DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS–R6–R–2013–N158; FXRS1265066CCP0–134–FF06R06000]

Cokeville Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, Lincoln County, WY; Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability; announcement of meeting; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce that our draft comprehensive conservation plan (CCP) and environmental assessment (EA) for the Cokeville Meadows National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) is available for public review and comment. The draft CCP/EA describes how the Service intends to manage this Refuge for the next 15 years. We provide this notice in compliance with our CCP policy to advise the public, other Federal and State agencies, and Tribes of the availability of the draft CCP/EA and to solicit comments.

DATES: To ensure consideration, we must receive your written comments on the draft CCP/EA by October 21, 2013. Submit comments by one of the methods under ADDRESSES. We will hold a public meeting; see Public Meeting under SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION for the date, time, and location.

ADDRESSES: Send your comment or requests for more information by any of the following methods.

Email: seedskadsee@fws.gov. Include “Cokeville Meadows NWR Draft CCP and EA” in the subject line of the message.


U.S. Mail: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Refuge Planning, P.O. Box 25486, Denver Federal Center, Denver, CO 80225.

In-Person Drop-off, Viewing, or Pickup: Call 303–236–4377 to make an appointment (necessary for view/pickup only) during regular business hours at 134 Union Boulevard, Suite 300, Lakewood, CO 80228.

Document Request: A copy of the CCP/EA may be obtained by writing to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Refuge Planning, 134 Union Boulevard, Suite 300, Lakewood, CO 80228; or by download from http://mountain-prairie.fws.gov/planning.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bernardo Garza, 303–236–4377, (phone) or bernardo_garza@fws.gov (email); or David C. Lucas, 303–236–4366 (phone), P.O. Box 25486, Denver Federal Center, Denver, CO 80225–0486.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Introduction

With this notice, we continue the CCP process for the Cokeville Meadows NWR. We started this process through a notice in the Federal Register (74 FR 57328; November 5, 2009). This notice complies with our CCP policy to (1) advise other Federal and State agencies, Tribes, and the public of the availability of the draft CCP/EA for this refuge and (2) to obtain comments on the information provided in the draft CCP/EA.

Background

The CCP Process

The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd–668eee) (Refuge Administration Act), as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, requires us to develop a CCP for each unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System (Refuge System). The purpose for developing a CCP is to provide refuge managers with a 15-year plan for achieving the purposes for which their refuge was established and contributing toward the mission of the 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 Refuge Administration Act.

The Refuge

Cokeville Meadows NWR was established in 1993 for the conservation of the wetlands of the nation, in order to maintain the public benefits they provide and to help fulfill international obligations contained in various migratory bird treaties and conventions, as well as for use as an inviolate sanctuary for migratory birds. This refuge is bisected throughout its length by the Bear River and contains a mosaic of wet meadows and cattail/bulrush sloughs. Many of these wetlands were originally created and maintained by agricultural practices. The shrub-steppe uplands are dominated by sagebrush and a combination of grasses typical of the arid West. Cokeville Meadows NWR provides nesting habitat for at least 32 water bird species; if developed, these habitats could provide suitable nesting habitat for more migratory bird species, including the trumpeter swan, a species of management concern. Refuge habitats also provide important habitat for resident species. Greater sage grouse use upland sagebrush areas for nesting, while riparian areas provide important feeding sites for their broods and a variety of neotropical migratory birds. Big game, including antelope, mule deer, and elk, also utilize Refuge habitats.

Public Outreach

We started the CCP for the Cokeville Meadows NWR in early November 2009, by inviting the Wyoming Game, Fish and Parks Department and 12 Native American tribal governments to participate in the planning process. The planning team was assembled in late November during the CCP Kickoff Meeting. We developed a mailing list and sent a planning update to all individuals and groups on that list. The planning update included basic information on the Refuge, the planning process, how the public could provide comments and become involved in the planning process, and the dates, times, and places of the two public meetings held in public venues in two communities near the Refuge (also in November). At that time and throughout the process, we requested public comments and considered and incorporated them in numerous ways. Comments we received covered topics such as invasive plant control on refuge lands, opening the refuge to hunting and fishing opportunities, improvement of the water quality and fisheries in the Bear River, public access to the Refuge, and the Refuge habitats’ management tools (e.g., grazing, haying, farming, water flooding, etc.). We have considered and evaluated all of these comments, with many incorporated into the various alternatives addressed in the draft CCP and the EA.
CCP Alternatives We Are Considering

During the public scoping process with which we started work on this draft CCP, we, State of Wyoming wildlife officials, representatives of the City of Cokeville, the Lincoln County Planning Department, the Bureau of Land Management, and the public raised several issues. Our draft CCP addresses them. A full description of each alternative is in the EA. To address these issues, we developed and evaluated the following alternatives, summarized below.

