DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
[HY–100–2008–1310–NB]

Pinedale Anticline Working Group and Task Groups—Notice of Renewal

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Renewal of the Pinedale Anticline Working Group and Task Groups.

SUMMARY: This notice is published in accordance with Section 9(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (Public Law 92–463). Following consultation with the General Services Administration, notice is hereby given that the Secretary of the Interior has renewed the Pinedale Anticline Working Group and Task Groups (PAWG). The purpose of the Working Group and Task Groups will be to advise the Bureau of Land Management, Pinedale Field Office Manager, regarding recommendations on matters pertinent to the Bureau of Land Management’s responsibilities related to the Pinedale Anticline Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Lauren McKeever, Pinedale Anticline Working Group and Task Groups Coordinator, Bureau of Land Management, Pinedale Field Office, 1625 West Pine Street, Pinedale, Wyoming 82941, Phone: (307) 367–5352.

Certification

I hereby certify that the renewal of the Pinedale Anticline Working Group and Task Groups is necessary and in the public interest in connection with the Secretary of the Interior’s responsibilities to manage the lands, resources, and facilities administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

Dated: June 25, 2008.
Dirk Kempthorne,
Secretary of the Interior.
[FR Doc. E8–15716 Filed 7–2–08; 8:45 am]
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service

Swanquarter National Wildlife Refuge, Hyde County, NC
AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability; draft comprehensive conservation plan and environmental assessment; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We, the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce the availability of a draft comprehensive conservation plan and environmental assessment (Draft CCP/EA) for Swanquarter National Wildlife Refuge for public review and comment. In this Draft CCP/EA, we describe the alternative we propose to use to manage this refuge for the 15 years following approval of the final CCP.

DATES: To ensure consideration, we must receive your written comments by August 4, 2008.

ADDRESSES: Request for copies of the Draft CCP/EA should be addressed to: Bruce Freske, Refuge Manager, Swanquarter National Wildlife Refuge, 38 Matamuskeet Road, Swan Quarter, NC 27885. The Draft CCP/EA may also be accessed and downloaded from the Service’s Internet Site: http://southeast.fws.gov/planning. Comments on the Draft CCP/EA may be submitted to the above address or via electronic mail to: Bruce.Freske@fws.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bruce Freske; Telephone: 252/926–4021; or Fax: 252/926–1743.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:

Introduction

With this notice, we continue the CCP process for Swanquarter National Wildlife Refuge. We started the process through a notice in the Federal Register on November 3, 2000 (65 FR 66256). Swanquarter National Wildlife Refuge, on Pamlico Sound in Hyde County, NC, was established by Presidential Order on June 23, 1932. The Service has acquired all of the property within the refuge’s acquisition boundary. The refuge consists of 16,411 acres of saltmarsh islands and forested wetlands interspersed with potholes, creeks, and drains. Marsh vegetation is dominated by black needlerush and sawgrass. The mainland is forested by loblolly pine, pond pine, and bald cypress. Approximately 8,800 acres of the refuge have been designated as wilderness. An additional 27,082 acres of adjacent, non-refuge open water are closed by presidential proclamation to the taking of migratory birds. The purposes of the refuge are: “for use as an inviolate sanctuary, or for any other management purpose, for migratory birds;” “for the development, advancement, management, conservation, and protection of fish and wildlife resources * * * for the benefit of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, in performing its activities and services;” and for the supplemental purpose of protecting and providing a wilderness area.

Swanquarter National Wildlife Refuge is in the South Atlantic Coastal Plain Ecosystem and is part of the migration corridor for migratory birds that use the Atlantic Flyway. Wildlife species of management concern on the refuge include the American black duck, lesser scaup, canvasback, red-head, surf scoter, seaside sparrow, shart-tailed sparrow, brown-headed nuthatch, black-throated green warbler, black rail, yellow rail, clapper rail, Forster’s tern, peregrine falcon, bald eagle, osprey, black bear, red wolf, Carolina pygmy rattlesnake, and American alligator. The white-tailed deer is also a resident game species.

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, 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, wildlife photography, and environmental education and interpretation. We will review and update the CCP at least
would be expanded by increasing the number of use days and introducing deer hunting with archery equipment. An interpretive trail or boardwalk would be developed to provide greater access to the public.

Alternative C: Optimally Expand Programs

Under Alternative C, the activities under Alternative B would be further expanded. More wildlife and habitat surveying and monitoring would be conducted; environmental education and outreach programs would be increased to include conducting ten to fifteen programs for local school groups; hunting and fishing use days would increase and deer hunting with both archery equipment and primitive firearms would be introduced; an interpretive trail or boardwalk would be developed, as well as a canoe trail; and a photo blind would be constructed. In addition, development and management of moist-soil units for migratory birds would be considered.

Next Step

After the comment period ends, we will analyze the comments and address them in the form of a final CCP and Finding of No Significant Impact.

Public Availability of Comments

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

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

Dated: May 19, 2008.

Cynthia K. Dohner,
Acting Regional Director.

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