

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service****Notice of Availability of the Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the North Mississippi National Wildlife Refuge Complex, Which Consists of Three National Wildlife Refuges (Coldwater River, Dahomey, and Tallahatchie), as Well as a Number of Farm Service Agency Tracts in the Northern Section of the Mississippi Delta**

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The Fish and Wildlife Service announces that a Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the North Mississippi National Wildlife Refuge Complex is available for distribution. The plan was prepared pursuant to the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, and in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and describes how the Complex will be managed for the next 15 years. The compatibility determinations for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, wildlife photography, environmental education and interpretation, off-road vehicle use, and resource research studies on each refuge, as well as bicycle use and farming on Dahomey and Tallahatchie refuges, are also available within the plan.

ADDRESSES: A copy of the plan may be obtained by writing to the Project Leader, North Mississippi National Wildlife Refuge Complex, 2776 Sunset Drive, Grenada, Mississippi 38901; or by calling the Project Leader at 662/226-8286. The plan may also be accessed and downloaded from the Service's Web site <http://southeast.fws.gov/planning/>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The North Mississippi National Wildlife Refuge Complex, formerly the Mississippi Wetland Management District, is composed of three distinct work areas. Each contains a national wildlife refuge and all Farm Service Agency tracts within that area. The three refuges plus the 128 Farm Service Agency properties total 33,746 acres, with the Complex headquartered in Grenada. Since the Complex was established in 1989, and assigned administrative responsibility for Coldwater River, Dahomey, and Tallahatchie refuges, the overriding collective thrust has been the creation, restoration, and enhancement of wetlands on public and private lands. The Complex provides habitat for large concentrations of wintering waterfowl

and numerous species of neotropical migratory birds.

Implementing the comprehensive conservation plan will enable the Complex to fulfill its role of conserving and managing fish and wildlife resources in the northern section of the Mississippi Delta, and of providing quality environmental education and wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities for visitors. The Service analyzed four alternatives for managing the Complex and selected Alternative D to guide management direction over the next 15 years.

Alternative D represents a combination and/or compromise between Alternative B (Public Use Emphasis) and Alternative C (Wildlife Management Emphasis). Whereas these two alternatives seek to maximize either expanded public use or expanded wildlife management opportunities, Alternative D seeks to optimize the benefits of the Complex to both wildlife and people. Under Alternative D, refuge lands will be more intensively managed than at present to provide quality habitat for wildlife, particularly migratory birds. Additional areas on the refuges with pumping capability (wells) and a water control structure will be managed for moist-soil vegetation or force-account farmed (with 100 percent of crops left standing) to benefit migratory waterfowl. Cooperative farming fields will be farmed in rice, milo, corn, or soybeans (in order of preference) and flooded during the late fall and winter.

Increased emphasis will be placed on meeting objectives of various step-down plans, providing habitat for waterfowl and shorebirds. These habitats and their use will be monitored on the refuges to ensure that goals and objectives are being met. Population and habitat surveys will be conducted throughout the refuges to develop baseline data to determine initial population levels and habitat conditions.

The alternative will encourage more public recreational uses even while intensifying current habitat management. Additional staff, emphasis, and resources will be more or less evenly divided between enhancing public use opportunities and wildlife habitat management. Hunting and fishing opportunities will be increased as funding and personnel allow. Moist-soil, cropland, forest, and wetland management will also intensify, to the extent permitted by funding and staffing limits. One auto tour, one canoe trail, one or more foot trail(s) and/or interpretive trail(s), one observation tower, and one or more blinds will be added for environmental education,

photography, and watchable wildlife programs. Staff may be added to develop and present both on- and off-site environmental education and interpretation programs.

Under Alternative D, the Complex will continue to seek acquisition of all willing-seller inholdings within the acquisition boundaries, expanding Complex acreage by up to an additional 10 percent of the current boundaries. Highest priority will be given to those lands adjacent to existing refuge tracts and those lands supporting unique habitats or offering compatible public use opportunities. Additionally, the Complex will concentrate future off-refuge partnerships on promoting more intensive wildlife management on privately owned lands.

Public comments were requested, considered, and incorporated throughout the planning process. Public outreach included open houses, public meetings, technical workgroups, planning update mailings, and **Federal Register** notices. During the comment period on the draft document, the Service received a total of 25 comments. All substantive issues raised have been addressed either through revisions of the final comprehensive conservation plan or in responses contained in the appendix dealing with public comments.

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

Dated: August 24, 2005.

