCT–70)
Finch, Laysan (honeycreeper).	<i>Telespyza cantans</i> .....	Endangered	U.S.A. (HI) .....	32 FR 4001 (11–MAR–67)
Kingfisher, Guam Micro-nesian.	<i>Halcyon cinnamomina cinnamomina</i> .	Endangered	Western Pacific Ocean U.S.A. (Guam).	49 FR 33885 (27–AUG–84)
Nukupu'u (honeycreeper)	<i>Hemignathus lucidus</i> .....	Endangered	U.S.A. (HI) .....	32 FR 4001 (11–MAR–67), 35 FR 16047 (13–OCT–70)
Po'ouli (honeycreeper) ...	<i>Melamprosops phaeosoma</i> ....	Endangered	U.S.A. (HI) .....	40 FR 44151 (25–SEP–75)
<b>Plants:</b>				
MacFarlane's four-o'clock	<i>Mirabilis macfarlanei</i> .....	Threatened ..	U.S.A. (ID, OR) .....	61 FR 10693 (15–MAR–96)
Liliwai .....	<i>Acaena exigua</i> .....	Endangered	U.S.A. (HI) .....	57 FR 20772 (05–MAY–92)
Olulu .....	<i>Brighamia insignis</i> .....	Endangered	U.S.A. (HI) .....	59 FR 9304 (02–FEB–94)
Pua 'ala .....	<i>Brighamia rockii</i> .....	Endangered	U.S.A. (HI) .....	57 FR 46325 (08–OCT–92)
'Oha wai .....	<i>Clermontia peleana</i> .....	Endangered	U.S.A. (HI) .....	59 FR 10305 (04–MAR–94)
Haha .....	<i>Cyanea dunbariae</i> .....	Endangered	U.S.A. (HI) .....	61 FR 53130 (10–OCT–96)
Haha .....	<i>Cyanea macrostegia</i> ssp. <i>gibsonii</i> [ <i>Cyanea gibsonii</i> ].	Endangered	U.S.A. (HI) .....	56 FR 47686 (20–SEP–91)
Haha .....	<i>Cyanea mceldowneyi</i> .....	Endangered	U.S.A. (HI) .....	57 FR 20772 (05–MAY–92)
Haha .....	<i>Cyanea procera</i> .....	Endangered	U.S.A. (HI) .....	57 FR 46325 (08–OCT–92)
Haha .....	<i>Cyanea undulata</i> .....	Endangered	U.S.A. (HI) .....	56 FR 47695 (20–SEP–91)
Ha'i'wale .....	<i>Cyrtandra subumbellata</i> .....	Endangered	U.S.A. (HI) .....	61 FR 53089 (10–OCT–96)
No common name .....	<i>Delissea rhytidosperra</i> .....	Endangered	U.S.A. (HI) .....	59 FR 9304 (25–FEB–94)
Oha .....	<i>Delissea subcordata</i> .....	Endangered	U.S.A. (HI) .....	61 FR 53089 (10–OCT–96)
No common name .....	<i>Diellia pallida</i> .....	Endangered	U.S.A. (HI) .....	59 FR 9304 (25–FEB–94)
Na'ena'e .....	<i>Dubautia herbstobatae</i> .....	Endangered	U.S.A. (HI) .....	56 FR 55770 (29–OCT–91)
Nioi .....	<i>Eugenia koolauensis</i> .....	Endangered	U.S.A. (HI) .....	59 FR 14482 (28–MAR–9)
Hawaiian gardenia (=Na'u).	<i>Gardenia brighamii</i> .....	Endangered	U.S.A. (HI) .....	50 FR 33 (21–AUG–85)
Nanu .....	<i>Gardenia mannii</i> .....	Endangered	U.S.A. (HI) .....	61 FR 53089 (10–OCT–96)
Kio'ele .....	<i>Hedyotis coriacea</i> .....	Endangered	U.S.A. (HI) .....	57 FR 20772 (15–MAY–92)
No common name .....	<i>Hedyotis parvula</i> .....	Endangered	U.S.A. (HI) .....	56 FR 55770 (29–OCT–91)

