Persons interested in reviewing environmental documents for the proposals listed above or obtaining information about SEAs and FONSIs prepared by the Gulf of Mexico OCS Region are encouraged to contact BOEMRE at the address or telephone listed in the FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT section.

Dated: February 16, 2011.

Lars Herbst,
Regional Director, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region.

[FR Doc. 2011–6990 Filed 3–23–11; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310–MR– P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service

Endangered Wildlife; Receipt of Application for Enhancement of Survival Permit

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of a permit application; request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the requirements of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act), we, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), invite the public to comment on an application for a permit to conduct enhancement of survival activities with an endangered species.

DATES: To ensure consideration, please send your written comments by April 25, 2011.


FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Linda Belluomini, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, at the above address or by telephone (503–231–6131) or fax (503–231–6243).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following applicant has applied for a recovery permit to conduct certain activities with endangered species under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). We are soliciting review of and comments on this application by local, State, and Federal agencies and the public.

Permit No. TE–36737A

Applicant: Randi A. Rhodes, Honolulu, Hawaii.

The applicant requests a permit to take (capture, band, attach radio transmitters and neck collars, color mark with dye, collect blood, and measure) the Hawaiian coot (Fulica alai) in conjunction with monitoring and population biology and life history studies in the State of Hawaii, for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

Public Comments

We are soliciting public review and comment on this recovery permit application. Submit written comments to the Endangered Species Program Manager (see address above). 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.

Please refer to the permit number for the application when submitting comments. All comments and materials we receive in response to this request will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

Dated: March 14, 2011.

Theresa E. Rabot,
Acting Regional Director, Region 1, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 2011–6517 Filed 3–23–11; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310–55–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS–R8–R–2010–N272; 81683–1265–0000–S3]
Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge, Orange County, CA; Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan/Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce the availability of a draft comprehensive conservation plan (CCP) and environmental assessment (EA) for the Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge for public review and comment. The CCP/EA, prepared under the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, describes how the Service will manage the Refuge for the next 15 years. Two step-down plans (an Integrated Pest Management Program and a Mosquito Management Plan), as well as draft compatibility determinations for several existing and proposed public uses, are also available for review and public comment.

DATES: To ensure consideration, we must receive your written comments by May 9, 2011.
ADDITIONS: Send your comments or requests for more information by any of the following methods.

E-mail: Victoria Touchstone@fws.gov. Include “Seal Beach CCP” in the subject line of the message.

Fax: Attn: Victoria Touchstone, Refuge Planner, (760) 930–0256.


In-Person Drop-off: You may drop off comments during regular business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Victoria Touchstone, Refuge Planner, at (760) 431–9440, extension 349, or Victoria.Touchstone@fws.gov; or Kirk Gilligan, Refuge Manager, at (562) 598–1024. Further information may also be found at http://www.fws.gov/sandiegorefuges/ (click on Seal Beach NWR CCP link). A CCP planning Web page is available for review at the following methods.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: 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 and photography, environmental education and interpretation.

We initiated the CCP/EA for the Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge in April 2007. At that time and throughout the process, we requested, considered, and incorporated public scoping comments in numerous ways. Our public outreach has included a Federal Register notice of intent published on April 16, 2007 (72 FR 190160), two scoping meetings, two planning updates, and a CCP Web page (http://www.fws.gov/sandiegorefuges/ (click on Seal Beach NWR CCP link). We received two scoping comments during the 30-day public comment period.

Background

Legislation authorizing the establishment of the Seal Beach NWR was signed by President Richard M. Nixon on August 29, 1972. The Refuge boundaries, which are located entirely within Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach, were determined by the Secretary of the Interior with the advice and consent of the Secretary of the Navy. In accordance with the authorizing legislation, the Refuge is to be managed pursuant to the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended, and pursuant to plans which are mutually acceptable to the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of the Navy. The Refuge was officially established on July 11, 1974, following approval of a general management plan for the Refuge by the Service and the Navy. Refuge purposes include preservation and management of habitat for endangered species (i.e., light-footed clapper rail and California least tern) and preservation of habitat to support migratory waterfowl, shorebirds, and other water birds.

The Refuge, which encompasses approximately 965 acres, includes one of the largest remaining salt marshes along the southern California coast. This coastal wetland supports three Federally listed species, including the endangered light-footed clapper rail, California least tern, and eastern Pacific green sea turtle. The State-listed endangered Belding’s savannah sparrow, along with the light-footed clapper rail and California least tern, nest and raise their young within the boundaries of the Refuge. The security needs for Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach require that all public access onto the Refuge be limited to supervised visits, such as monthly public tours and other prescheduled group tours or events.

