DATES: A Record of Decision will be signed by the Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 3, Fort Snelling, Minnesota, no sooner than 30 days after publication of this notice by the Environmental Protection Agency, in the Federal Register.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the Final CCP/EIS may be viewed at the Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters and public libraries near the refuge. You may access and download a copy via the Planning Web site at http://www.fws.gov/midwest/planning/craborchard, or you may obtain a copy on compact disk by contacting: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Conservation Planning, Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Building, 1 Federal Drive, Fort Snelling, Minnesota 55111 (1–800–247–1247, extension 5429) or Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge, 8588 Route 148, Marion, IL, 62959 (618–997–3344). A limited number of hardcopies will be available for distribution at the Refuge Headquarters.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Located in southern Illinois and consisting of 43,888 acres, Crab Orchard NWR was established in 1947 for wildlife, agriculture, recreation, and industry. The Draft CCP/EIS was released for public review October 17, 2005, (70 FR 60364–60365, October 17, 2005) for a 90-day comment period ending January 17, 2006. The Refuge hosted a public meeting attended by 145 people. In addition, the refuge manager met with 10 groups to explain the contents of the Draft CCP/EIS and receive comments. We received comments via letters, e-mails, and comment forms from 643 correspondents and we received one petition with 592 signatures.

In response to public and agency comments, several changes were made to Alternative E, the preferred alternative, for the Final CCP/EIS. These changes include a reduction in the size of the proposed no-wake zone on Crab Orchard Lake; an increase in the size of the area proposed for gas motor use on Devils Kitchen Lake; retention of primitive sites at Devils Kitchen Campground rather than closure of the campground; inclusion of an objective and strategies for the management of conservation easements; and inclusion of an objective and strategies for management of forests to favor oak-hickory over maple. Typographical and editorial corrections were made throughout the document and additional discussion was included to clarify meaning and intentions related to the 14-day stay limit in campgrounds, recreation fee program, and the small fishing contest policy.

When the Record of Decision is available, we will publish a notice of availability in the Federal Register. The Record of Decision will document which alternative in the Final CCP/EIS will become the 15-year CCP for the Refuge.

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 et seq.), requires the Service 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, consistent with sound principles of fish and wildlife management, conservation, legal mandates, and Service policies. In addition to outlining broad management direction for conserving wildlife and their habitats, the CCP identifies 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 these CCPs at least every 15 years in accordance with the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321–4370d).


Robyn Thorsen,
Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Fort Snelling, Minnesota.

[FR Doc. E6–14561 Filed 8–31–06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–55–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

St. Catherine Creek National Wildlife Refuge

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.


SUMMARY: The Fish and Wildlife Service announces that a Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Finding of No Significant Impact for St. Catherine Creek 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 over the next 15 years.

ADDRESSES: A plan may be obtained by calling Randy Breland, Refuge Manager, at 601/442–6696; or by writing to the Refuge Manager, St. Catherine Creek National Wildlife Refuge, 76 Pintail Lane, Natchez, Mississippi 39120. The plan may also be accessed and downloaded from the Service’s Internet Web site at http://southeast.fws.gov/planning/.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The availability of the draft comprehensive conservation plan and environmental assessment for a 45-day review period was announced in the Federal Register on November 3, 2005 (70 FR 66845). The draft plan and environmental assessment evaluated four alternatives for managing the refuge. Alternative D was chosen as the preferred alternative. The preferred alternative will promote a greater understanding and protection of fish, wildlife, and their habitats, and quality, balanced recreational opportunities for visitors. Hunting and fishing will continue with greater emphasis on the quality of the experience. Education and interpretation will be promoted with regular programs and partnerships with local schools. Wildlife observation and photography opportunities will be expanded, including a birding trail and observation tower. A new visitor center and headquarters office will be constructed with space for interpretation, educational programming, and staff.

Research studies on the refuge will be fostered and partnerships developed with other agencies and universities, providing needed resources and experiment sites, while meeting the needs of the refuge’s wildlife and habitat management programs. Research will also benefit efforts throughout southwest Mississippi to conserve, enhance, restore, and manage native habitat. New surveys on birds, reptiles, and amphibians will be initiated to develop baseline information.

Additional staff will include administrative, biological, and outreach personnel to accomplish objectives for establishing baseline data on refuge resources, managing habitats, providing opportunities and facilities for wildlife observation and photography, providing educational programs that promote a greater understanding of refuge
resources, and protecting natural and cultural resources and refuge visitors.

