or in addition to, oral statements at the hearing must be submitted to the Bridge Administrator at the address listed under ADDRESSES on or before September 14, 2006, to be included in the Public Hearing transcript.

Comments, including names and home addresses, may be published as part of the Final EIS. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

Information on Services for Individuals With Disabilities

For information about facilities or services for individuals with disabilities or to request special assistance at the meeting, contact the Commander (dpw), Thirteenth Coast Guard District. Please request these services by contacting the Bridge Administrator at the phone number under FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT or in writing at the address listed under ADDRESSES. Any requests for an oral or sign language interpreter must be received as soon as possible.

Dated: July 14, 2006.

N.E. Mpras,
Chief, Office of Bridge Administration, U.S. Coast Guard,
[FR Doc. E6–12472 Filed 8–1–06; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4910–15–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Intent To Prepare a Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, and Notification of Two Public Open House Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of intent and notice of two public open house meetings.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) intends to prepare a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge), and announces two public open house meetings. The Refuge is located in Clark County, Washington. The Service is furnishing this notice to: advise other agencies and the public of our intentions; and obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues to include in the CCP and associated environmental compliance document.

DATES: Two public open house meetings will be held. The first open house is scheduled for Thursday, September 14, 2006, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Ridgefield Community Center in Ridgefield, Washington (see ADDRESSES). The second open house is scheduled for Wednesday, September 20, 2006, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Vancouver Public Library, in Vancouver, Washington (see ADDRESSES). Please provide written comments on the scope of the CCP by November 3, 2006. All comments received from individuals become part of the official public record. Requests for such comments will be handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 as amended (NEPA), and Service and Department of the Interior policies and procedures.

ADDRESSES: Address comments, questions, and requests for further information to: Project Leader, Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Complex, P.O. Box 457, Ridgefield, WA 98642. Comments may be faxed to the Refuge at (360) 887–4109, or e-mailed to FW1PlanningComments@fws.gov. Additional information concerning the Refuge is available on the following Internet site: http://www.fws.gov/ridgefieldrefuges/. Addresses for the two public open house meeting locations follow.

1. Ridgefield Community Center, 210 North Main Avenue, Ridgefield, Washington 98642.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tim Bodeen, Project Leader, Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Complex, P.O. Box 457, Ridgefield, WA 98642, phone (360) 887–4106, and fax (360) 887–4109.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Service is furnishing this notice in accordance with the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (the Act) as amended (16 U.S.C. 668dd–668ee), NEPA, and their implementing regulations in order to: advise other agencies and the public of our intentions; and obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues to include in the CCP and associated NEPA document. Opportunities for public input will be announced throughout the CCP planning and development process. It is estimated that the draft CCP and NEPA document will be available for public review in May 2008.

By Federal law (the Act), all lands within the National Wildlife Refuge System will be managed in accordance with an approved CCP by 2012. A CCP guides a refuge’s management decisions and identifies long-range refuge goals, objectives, and strategies for achieving the purposes for which the refuge was established. During the CCP planning process many elements will be considered, including: Wildlife and habitat management, public use opportunities, and cultural resource protection. Public input during the planning process is essential. The CCP for the Ridgefield Refuge will describe desired conditions for the Refuge and the long-term goals, objectives, and strategies for achieving those conditions. The Service will prepare an associated NEPA document in accordance with procedures for implementing NEPA.

The Refuge’s approved boundary encompasses 6,170 acres of lower Columbia River bottomlands in Clark County, Washington; of this the Service owns approximately 5,217 acres. The Refuge was established in 1963 to provide habitat for wintering waterfowl, with an emphasis on dusky Canada geese after nesting areas in Alaska were severely impacted by the Great Alaska Earthquake of 1964.

Habitat types found on the Refuge include several subtypes of bottomland hardwood forest, managed pastures, old fields, croplands, bottomland (wet) prairies, Oregon white oak woodlands, western hemlock (mixed) forests, emergent marshes, open water marshes, and tidal riverine habitat. Populations of the endangered water hooeilla plant are found within the Refuge’s Blackwater Research Natural Area.

The Refuge provides important migratory and wintering habitat for numerous bird species, including six subspecies of Canada geese, swans, dabbling and diving ducks, bald eagles, and sandhill cranes. The Refuge also contains one of the largest great blue heron colonies in the State, and provides breeding habitat for bald eagles and many species of neotropical migratory birds.

Preliminary Issues, Concerns, and Opportunities

The following preliminary issues, concerns, and opportunities have been identified and will be addressed in the CCP. Additional issues will be identified during public scoping.
Habitat Management and Restoration: What actions shall the Service take to sustain and restore priority species and habitats over the next 15 years?