Alternatives

The Draft CCP/EA identifies and evaluates three alternatives for managing the Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge over the next 15 years. The alternative that appears to best meet the Refuge purposes is identified as the preferred alternative. The preferred alternative has been identified based on the analysis presented in the Draft CCP/EA, which may be modified following the completion of the public comment period based on comments received from other agencies, Tribal governments, nongovernmental organizations, and individuals.

Under Alternative A, the no-action alternative, we would continue to manage the Refuge as we have in the recent past. No changes in wildlife and habitat management or public use would occur.

With Alternative B, current wildlife and habitat management activities would be expanded to include evaluation of current Refuge baseline data for fish, wildlife, and plants; identification of data gaps; implementation of species surveys to address data gaps as staff time and funding allow; restoration of native habitat; and support for new research projects that would benefit Refuge resources and Refuge management. Habitat restoration would focus on increasing salt marsh and intertidal mudflat habitat, with some restoration of wetland/upland transition habitat also proposed. Pest control would be implemented in accordance with an Integrated Pest Management Program, and mosquito monitoring and control would be guided by a Mosquito Management Plan. No changes to the current public-use program would occur.

Alternative C, the preferred alternative, includes the majority of the management activities proposed in Alternative B. The primary differences between the two alternatives include a different focus on habitat restoration and expansion of the opportunities available for wildlife observation on the Refuge. Under Alternative C, the focus of the restoration effort would be on upland and wetland/upland transition habitat, with fewer acres restored to intertidal habitat.

Public Meetings

The locations, dates, and times of public meetings will be listed in a planning update distributed to the project mailing list and posted on the refuge planning Web site at http://www.fws.gov/sandiegorefuges/ (click on the Seal Beach NWR CCP link).

Review and Comment

Copies of the Draft CCP/EA may be obtained by writing to Victoria Touchstone (see ADDRESSES). Printed copies of the Draft CCP/EA may be viewed at the same address or at the Seal Beach/Mary Wilson Library, 707 Electric Avenue, Seal Beach, CA 90740. The Draft CCP/EA has also been made available for review at http://www.fws.gov/sandiegorefuges/ (click on the Seal Beach NWR CCP link). Comments on the Draft CCP/EA should be addressed to Victoria Touchstone (see ADDRESSES).

At the end of the review and comment period for this Draft CCP/EA, comments will be analyzed by the Service and addressed in the Final CCP. 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.

Dated: March 16, 2011.

Ren Loboeufener,
Regional Director, Pacific Southwest Region, Sacramento, California.

SUMMARY: We, the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce the availability of our final comprehensive conservation plan (CCP) and finding of no significant impact (FONSI) for Pine Island, Matlacha Pass, Island Bay, and Caloosahatchee NWRs in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (40 CFR 1506.6(b)) requirements. We completed a thorough analysis of impacts on the human environment, which we included in the draft comprehensive conservation plan and environmental assessment (Draft CCP/EA).

The CCP will guide us in managing and administering Pine Island, Matlacha Pass, Island Bay, and Caloosahatchee NWRs for the next 15 years.

Background

The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd–668ee) (Administration Act), 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.

Comments

We made copies of the Draft CCP/EA available for a 30-day public review and comment period via a Federal Register notice on May 21, 2010 (75 FR 28643). We received comments from the general public, an organization, and governmental agencies, including State and local agencies and a national estuary program. Comments were also submitted through the State Clearinghouse for State agencies.

Selected Alternative

After considering the comments we received, we have selected Alternative C for implementation. The primary focus under Alternative C is migratory birds. Implementing Alternative C is expected to result in increased protection for nesting, roosting, foraging, and migring birds on these four refuges. Increased information on a variety of species, suites of species, and habitats will enhance decision-making for these refuges. Further benefits will be realized from increased control of exotic, invasive, and nuisance species. We will coordinate with the partners to address concerns related to the impacts from water quality, quantity, and timing of flows and from climate change and sea level rise. Resource protection will be enhanced, including through increased information about cultural resources on the refuges, resolved boundary issues, additional special designations, improved management of the Island Bay Wilderness Area, improved coordination with the partners to increase awareness and understanding of area residents and area visitors of these closed refuges, and minimized impacts from adjacent uses. To achieve this, we will work with governmental and non-governmental partners, area communities, the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society, and local businesses, and we will pursue the addition of refuge-specific staff to address management concerns.

Alternative C is considered to be the most effective for meeting the purposes of the refuges and addressing the priority issues facing each refuge, including increasing and changing human population, development of the landscape, recreational uses and demands, and associated impacts; issues and impacts associated with water quality, water quantity, and timing of flows; invasion and spread of exotic, invasive, and nuisance species; climate change impacts; need for long-term protection of important resources; declines in and threats to rare, threatened, and endangered species; insufficient baseline wildlife and habitat