Under this alternative, the refuge will continue to seek acquisition of lands within the present acquisition boundary. Lands acquired as part of the refuge will be made available for compatible wildlife-dependent recreation and environmental education opportunities, where appropriate. Lands that provide high-quality habitat and connectivity to existing refuge lands will be priority acquisitions. Equally important acquisition tools to be used include: transfer lands, partnerships with conservation organizations, conservation easements with adjacent landowners, and leases/cooperative agreements with state agencies.

Public comments were requested, considered, and incorporated throughout the planning process in numerous ways. Public outreach included open houses, public meetings, technical workgroups, planning update mailings, and Federal Register notices. During the draft comprehensive conservation plan/environmental assessment comment period, the Service received several comments, which were incorporated, when appropriate, and responded to in the comprehensive conservation plan.

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


Cynthia K. Dohner,
Acting Regional Director.

Editorial Note: This document was received at the Office of the Federal Register on August 29, 2006.

[FR Doc. 06–7381 Filed 8–31–06; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310–55–M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
[UT–020–02–2640–HO–UTZA]

Notice of Temporary Closure of the Manning Canyon Area

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Extension of Notice of Temporary Closure, Manning Canyon Area.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Notice of Temporary Closure for the Manning Canyon area, first published in the Federal Register on October 29, 2002 page 66000, volume 67, number 209, is hereby extended until rehabilitation, and range, habitat, and watershed restoration are successful. The area described is hereby closed to all motorized vehicle and mechanized vehicle use to protect the rehabilitation efforts of the Manning Canyon hazardous material cleanups remediation project. The opening date for the West Manning Canyon and Lewiston roads will be determined by mutual agreement with Utah County. The public lands affected by this closure are all public lands within the following described area which is approximately 2,971 acres in size:

Manning Canyon Hazardous Material Cleanup Site

T. 6 S., R. 3 W., Salt Lake Meridian, Section 13, W1/2,
Section 14, all,
Section 15, all,
Section 22, E1/2, all public lands east of and
including the north-south road,
Section 23, all,
Section 24, S1/2 NE1/4, W1/2,
Section 26, all public lands east of the
West Manning Canyon Road,
Section 27, NE1/2 NW1/4, north of the
West Manning Canyon Road.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tim Ingwell, BLM Hazardous Material Specialist, Salt Lake Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, 2370 South 2300 West, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84119; (801) 977–4300, or e-mail him at tim_ingwell@ut.blm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This closure of the public lands to motorized vehicle and mechanized use will serve to protect the rehabilitation of the lands following the cleanup of hazardous material in Manning Canyon. The hazardous material consists of numerous mine tailings piles containing large concentrations of heavy metals, such as lead and arsenic. As a result of the cleanup of these hazardous mine tailings, large areas were re-contoured and reseeded and a repository was created to contain the tailings. These areas require protection until the rehabilitation actions are determined to be successful. A map depicting the closure area is available for public inspection at the Bureau of Land Management, Salt Lake Field Office.

The authority for establishing this restriction is found at 43 CFR 8364.1(a) and 43 CFR 8341.2. This restriction does not apply to:

(1) Any federal, state, local, or contract law enforcement officer, while in the performance of their official duties, or while enforcing this closure notice.

Violation of this closure is punishable by a fine not to exceed $100,000 and/or imprisonment not to exceed 12 months as provided in 43 CFR 8360–0.7 as further defined in 18 U.S.C. 3571.


Glenn A. Carpenter,
Field Office Manager.

[FR Doc. 06–7371 Filed 8–31–06; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310–55–M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
[WY–030–1310–DB]

Notice of Retraction of a Notice of Availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Atlantic Rim Natural Gas Development Project

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of retraction.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) inadvertently published a Notice of Availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Atlantic Rim Natural Gas Development Project in the Federal Register on Wednesday, August 9, 2006 (FR 71 45576). BLM will publish this Notice of Availability at a later date.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. David Simons, Project Lead, BLM Rawlins Field Office, 1300 N. Third Street, Rawlins, WY 82301.

Dated: August 9, 2006.

Robert A. Bennett,
State Director.

[FR Doc. 06–7369 Filed 8–31–06; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310–22–M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
[ID0420 1610 DP 034D]


AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA, 42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) and