TABLE 1.—SUMMARY OF THE LISTING INFORMATION FOR THE FOLLOWING 70 SPECIES IN IDAHO, OREGON, WASHINGTON, HAWAII, AND GUAM.—Continued

Common name	Scientific name	Status	Where listed	Final listing rule
Kopa .....	<i>Hedyotis schlechtendahlia</i> var. <i>remyi</i> .....	Endangered	U.S.A. (HI) .....	64 FR 48307 (03–SEP–9)
Clay's hibiscus .....	<i>Hibiscus clayi</i> .....	Endangered	U.S.A. (HI) .....	59 FR 9304 (25–FEB–94)
Hau kuahiwi .....	<i>Hibiscadelphus giffardianus</i> ...	Endangered	U.S.A. (HI) .....	61 FR 53137 (10–OCT–96)
Hau kuahiwi .....	<i>Hibiscadelphus hualalaiensis</i> .....	Endangered	U.S.A. (HI) .....	61 FR 53137 (10–OCT–96)
Kula wahine noho .....	<i>Isodendron pyriform</i> .....	Endangered	U.S.A. (HI) .....	59 FR 10305 (04–MAR–94)
Kohe malamalama o kanaloa.	<i>Kanaloa kahoolawensis</i> .....	Endangered	U.S.A. (HI) .....	64 FR 48307 (03–SEP–99)
Cooke's koki'o .....	<i>Kokia cookei</i> .....	Endangered	U.S.A. (HI) .....	44 FR 62470 (30–OCT–79)
Kamakahala .....	<i>Labordia cyrtandrae</i> .....	Endangered	U.S.A. (HI) .....	61 FR 53089 (10–OCT–96)
Kamakahala .....	<i>Labordia triflora</i> .....	Endangered	U.S.A. (HI) .....	64 FR 48307 (03–SEP–99)
No common name .....	<i>Lobelia monostachya</i> .....	Endangered	U.S.A. (HI) .....	61 FR 53089 (10–OCT–96)
No common name .....	<i>Lysimachia maxima</i> .....	Endangered	U.S.A. (HI) .....	61 FR 53130 (10–OCT–96)
Alani .....	<i>Melicope adscendens</i> .....	Endangered	U.S.A. (HI) .....	59 FR 62346 (05–DEC–94)
Alani .....	<i>Melicope mucronulata</i> .....	Endangered	U.S.A. (HI) .....	57 FR 20772 (15–MAY–92)
Alani .....	<i>Melicope zahlbruckneri</i> .....	Endangered	U.S.A. (HI) .....	61 FR 53137 (10–OCT–96)
Kolea .....	<i>Myrsine juddii</i> .....	Endangered	U.S.A. (HI) .....	61 FR 53089 (10–OCT–96)
No common name .....	<i>Neraudia angulata</i> .....	Endangered	U.S.A. (HI) .....	56 FR 55770 (29–OCT–91)
No common name .....	<i>Neraudia ovata</i> .....	Endangered	U.S.A. (HI) .....	61 FR 53137 (10–OCT–9)
Kulu'i .....	<i>Nototrichium humile</i> .....	Endangered	U.S.A. (HI) .....	56 FR 55770 (29–OCT–91)
Lau 'ehu .....	<i>Panicum niihauense</i> .....	Endangered	U.S.A. (HI) .....	61 FR 53108 (10–OCT–96)
No common name .....	<i>Phyllostegia hirsuta</i> .....	Endangered	U.S.A. (HI) .....	61 FR 53089 (10–OCT–96)
No common name .....	<i>Phyllostegia kaalaensis</i> .....	Endangered	U.S.A. (HI) .....	61 FR 53089 (10–OCT–96)
No common name .....	<i>Phyllostegia parviflora</i> .....	Endangered	U.S.A. (HI) .....	61 FR 53108 (10–OCT–96)
No common name .....	<i>Phyllostegia waimeae</i> .....	Endangered	U.S.A. (HI) .....	59 FR 9304 (25–FEB–94)
Lo'ulu .....	<i>Pritchardia kaalae</i> .....	Endangered	U.S.A. (HI) .....	61 FR 53089 (10–OCT–96)
Lo'ulu .....	<i>Pritchardia viscosa</i> .....	Endangered	U.S.A. (HI) .....	61 FR 53070 (10–OCT–96)
No common name .....	<i>Sanicula mariversa</i> .....	Endangered	U.S.A. (HI) .....	56 FR 55770 (29–OCT–91)
Diamond Head Schiedea	<i>Schiedea adamantis</i> .....	Endangered	U.S.A. (HI) .....	49 FR 6099 (17–FEB–84)
No common name .....	<i>Schiedea kaalae</i> .....	Endangered	U.S.A. (HI) .....	56 FR 55770 (29–OCT–91)
No common name .....	<i>Schiedea kauaiensis</i> .....	Endangered	U.S.A. (HI) .....	61 FR 53108 (10–OCT–96)
No common name .....	<i>Silene alexandri</i> .....	Endangered	U.S.A. (HI) .....	57 FR 46325 (08–OCT–92)
No common name .....	<i>Silene perlmanii</i> .....	Endangered	U.S.A. (HI) .....	56 FR 55770 (29–OCT–91)
Popolo ku mai .....	<i>Solanum incompletum</i> .....	Endangered	U.S.A. (HI) .....	59 FR 56333 (10–NOV–94)
No common name .....	<i>Stenogyne kanehoana</i> .....	Endangered	U.S.A. (HI) .....	57 FR 20592 (13–MAY–92)
No common name .....	<i>Tetramolopium filiforme</i> .....	Endangered	U.S.A. (HI) .....	56 FR 55770 (29–OCT–91)
Pamakani .....	<i>Viola chamissoniana</i> ssp. <i>chamissoniana</i> .	Endangered	U.S.A. (HI) .....	56 FR 55770 (29–OCT–91)
No common name .....	<i>Viola helenae</i> .....	Endangered	U.S.A. (HI) .....	56 FR 47695 (20–SEP–91)

