DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service

Proposed Information Collection; Hunting and Fishing Application and Report Forms for National Wildlife Refuges

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We (Fish and Wildlife Service) will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve the information collection (IC) described below. As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 and as part of our continuing efforts to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, we invite the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on this IC. We may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

DATES: You must submit comments on or before June 23, 2008.

ADDRESSES: Send your comments on the IC to Hope Grey, Information Collection Clearance Officer, Fish and Wildlife Service, MS 222–ARLSQ, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22203 (mail); hope.grey@fws.gov (e-mail); or (703) 358–2269 (fax).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request additional information about this IC, contact Hope Grey by mail, fax, or e-mail (see ADDRESSES) or by telephone at (703) 358–2482.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:
I. Abstract
The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd–668ee), as amended, (Administration Act) and the Refuge Recreation Act of 1962 (16 U.S.C. 460k–460k–4) (Recreation Act) govern the administration and uses of national wildlife refuges and wetland management districts. The Administration Act consolidated all the different refuge areas into a single “Refuge System.” It also authorizes us to permit public uses on lands of the National Wildlife Refuge System and identifies six priority public uses on national wildlife refuges, including hunting and fishing. The Administration Act instructs us that these uses are “legitimate and appropriate general public use of the System, directly related to the mission of the System and the purposes of many refuges, and which generally fosters refuge management and through which the American public can develop an appreciation for fish and wildlife.”

The Administration Act also directs us to: “provide increased opportunities for families to experience compatible wildlife-dependent recreation, particularly opportunities for parents and their children to safely engage in traditional outdoor activities, such as fishing and hunting.”

The Recreation Act allows the use of refuges for public recreation when it is not inconsistent or does not interfere with the primary purpose(s) of the refuge.

There are 389 national wildlife refuges where we administer hunting and/or fishing programs. We only collect user information at about 20 percent of these refuges. Information that we plan to collect will help us to:
(1) Administer and monitor hunting and fishing programs on refuges.
(2) Distribute hunting and fishing permits in a fair and equitable manner to eligible participants.

We are proposing nine new application and report forms associated with hunting and fishing on refuges. We may not allow all opportunities on all refuges; therefore, we require different forms for each. Not all refuges will use each form and some refuges may collect the information in a nonform format.

We will use the following application forms when we assign areas, dates, and/or types of hunts via a drawing because of limited resources, high demand, or when a permit is needed to hunt. We will issue application forms for specific periods, usually seasonally or annually.
(1) FWS Form 3–2354 (Quota Deer Hunt Application).
(2) FWS Form 3–2355 (Waterfowl Lottery Application).
(3) FWS Form 3–2356 (Big Game Hunt Application).
(4) FWS Form 3–2357 (Migratory Bird Hunt Application).
(5) FWS Form 3–2358 (Fishing/Shrimping/Grabbing Application)

We plan to collect information on:
(1) Applicant (name, address, phone number) so that we can notify applicants of their selection.
(2) User preferences (dates, areas, method) so that we can distribute users equitably.
(3) Whether or not the applicant is applying for a special opportunity for disabled or youth hunters.
(4) Age of youth hunter(s) so that we can establish eligibility.

We will ask users to report on their success after their experience so that we can evaluate hunt quality and resource impacts. We will use the following activity reports, which we will distribute during appropriate seasons, as
III. Request for Comments

We invite comments concerning this IC on:

(1) whether or not the collection of information is necessary, including whether or not the information will have practical utility;
(2) the accuracy of our estimate of the burden for this collection of information;
(3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
(4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. We will include and/or summarize each comment in our request to OMB to approve this IC. 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 from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.


Hope Grey,
Information Collection Clearance Officer,
Fish and Wildlife Service.
FR Doc. E8–8674 Filed 4–21–08; 8:45 am
Billing Code 4310–55–S

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service

Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge, Anson and Richmond Counties, 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, announce the availability of a draft comprehensive conservation plan and environmental assessment (Draft CCP/EA) for Pee Dee 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. The primary purpose of this 8,443-acre refuge is to protect migratory birds. Major habitats include bottomland hardwoods, upland pine forests, mixed pine-hardwoods, croplands, grasslands/old fields, managed wetlands, and open water. The refuge also has 1,306 acres in a conservation easement. Significant issues identified by the public, intergovernmental partners, and the Service include: Need for comprehensive wildlife and habitat management; lack of baseline data; threats to threatened, endangered, and imperiled species; impacts of increasing human population; need for increased partnerships and interagency coordination; spread of exotic species; impacts to water quantity and quality; need for improved environmental education and interpretation; need for a cultural resource management plan; and the need for maintaining quality hunting, fishing, and other wildlife-dependent public use activities.

DATES: To ensure consideration, we must receive your written comments by May 22, 2008. We will hold a public meeting. We will announce the upcoming meeting in the local news media.

ADDRESSES: Requests for copies of the Draft CCP/EA should be addressed to: Jeffrey Bricken, Refuge Manager, Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge, 5770 U.S. Highway 52 North, Wadesboro, NC 28170. The Draft CCP/EA may also be accessed and downloaded from the Service’s Internet Web site http://southeast.fws.gov/planning. Comments on the Draft CCP/EA may be submitted to the above address or via electronic mail to Jeffrey_bricken@fws.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeffrey Bricken at 704/694–4424.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Introduction

With this notice, we continue the CCP process for Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge. We started the process through a notice in the Federal Register on November 7, 2006 (71 FR 65122).