Jeffrey M. Fleming,
Acting Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 05-24282 Filed 12-20-05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Land Management**

[NV-910-06-1220-PA]

Notice of Availability of the Sheep Complex, Big Springs and Owyhee Grazing Allotments Sensitive Bird Species Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Elko County, NV

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of the Sheep Complex, Big Springs and Owyhee Grazing Allotments Sensitive Bird Species Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

SUMMARY: In accordance with section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and regulations at 40

CFR Parts 1500–1508, the Bureau of Land Management, Elko Field Office, has prepared a Draft EIS on the effects of three multiple use decisions on sensitive avian species in Elko County, Nevada.

DATES: This notice initiates the public review period. Written comments on the Draft EIS will be accepted for 45 days following the date this Notice of Availability is published in the **Federal Register**. An Open-House Public Meeting will be held at the Bureau of Land Management Elko Field Office at 3900 E. Idaho Street, Elko, Nevada. The date and time of this public meeting will be announced through public notices, media news releases and/or mailing. This meeting will be scheduled no sooner than 15 days following the publication of this notice.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- E-mail: lw@nv.blm.gov
- Fax: (775) 753-0255
- Mail: Send to the attention of the Sensitive Species EIS Project Manager, BLM Elko Field Office, 3900 East Idaho Street, Elko, NV 89801. For those desiring a copy of the draft, a limited number of copies can be obtained from this address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Lorrie West, EIS Team Co-Lead, at the Elko Field Office, 3900 E. Idaho Street, Elko, NV 89801. Telephone: (775) 753-0200. E-mail: lw@nv.blm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The BLM is preparing this EIS to comply with a minute order issued by the Honorable Howard D. McKibben, U.S. District Judge, District of Nevada, on August 18, 2004 (CV–N–03–197–HDM(VPC)). The order followed a hearing on a complaint against three final multiple use decisions (Western Watersheds Project and Committee for the High Desert vs. Clinton R. Oke, Assistant Field Manager, Elko Field Office, et al.). The final decisions, which were left intact by the judge, are for the Sheep Complex Allotment, Big Springs Allotment and Owyhee Allotment. The Sheep Complex Allotment and Big Springs grazing allotments are located in the southeastern portion of Elko County, NV, and the Owyhee Allotment is in the northwest portion of Elko County.

The order was to prepare the EIS with respect to burrowing owls, raptors and sage grouse on the Sheep Complex and the Owyhee Allotment, and sage grouse on the Big Springs Allotment. The issues analyzed included the impacts of livestock grazing proposed by the multiple use decisions and alternatives to the extent applicable to these sensitive bird species and considering

springs, seeps, riparian areas and upland habitat.

A range of alternatives (including the no-action alternative) was developed to address the issues.

Comments received on the Draft EIS, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Elko Field Office during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday except holidays, and will be published as part of the Final EIS. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

Dated: November 3, 2005.

Helen Hankins,

Field Office Manager.

[FR Doc. E5–7578 Filed 12–20–05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–HC–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

Change in Discount Rate for Water Resources Planning

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of change.

SUMMARY: The Water Resources Planning Act of 1965 and the Water Resources Development Act of 1974 require an annual determination of a discount rate for Federal water resources planning. The discount rate for Federal water resources planning for fiscal year 2006 is 5.125 percent. Discounting is to be used to convert future monetary values to present values.

DATES: This discount rate is to be used for the period October 1, 2005, through and including September 30, 2006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karl J. Stock, Economist, Contract Services Office, Denver, Colorado 80225; telephone: 303–445–2929.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given that the interest rate to be used by Federal agencies in the formulation and evaluation of plans for water and related land resources is 5.125 percent for fiscal year 2006.

This rate has been computed in accordance with Section 80(a), Pub. L. 93–251 (88 Stat. 34) and 18 CFR 704.39, which: (1) Specify that the rate shall be based upon the average yield during the preceding fiscal year on interest-bearing marketable securities of the United States which, at the time the computation is made, have terms of 15 years or more remaining to maturity (average yield is rounded to nearest one-eighth percent); and (2) provide that the rate shall not be raised or lowered more than one-quarter of 1 percent for any year. The Treasury Department calculated the specified average to be 4.6434 percent. This average value is then rounded to the nearest one-eighth of a point, resulting in 4.625 percent. This exceeds the permissible one-quarter of 1 percent change from the fiscal year 2005 rate of 5.375 percent. Therefore, the change is limited to a one-quarter percent decrease.

The rate of 5.125 percent shall be used by all Federal agencies in the formulation and evaluation of water and related land resources plans for the purpose of discounting future benefits and computing costs or otherwise converting benefits and costs to a common-time basis.

Dated: November 8, 2005.

Roseann Gonzales,

Director, Office of Program and Policy Services.

[FR Doc. E5–7627 Filed 12–20–05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–MN–P

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Office of Disability Employment Policy

Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed Collection; Comment Request

ACTION: Notice of extension of approved data collection.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a pre-clearance consultation process to provide the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA95) [44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)]. This process helps ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burdens are minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed. Currently the Office