Regional Paperwork Reduction Act

Title of Proposal: Construction Complaint-Request for Financial Assistance.

OMB Approval Number: 2502-0047.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Williamson, Jackson, and Union Counties, IL

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The Fish and Wildlife Service announces that the Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is available for Crab Orchard NWR, Illinois.

The CCP/EIS was prepared pursuant to the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1996, as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Goals and Objectives in the CCP describe how the agency intends to manage the refuge over the next 15 years.

DATES: Comments on the Draft CCP/EIS must be received on or before January 17, 2006.

ADDRESS: Copies of the Draft CCP/EIS are available on compact disk or hard copy, you may obtain a copy by writing to: Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Conservation Planning, Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Building, 1 Federal Drive, Fort Snelling, Minnesota 55111 or you may access and download a copy via the planning Web site at http://www.fws.gov/midwest/planning/craborchard/index.html.

All comments should be addressed to Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge, Attention: CCP Comment, 8588 Route 148, Marion, IL 62959, or direct e-mail to r3planning@fws.gov. Comments may also be submitted through the Service’s regional Web site at http://www.fws.gov/midwest/planning.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dan Frisk at 618/997–3344.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Located in southern Illinois and consisting of 43,888 acres, Crab Orchard NWR was established in 1947. In late 2000 we asked citizens for their ideas on what the comprehensive conservation plan should include and the issues that should be addressed. We gave citizens the opportunity to comment at open houses and through written comments. In three meetings early in 2001, we asked a diverse group of stakeholders to identify and prioritize issues facing the Refuge.

Five alternative approaches to management, including a Preferred Alternative and a No Action (Current Management) Alternative, were considered for Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge. The five alternatives are described and evaluated in the Draft EIS. All alternatives would achieve the Refuge’s purposes of wildlife conservation, agriculture, recreation, and industry. Under all alternatives, group camps and most non-wildlife dependent recreation would remain; technical rock climbing would be prohibited; a modified recreational fee structure would be implemented; a 14-day camping limit would be instituted; management of sport fish populations would continue; use of prescribed fire would increase; and the agricultural acres would not change by more than 5 percent. All alternatives would maintain food required for wintering Canada geese. Alternative A would continue the present course of management. Alternative B would reduce habitat fragmentation and emphasize wildlife-dependent recreation. A land exchange with Southern Illinois University would be a significant part of this alternative. Alternative C would emphasize management of open lands and consolidate and improve recreation facilities. Alternative D would emphasize management of forest lands and consolidate and improve recreation facilities. Alternative E, the preferred alternative, would reduce habitat fragmentation and consolidate and improve recreation facilities. Conflicts among water users would be addressed by increasing areas designated as no-wake zones and better enforcement of current use zoning regulations. The quality of campgrounds and marinas would be increased by consolidating and improving them. The agricultural program would remain largely as is and its economic effect continues. The industrial program would continue to support the munitions manufacturing industry. By encouraging other industries to locate in nearby industrial parks, the economic effect of the industry would remain in the local economy, and the needs of the industry would be met more efficiently. Increased efforts would be made to talk with and listen to the community.

The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Intent to Prepare a Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment for Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is preparing a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and Environmental Assessment (EA) document for Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). This notice advises the public that the Service intends to gather information necessary to prepare a CCP and an EA pursuant to the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended, and the National Environmental Policy Act. The public is invited to participate in the planning process. The Service is furnishing this notice in compliance with the Service’s CCP policy of:

1. Advise other agencies and the public of our intentions; and
2. Obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues to include in the environmental documents.

The Service will solicit information from the public via open houses, meetings, and written comments. Special mailings, newspaper articles, refuge Web site postings, and announcements will provide information regarding opportunities for public involvement in the planning process. The first public meetings are scheduled for the week of November 7, 2005.

DATES: Please provide written comments to the address below by December 1, 2005.

Send Comments To: Thomas Bonetti, Refuge Planner, Fish and Wildlife Service, 300 Westgate Center Drive, Hadley, Massachusetts, 01035.

Additional information is available on the refuge Web site at: http://primehook.fws.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas Bonetti, Refuge Planner, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 300 Westgate Center Drive, Hadley, Massachusetts, 01035, 413–253–8307; or e-mail northeastplanning@fws.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with 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), the Service is to manage all lands within the National Wildlife Refuge System in accordance with an approved CCP. The plan guides management decisions and identifies refuge goals, long-range objectives, and strategies for achieving refuge purposes. The planning process will consider many elements, including wildlife and habitat management, public recreational activities such as hunting and fishing, and cultural resource protection. Public input into the planning process is essential.

The CCP will provide other agencies and the public with information regarding the future desired conditions for the refuge and how the Service will implement management strategies. The Service will prepare an EA in accordance with procedures for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321–4370d). Concurrent with the CCP process, the Service will conduct a wilderness review and incorporate a summary of the review into the CCP, as well as include compatibility determinations for all applicable refuge uses.

In 1963, Prime Hook NWR was established under the authority of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act for use as an inviolate sanctuary, or any other management purpose, expressly for migratory birds. Many farms and residences were once present on what is now the refuge. Prime Hook NWR was established primarily to preserve coastal wetlands as wintering and breeding habitat for migratory waterfowl. It is located on the west shore of Delaware Bay, 22 miles southeast of Dover, Delaware. Refuge habitat types are varied and are currently managed to maintain a diversity of wildlife species. Prime Hook NWR consists of over 9,700 acres, of which 7,400 acres are fresh marsh, tidal marsh, and open water. Other habitats include 1,000 acres of timber and brush and 1,300 acres of grasslands and croplands. Data collection has been initiated to create computerized mapping, including vegetation, topography, habitat types and existing land uses.

Comments received will be used to help identify key issues and to develop refuge goals, habitat management and visitor services strategies. Additional opportunities for public participation will occur throughout the planning process, which is expected to be completed in 2008. The outcome of this planning process will be a CCP to guide refuge management for the next 15 years.

Dated: September 21, 2005.

Richard O. Bennett,
Acting Regional Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Hadley, Massachusetts.

[FR Doc. 05–20682 Filed 10–14–05; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310–55–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

[CA 668–05–1610–PG–083A]

Monument Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule for Fiscal Year 2006


ACTION: Notice of meetings for FY’06.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and United States Forest Service (USFS) announce the schedule for meetings of the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Advisory Committee (hereinafter referred to as MAC), for fiscal year 2006.

All meetings begin at 9 a.m. and will be held in the Palm Desert City Council Conference Room, located at 73–510 Fred Waring Drive, Palm Desert California; and will begin at 9 a.m.