agencies, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of our estimate of the burden (hours and cost) of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways we could enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways we could minimize the burden of the collection of the information on the respondents, such as through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Please note that an agency may not sponsor or conduct, and an individual need not respond to, a collection of information unless it has a valid OMB Control Number.

It is our policy to make all comments available to the public for review at the location listed in the ADDRESSES section during the hours of 9 a.m.—5 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday except for legal holidays. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address or other personally identifiable information, be advised that your entire comment—including your address, phone number, e-mail address or other personally identifiable information—may be made public at any time. While you may request that we withhold your personally identifiable information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 1076–0135.
Title: Reporting System for Public Law 102–477 Demonstration Project.

Brief Description of Collection: Public Law 102–477 authorizes tribal governments to integrate federally funded employment, training and related services programs into a single, coordinated, comprehensive delivery plan. Interior has made available a single universal format for Statistical Reports for tribal governments to report on integrated activities undertaken within their projects, and a single universal format for Financial Reports for tribal governments to report on all project expenditures. Respondents that participate in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) must provide additional information on these forms.

Type of Review: Extension without change of a currently approved collection.

Respondents: Indian tribes participating in Public Law 102–477.
Number of Respondents: 67 grantees representing 265 Indian tribes.

Total Number of Responses: 265

Approximately 30 of the respondents participate in TANF and must also provide information associated with that program.

Estimated Time per Response: Ranges from 2 to 56 hours.
Estimated Total Annual Hour Burden: 3,018 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Non-Hour Cost Burden: $255.


Alvin Foster,
Acting Chief Information Officer—Indian Affairs.

[Facing page]

BILLING CODE 4310–4J–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service


Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge,
Jones and Jasper Counties, GA

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 Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) 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 June 14, 2010.

ADDRESSES: You may obtain a copy of the Draft CCP/EA by contacting Ms. Laura Housh, via U.S. mail at Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, 2700 Suwannee Canal Road, Folkston, GA 31537, or via e-mail at laura_housh@fws.gov. You may also download the document from our Internet Site as follows: http://southeast.fws.gov/planning under “Draft Documents.” Submit comments on the Draft CCP/EA to the above postal address or e-mail address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Laura Housh, Refuge Planner, telephone: 912–496–7366, ext. 244; fax: 912–496–3322.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Introduction

With this notice, we continue the CCP process for Piedmont NWR. We started the process through a notice in the Federal Register on April 4, 2008 (73 FR 18525).

For more about the refuge and our CCP process, please see that notice.

Background

The CCP Process

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

Significant issues addressed in the Draft CCP/EA include: (1) Management for threatened and endangered species; (2) refuge boundary and future land acquisition; (3) forest and fire management and education; (4) cane break restoration; (5) invasive species control; (6) climate change; (7) partnerships; (8) air and water quality; (9) protection of cultural resources; (10) urban development; (11) law enforcement; (12) public access; (13) wildlife-dependent recreation; (14) camping; and (15) facilities, staffing, and funding needs.

CCP Alternatives, Including Our Proposed Alternative

We developed four alternatives for managing the refuge and chose Alternative B as the proposed alternative. A full description of each alternative is in the Draft CCP/EA. We summarize each alternative below.

Alternative A—No Action Alternative

Under Alternative A, we would continue to monitor and manage the red-cockaded woodpecker population to achieve our goal for this endangered
species. We would conduct limited surveys for other wildlife species. No active management would occur for waterfowl, wetland-dependent birds, raptors, fish, reptiles, amphibians, and other resident birds and mammals. We would continue current forest management practices by actively managing 22,500 acres of upland pine with timber harvesting and prescribed burning. The current fire management program would be maintained to achieve viable wildlife and plant communities. We would reduce fuels by burning on a 3-year rotation and by participating in a fuels’ monitoring program. Wildlife openings and roadsides would be maintained through mowing and prescribed burning. We would opportunistically treat invasive plants with herbicides and prescribed burning, enhance cane areas, and manage bottomland and upland hardwoods. For aquatic species, we would continue to implement Georgia’s Best Management Practices for Forestry and manage the impoundments as a demonstration area for waterfowl by performing periodic drawdown and limited planting.

We would continue to welcome and orient visitors and maintain current opportunities for wildlife observation and photography. The level of environmental education opportunities would continue to be limited due to lack of resources, and outreach activities would continue to be limited to one event per year. We would maintain existing hunting and fishing programs as well as current facilities. We would continue to enforce all State and Federal laws applicable to the refuge, provide visitor safety, protect wildlife and cultural resources, and ensure public compliance by enforcing current refuge regulations.

The staff would continue to support both Piedmont and Bond Swamp NWRs. We would work with private landowners and partners to promote our goals and objectives. Land could be acquired from willing sellers within the current acquisition boundary and in accordance with Service policy. The current volunteer program would be maintained.