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<td>Refuge remains closed to public access except for information kiosk, walking trail at Netherly Slough and headquarters, and to opportunistic, staff-guided, environmental education programs.</td>
<td>The Refuge: Maintains the existing open areas; Opens new access points and areas of the refuge to migratory bird, big and small game hunting, and fishing; Seeks to provide self-guided interpretive opportunities; Provides information wildlife observation and photography opportunities. Haying and grazing used to manage refuge habitats. Agricultural crops used solely as a tool to reestablish native habitats. Consider removing water management infrastructure to replace current irrigation with overbank flooding during river high flows to manage wet meadow and wetland habitats.</td>
<td>Same as Alternative B. Plus: Refuge staff seeks partners to restore Bear River riparian corridor to improve the river's water and fisheries quality. Upland habitats are managed and restored to increase wildlife productivity and diversity. Wet meadow and wetland habitats are managed with water diversions from the Bear River. Agricultural practices are geared to enhance refuge habitats for wildlife.</td>
<td>Same as Alternative C. Plus: Refuge staff expands partnerships throughout Wyoming's Bear River watershed to improve habitats and movement corridors for wildlife and fishes.</td>
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<td>Habitat and Wildlife Management.</td>
<td>Continue current levels of irrigation, haying, and grazing to manage refuge habitats.</td>
<td>Same as Alternative B ...... Same as Alternative B.</td>
<td>Same as Alternative C.</td>
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<td>Monitoring and Research.</td>
<td>Maintain partnerships on limited and opportunistic monitoring of wildlife populations, habitats and water quality conditions. Continue permitting research activities when compatible with refuge purposes.</td>
<td>Same as Alternative A ...... Same as Alternative A, but in more programmatic fashion. Plus the staff: Pursues funding and research opportunities with higher education institutions; Actively seeks new partners to enhance its monitoring capabilities.</td>
<td>Same as Alternative C, plus the refuge: Expands partnerships to include new partners throughout Wyoming's Bear River watershed.</td>
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<td>Invasive Species.</td>
<td>Continue coordinating and working with the Lincoln County to monitor and control treat invasive plants through integrated pest management, including chemical, biological, and mechanical methods.</td>
<td>Same as Alternative A. Plus the staff: Works with cooperators to address invasive aquatic species throughout Bear River watershed. Works with partners to control carp, and improve water quality on refuge wet meadow and riverine habitats</td>
<td>Same as Alternative B ...... Same as Alternative B. Plus: The staff expands its involvement and partnerships to control invasive species throughout Wyoming's Bear River watershed.</td>
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<td>Wildlife Disease, Crop Depredation, and Wildlife Damage to Private Property.</td>
<td>Continue work with the State to separate elk herd from cattle on refuge lands to keep wildlife diseases from domestic cattle. Continue to grow small grain crops on refuge lands to keep migratory birds from depredating on private crops.</td>
<td>The refuge establishes hunt program which would alleviate wildlife and cattle comingleing and crop depredation issues.</td>
<td>Same as Alternative B ...... Same as Alternative B.</td>
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**SUMMARY:** The Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture are extending the public comment period for the proposed fee schedule for commercial filming and still photography conducted on public lands under their jurisdiction. The additional comment period is in response to a request.

**DATES:** Written comments will be accepted through October 23, 2013.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments by any of the following methods:
- **Email:** location_fee_notice_2013@nps.gov; put “Commercial Filming Fee Schedule” in the subject line.
- **Mail:** Lee Dickinson, Special Park Uses Program Manager, National Park Service, 1849 C Street NW., ORG CODE 2460, Washington, DC 20240.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Lee Dickinson, National Park Service at 202–513–7092 or by email at lee_dickinson@nps.gov. Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339 to contact the above named individual during normal business hours. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On August 22, 2013 we published in the Federal Register a proposed location fee schedule to establish land-use fees for commercial filming and still photography that are consistent for the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Forest Service (78 FR 52209). The fees would provide a fair return to the United States, as required by law. Comments were accepted for 30 days, closing on September 23, 2013. After receiving a

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### Public Availability of Comments

All public comment information provided voluntarily by mail, by phone, or at meetings (e.g., names, addresses, letters of comment, input recorded during meetings) becomes part of the official public record. If requested under the Freedom of Information Act by a private citizen or organization, the Service may provide copies of such information.

### Authority

The environmental review of this project will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.); NEPA Regulations (40 CFR parts 1500–1508, 43 CFR Part 46); other appropriate Federal laws and regulations; Executive Order 12996; the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997; and Service policies and procedures for compliance with those laws and regulations.

Dated: August 20, 2013.

Noreen Walsh, Regional Director, Mountain-Prairie Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 2013–23107 Filed 9–20–13; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310–55–P**

### DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

#### Bureau of Land Management

#### Fish and Wildlife Service

**National Park Service**

**[NPS–WASO–VRP–14127; PXXVPADO515]**

### DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

#### Forest Service

**Proposed Fee Schedule for Commercial Filming and Still Photography Permits**

**AGENCY:** Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Interior; Forest Service, Agriculture.

**ACTION:** Extension of public comment period.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture are extending the public comment period for the proposed fee schedule for commercial filming and still photography conducted on public lands under their jurisdiction. The additional comment period is in response to a request.

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