Public Use and Access: What type and level of recreation opportunities should be provided? Are existing Refuge access points and uses adequate and appropriate? Which areas of the Refuge should be managed as undisturbed sanctuary areas and which areas should be open to public use? How will the recently completed Cathlapotle Plankhouse fit into interpretation and education programs on the Refuge?

Invasive Species Control: How do invasive species affect functioning native systems, and what actions should be taken to reduce the incidence and spread of invasive species?

Cultural Resources: How will the Refuge protect and manage its significant archaeological and historic sites? What level and type of cultural resources education should be provided to the public?

Dated: July 26, 2006.

David J. Wesley,
Acting Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.

[FR Doc. E6–12424 Filed 8–1–06; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310–55–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Draft Safe Harbor Agreement and Application for an Enhancement of Survival Permit for the Chiricahua Leopard Frog in Arizona (State-Wide)


ACTION: Notice of availability; receipt of application.

SUMMARY: The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) (Applicant) has applied to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for an enhancement of survival permit pursuant to Section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act (Act), as amended. The requested permit, which is for a period of 50 years, would authorize incidental take of the threatened Chiricahua leopard frog (Rana chiricahuensis) as a result of conservation actions, on-going livestock operations, recreation, land treatments, and other existing land-use activities.

The Applicant would issue certificates of inclusion under a Safe Harbor Agreement (SHA) to private landowners who would voluntarily agree to implement appropriate conservation measures for the species. We invite the public to review and comment on the permit application and the associated draft SHA.

DATES: To ensure consideration, written comments must be received on or before September 1, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the application, draft SHA, or other related documents may obtain a copy by written or telephone request to the Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arizona Ecological Services Office, 2321 West Royal Palm Road, Suite 103, Phoenix, Arizona 85021–4951 (602/242–0210). Electronic copies of these documents will also be available for review on the Arizona Ecological Services Office Web site, http://www.fws.gov/arizonaes/.

The application and related documents will be available for public inspection, by appointment only, during normal business hours (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) at the Service’s Phoenix office. Comments concerning the application, draft SHA, or other related documents should be submitted in writing to the Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arizona Ecological Services Office, 2321 West Royal Palm Road, Suite 103, Phoenix, Arizona 85021–4951. Please refer to permit number TE–123062–0 when submitting comments. All comments received, including names and addresses, will become a part of the official administrative record and may be made available to the public.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marty Tuegel at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Tucson office, 201 N. Bonita Avenue, Suite 141, Tucson, Arizona 85745 (520/670–6150) ext. 232, or by e-mail at Marty_Tuegel@fws.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Applicant plans to implement a programmatic SHA that will enhance and maintain existing Chiricahua leopard frog habitat, create additional habitats, and reestablish populations of the species on the privately held lands of willing landowners within the historical range of Chiricahua leopard frog in Arizona (approximately 9,050 mi² [23,440 km²] in portions of Apache, Cochise, Coconino, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, Navajo, Pima, Pinal, Santa Cruz, and Yavapai counties).

Additionally, under this SHA, refuge and breeding facilities may be established on non-Federal lands in appropriate locations within Arizona. Chiricahua leopard frogs are native to the Mogollon Rim, White Mountains, and the Sky Island regions of south-central Arizona. The SHA is expected to provide a net conservation benefit to the Chiricahua leopard frog.

The draft SHA and permit application are not eligible for categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, based upon completion of a preliminary NEPA screening form. Due to the results of this preliminary analysis of potential effects, a draft Environmental Assessment has been prepared to further analyze the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the SHA on the quality of the human environment or other natural resources.

Section 9 of the Act prohibits the “taking” of threatened or endangered species. However, the Service, under limited circumstances, may issue permits to take threatened and endangered wildlife species incidental to, and not the purpose of, otherwise lawful activities.

We provide this notice under section 10(c) of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 17.22), and the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4371 et seq.) and its implementing regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

Benjamin N. Tuggle,
Acting Regional Director, Region 2, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

[FR Doc. E6–12424 Filed 8–1–06; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4510–55–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Indian Child Welfare Act; Receipt of Designated Tribal Agents for Service of Notice

AGENCY: Bureau of Indians Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice is published in exercise of authority delegated by the Secretary of the Interior to the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs by 209 DM 8.

The regulations implementing the Indian Child Welfare Act provide that Indian tribes may designate an agent other than the tribal chairman for service of notice proceedings under the Act, 25 CFR 23.12. The Secretary of the Interior shall publish in the Federal Register on an annual basis the names and addresses of the designated agents.

This is the current list of Designated Tribal Agents for service of notice, and includes the listings of designated tribal agents received by the Secretary of the Interior prior to the date of this publication.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Evangeline M. Campbell, Indian Child Welfare Supervisory Social Worker,