Alternative B—Wildlife and Habitat Diversity (Proposed Action)

We selected Alternative B as the alternative that best signifies the vision, goals, and purposes of Piedmont NWR. This alternative was selected based on public input and the best professional judgment of the planning team. Under Alternative B, the emphasis would be on restoring and improving refuge resources needed for wildlife and habitat management and providing enhanced appropriate and compatible wildlife-dependent public use opportunities.

We would continue to monitor and manage the red-cockaded woodpecker population, but would increase the population goal by 3 to 5 percent. We would increase wildlife surveys conducted under Alternative A to include surveying for breeding birds, bald eagles, furbearers, resident birds, raptors, reptiles and amphibians. We would initiate basic inventories for fish species and invertebrates, including dragonflies, crayfish, and mussels. We would continue to collect quail, turkey, and deer data through managed hunts and surveys, and reinstate turkey brood counts. We would increase efforts to maintain a deer population of 30 to 35 deer per-square-mile, with a balanced sex ratio.

We would expand habitat management by modifying forest management strategies to benefit wildlife and habitat. We would continue to maintain current fire management programs but intensify management of a 5,000-acre Piedmont savanna focus area with smaller burn units on a 2-year rotation. We would prioritize the need for removal of invasive plants and animals and would enhance wildlife openings and roadsides for early successional habitat diversity. For aquatic species, we would continue to implement Georgia’s Best Management Practices for Forestry, but would also survey streams to identify species and modify management activities as needed to protect and restore priority areas. Cane areas would continue to be strategically managed.

We would continue to monitor and manage the red-cockaded woodpecker population in accordance with Service policy. We would conduct current surveys for wildlife as identified under Alternative B. We would initiate annual woodcock surveys, a kestrel nesting box program, and identify and manage for the habitat needs of neotropical and migratory birds. We would continue to monitor and manage impoundments to benefit waterfowl, increase acres in impoundments to benefit wetland-dependent birds, and identify the nesting, breeding, roosting, and foraging habitat needs of raptors. As under Alternative B, we would initiate a streams survey and would restore and manage fisheries resources, but would also retain at least 30 percent of submerged vegetation in ponds. To support healthy migratory bird populations, we would initiate predator
control. As under Alternative B, we would establish a Piedmont savanna focus area, but would replace summer quail call counts with fall covey counts. Resident wildlife monitoring and management would be the same as under Alternative A unless stated otherwise. We would expand habitat management, but would also identify areas to focus on cane habitat management and increase structural diversity of bottomland hardwood areas. The fire management program would be maintained, but would increase the acreage of the Piedmont savanna focus area to greater than 5,000 acres and change the fire intervals to maximize the benefits to migratory birds outside of the focus area. We would expand invasive plant species control from uplands to include other habitat types to reduce adverse impacts to migratory birds. We would continue to manage the impoundments, implement a water management program, and manage unique and rare habitats as under Alternative B, but the emphasis would be on migratory birds. We would target management in open lands for priority migratory bird species.

We would revise the visitor services plan and would expand current opportunities for wildlife observation, wildlife photography, and environmental education and interpretation, but with the emphasis on migratory birds. Facilities to enhance these visitor services would be added, but observation constraints would be implemented to avoid disturbance to migratory birds. We would host one annual festival focusing on migratory birds. We would continue to maintain, and where possible, expand existing hunting programs, but would evaluate limiting or closing fishing on ponds to reduce impacts to rare, threatened, and endangered species.

We would continue to maintain an active law enforcement program, protect cultural resources, pursue land acquisition, establish partnerships, and manage volunteers as under Alternative B, and where applicable, focus on rare, threatened, and endangered species.

**Next Step**

After the comment period ends, we will analyze the comments and address them.

**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. 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.

**Authority**

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

As under Alternative B, we would continue to conduct current wildlife surveys, establish but intensively manage a Piedmont savanna focus area, and initiate surveys for wetland-dependent birds and raptors. We would conduct comprehensive surveys focused on rare, threatened, and endangered species of invertebrates, reptiles, amphibians, and bats. The invasive species control program would emphasize reducing adverse impacts to rare, threatened, and endangered species and their habitats. We would increase acres in impoundments and manage them to benefit wood stork foraging habitat and other species of concern. Open lands would be managed for rare, threatened, and endangered species.

We would revise the visitor services plan and expand current opportunities for wildlife observation, wildlife photography, and environmental education. We would implement observation constraints to avoid disturbance to rare, threatened, and endangered species. One annual festival focusing on rare, threatened, and endangered species would be held annually on the refuge. We would continue to maintain, and where possible, expand existing hunting programs, but would evaluate limiting or closing fishing on ponds to reduce impacts to rare, threatened, and endangered species.

We would continue to maintain an active law enforcement program, protect cultural resources, pursue land acquisition, establish partnerships, and manage volunteers as under Alternative B, and where applicable, focus on rare, threatened, and endangered species.

**Next Step**

After the comment period ends, we will analyze the comments and address them.