### What Information Is Considered in the Review?

A 5-year review considers all new information available at the time of the review. In conducting these reviews, we consider the best scientific and commercial data that has become available since the current listing determination or most recent status review, such as:

A. Species biology including, but not limited to, population trends, distribution, abundance, demographics, and genetics;

B. Habitat conditions including, but not limited to, amount, distribution, and suitability;

C. Conservation measures that have been implemented that benefit the species;

D. Threat status and trends (see five factors under heading "How Do We Determine Whether a Species Is Endangered or Threatened?"); and

E. Other new information, data, or corrections including, but not limited

to, taxonomic or nomenclatural changes, identification of erroneous information contained in the List, and improved analytical methods.

### How Do We Determine Whether a Species Is Endangered or Threatened?

Section 4(a)(1) of the Act requires that we determine whether a species is endangered or threatened based on one or more of the five following factors:

A. The present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range;

B. Overutilization for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes;

C. Disease or predation;

D. The inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms; or

E. Other natural or manmade factors affecting its continued existence.

Our assessment of these factors is required, under section 4(b)(1) of the Act, to be based solely on the best

scientific and commercial data available.

### What Could Happen as a Result of This Review?

If we find information concerning the 70 species listed in Table 1 indicating that a change in classification may be warranted, we may propose a new rule that could do one of the following: (a) Reclassify the species from threatened to endangered; (b) reclassify the species from endangered to threatened; or (c) remove the species from the List. If we find that a change in classification is not warranted, the species will remain on the List under its current status.

### Public Solicitation of New Information

To ensure that these 5-year reviews are complete and based on the best available scientific and commercial information, we solicit new information from the public, governmental agencies, Tribes, the scientific community, environmental entities, industry, and

any other interested parties concerning the status of the species.

If you wish to provide information for any species included in these 5-year reviews, submit your comments and materials to the Field Supervisors at the appropriate Fish and Wildlife Office listed below. Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Respondents may request that we withhold a respondent's identity, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name or address, you must state this request prominently at the beginning of your comment. To the extent consistent with applicable law, we will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety. Comments and materials received will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the offices where the comments are submitted.

