Refuge Complex for the next 15 years and expand the refuge boundaries for each of the four refuges within the Refuge Complex.

DATES: We will sign a record of decision (ROD) no sooner than 30 days after publication of this notice.

ADDRESSES: You may view or obtain copies of the final EIS, CCP, and LPP by any of the following methods:

- Mail: Doug St. Pierre, Division of Planning, P.O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, NM 87103.
- In-Person Viewing or Pickup: Call 409-267-3337 to make an appointment during regular business hours at Texas Chenier Plain NWR Complex Headquarters, 509 Washington Street, Anahuac, TX.
- Local Libraries: The final document is also available at the Public Libraries located in the project area of Chambers and Jefferson Counties, TX.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Doug St. Pierre, 505–248–6636 (phone); mail to: doug_stpierre@fws.gov (e-mail).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Introduction

With this notice, we complete the CCP process, except for the ROD, for Texas Chenier Plain NWR Complex begun in our October 21, 1999, Federal Register notice (64 FR 56800). For more about the process, see that notice. We released the draft EIS/CCP/LPP to the public, announcing it and requesting comments in a notice of availability in the Federal Register (71 FR 61063; October 17, 2006).

The Texas Chenier Plain Refuge Complex is located along the upper Texas Gulf Coast between Houston, TX, and the Louisiana border. This coastal ecosystem includes important freshwater, estuarine marshes, tallgrass prairie with small depressional wetlands, and coastal woodlots. These habitats are an important part of the primary wintering area for Central Flyway ducks and geese, and, additionally, are critical staging areas for neotropical landbirds migrating to and from Central and South America.

With this notice, we announce our decision and the availability of the final EIS/CCP/LPP for Texas Chenier Plain NWR Complex in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (40 CFR 1506.6(b)) requirements. We completed a thorough analysis of the environmental, social, and economic considerations, which we included in the final EIS/CCP/LPP.

The CCP will guide us in managing and administering Moody, Anahuac, McFaddin, and Texas Point refuges for the 15 years following publication of the final CCP. Refuge Management Alternative D, as we described in the final EIS, is the foundation for the CCP.

Background

The CCP Process

The National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 668dd–668ee), which amended the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (NWRSAA), requires us to develop a CCP for each national wildlife refuge. The purpose in 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 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 the CCP at least every 15 years in accordance with the NWRSAA, as amended, and NEPA.

Comments

We solicited comments on the draft EIS/CCP/LPP for Texas Chenier Plain NWR Complex from October 17, 2006, to January 16, 2007 (71 FR 61063). We received 18 written comments by mail or e-mail, in addition to the 5 comments we recorded at the Service’s two public hearings held on November 28 and 30, 2006, in Port Arthur and Hankamer, TX. In Chapter 6 of the final EIS/CCP/LPP, we documented and responded to all of the substantive comments received and noted editorial changes to the final document in response to these comments where appropriate. All of the comments received were considered in the decision-making process to select the two preferred alternatives.

Our Preferred Alternatives

After considering the comments we received, we have chosen two Preferred Alternatives, one from each of the two separate sets of Alternatives analyzed and considered.

Preferred Refuge Management Alternative D—Emphasis on an integrated management approach combining: (1) Expanded habitat management and restoration programs, (2) New research and wildlife population monitoring, and (3) Increased efforts to address major threats to the ecosystem.

Preferred Refuge Boundary Expansion Alternative C—a 7,920 acre expansion of the Moody NWR boundary, a 47,750 acre expansion of the Anahuac NWR boundary, a 7,190 acre expansion of the McFaddin NWR boundary, and a 1,400 acre expansion of the Texas Point NWR boundary.

Dated: June 24, 2008.

Christopher Todd Jones,
Acting Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

BILING CODE 4130–55–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service


Receipt of Applications for Permit

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of applications for permit.

SUMMARY: The public is invited to comment on the following applications to conduct certain activities with endangered species and/or marine mammals.

DATES: Written data, comments or requests must be received by July 30, 2008.

ADDRESSES: Documents and other information submitted with these applications are available for review, subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act, by any party who submits a written request for a copy of such documents within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice to: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 212, Arlington, Virginia 22203; fax 703/358–2281.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Division of Management Authority, telephone 703/358–2104.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Endangered Species

The public is invited to comment on the following applications for a permit to conduct certain activities with endangered species. This notice is provided pursuant to Section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).
Written data, comments, or requests for copies of these complete applications should be submitted to the Director (address above).

Applicant: Chattanooga Zoo, Chattanooga, TN, PRT–1855779

The applicant requests a permit to import one captive-born female jaguar (Panthera onca) from Tatu Caretta, Casa Grande, Cordova, Argentina, for the purpose of enhancement of survival of the species.

Applicant: Laguna Vista Ranch Ltd, San Antonio, TX, PRT–180803

The applicant requests a permit authorizing take, interstate and foreign commerce of swamp deer (Rucervus duvaucelii), Eld’s deer (Rucervus eldii) and lechwe (Kobus leche) from their captive herd for the purpose of the enhancement of the survival of the species. This notification covers activities conducted by the applicant over a five-year period.

Applicant: James A. Badman, Mesa, AZ, PRT–1807769

The applicant requests a permit to acquire from Wayne Hill, Winter Haven, FL, in interstate commerce 6 spotted pond turtles (Geoclemys hamiltonii) culled from a captive herd for the purpose of propagation of the species.

Applicant: Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden, Cincinnati, OH, PRT–184803

The applicant requests a permit to import one male captive-born Brazilian ocelot (Leopardus pardalis mitis) from the Granby Zoo, Quebec, Canada for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species through captive breeding.

Applicant: James A. Hall, Troy, PA, PRT–184468

The applicant requests a permit to import the sport-hunted trophy of one male bontebok (Damaliscus pygargus pygargus) culled from a captive herd maintained under the management program of the Republic of South Africa, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

Applicant: Richard R. Scott, Houston, TX, PRT–185800

The applicant requests a permit to import the sport-hunted trophy of one male bontebok (Damaliscus pygargus pygargus) culled from a captive herd maintained under the management program of the Republic of South Africa, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

Applicant: Laguna Vista Ranch Ltd, San Antonio, TX, PRT–180803

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