For the species under review, submit information and direct species specific questions to the addresses and individuals as follows:

For the Warner sucker, Hutton tui chub, Borax Lake chub, and the Fosskett speckled dace, submit information to the following address: Field Supervisor, Attention: 5-Year Review, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bend Field Office, 20310 Empire Avenue, Suite A 100, Bend, OR 97701, or at [FW1OR5yearReview@fws.gov](mailto:FW1OR5yearReview@fws.gov). For information concerning these species, contact Alan Mauer at 541-383-7146.

For the Bruneau hot springsnail, Banbury Springs limpet (lanx), MacFarlane's four-o'clock, and the Utah valvata snail, submit information to the following address: Field Supervisor, Attention: 5-Year Review, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Snake River Fish and Wildlife Office, 1387 South Vinnell Way, Suite 368, Boise, ID 83709, or at [fws1srbocomments@fws.gov](mailto:fws1srbocomments@fws.gov). For information concerning these species, contact Susan Burch at 208-378-5262.

For the Woodland caribou (Selkirk Mountain), submit information to the following address: Field Supervisor, Attention: 5-Year Review, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Upper Columbia Fish and Wildlife Office, 11103 E. Montgomery Drive, Spokane, WA 99206, or at [fw1caribou@fws.gov](mailto:fw1caribou@fws.gov). For information concerning these species, contact Suzanne Audet at 509-893-8002.

For the Hawaiian and Guam species, submit information to the following address: Field Supervisor, Attention: 5-Year Review, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office, 300 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 3-122, Honolulu, HI 96850, or at [pifwo-5yr-review@fws.gov](mailto:pifwo-5yr-review@fws.gov). For information concerning these species, contact Gina Shultz at 808-792-9400.

#### Authority

This document is published under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Dated: April 4, 2006.

David J. Wesley,

Acting Regional Director, Region 1, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. E6-5251 Filed 4-10-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Notice of Availability of the Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment for D'Arbonne National Wildlife Refuge in Ouachita and Union Parishes, LA

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** The Fish and Wildlife Service announces that a Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment for D'Arbonne National Wildlife Refuge are available for review and comment. The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, requires the Service to develop a comprehensive conservation plan for each national wildlife refuge. The purpose in developing a comprehensive conservation plan 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, 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, plans identify wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities available to the public, including opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, wildlife photography, and environmental education and interpretation.

Significant issues addressed in the draft plan include: Bottomland hardwood forest management and restoration, integrity of mixed pine and hardwood forests, invasive plants, waterfowl management, neotropical migratory birds, species of concern, and level of visitor services.

**DATES:** An open house will be held to provide clarification and explanation of the plan to the public. Mailings, a news release to newspapers and radio, and flyers will be used to inform the public of the date and time for the open house. Individuals should comment on the Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment for D'Arbonne National Wildlife Refuge no later than May 11, 2006.

**ADDRESSES:** Requests for copies of the draft plan and environmental assessment should be addressed to the Planning Team Leader, D'Arbonne National Wildlife Refuge, 11372 Highway 143, Farmerville, Louisiana 71241; or by calling 318/726-4222, extension 5. The plan and environmental assessment may also be accessed and downloaded from the Service's Internet Web site <http://southeast.fws.gov/planning>. Comments on the draft plan may be submitted to the above address or via electronic mail to [Lindy.Garner@fws.gov](mailto:Lindy.Garner@fws.gov). Please include your name and return address in your Internet message. Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home addresses from the record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Service developed three alternatives for managing the refuge and chose Alternative A as the preferred alternative.

#### Alternatives

Alternative A, the preferred alternative, emphasizes management actions that mimic or enhance natural ecological processes. The biological program would be enhanced with an increase in inventory and monitoring programs so that adaptive management could be more effectively implemented. Adaptive management would primarily benefit migratory bird management and forest management. Migratory bird use and nesting success on the refuge would be closely evaluated utilizing research partnerships. Partnerships would be developed to establish scientifically valid protocols and collaborative research projects for data that would