

NWR for the next 15 years. Alternative C is the foundation for the CCP.

The compatibility determinations for upland game hunting, fishing/boating, wildlife observation and photography, environmental education and interpretation, bicycling, research, exotic and nuisance wildlife control, forest management—commercial timber harvest, and cooperative farming are also available in the CCP.

### 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

Approximately 120 copies of the Draft CCP/EA were made available for a 30-day public review period as announced in the **Federal Register** May 4, 2009 (74 FR 20495). Written comments were received from local citizens and the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.

### Selected Alternative

After considering the comments we received, we have selected Alternative C for implementation. Our primary focus under Alternative C will be to increase overall wildlife and habitat diversity. Although waterfowl will remain a focus of management, wetland habitat manipulations will also consider the needs of multiple species, such as marsh and wading birds. We will more actively manage upland forests and fields for neotropical migratory birds. Landscape level consideration of habitat management will include a diversity of open fields, upland and wetland forests, and additional wetlands. Upland loblolly pine plantations (e.g., relic

industrial forests) will be heavily thinned to encourage multi-strata vegetation composition and hardwood interspersions. More xeric loblolly pine plantations will be converted to longleaf pine savannas and subjected to frequent growing season prescribed fires to favor warm season grasses and forbs and the potential reintroduction of red-cockaded woodpeckers in the ACE Basin Project Area. Multiple species consideration will include species and habitats identified by the South Atlantic Migratory Bird Initiative and the State's Strategic Conservation Plan.

This alternative will expand our monitoring of migratory neotropical and breeding songbirds and other resident species. Monitoring efforts will be increased with the assistance of additional staff, trained volunteers, and academic researchers. Greater effort will be made to recruit academic researchers to the refuge to study and monitor refuge resources.

Hunting and fishing will continue to be allowed on the refuge. However, hunting will be managed with a greater focus on achieving biological needs of the refuge, such as deer population management and feral hog elimination. Education and interpretation will continue, but with additional education and outreach efforts aimed at the importance of landscape ecology and diversity. A much broader effort will be made with outreach to nearby developing urban communities and a growing human population.

The refuge will be staffed the same as the 2008 staffing model to enhance all refuge services and management programs. We will place greater emphasis on recruiting and training volunteers, and expanding worker-camper opportunities to facilitate maintenance programs and other refuge goals and objectives. We will actively seek funding for research needs. We will place greater emphasis on developing and maintaining active partnerships, including seeking grants to assist the refuge in reaching primary objectives.

Alternative C is considered to be the most effective for meeting the purposes of the refuge by conserving, restoring, and managing the refuge's habitats and wildlife, while optimizing wildlife-dependent public uses. Alternative C will best achieve national, ecosystem, and refuge-specific goals and objectives and it positively addresses significant issues and concerns expressed by the public.

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

Dated: September 30, 2009.

**Jacquelyn B. Parrish,**

*Acting Regional Director.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

**[FWS–R4–R–2009–N172; 40136–1265–0000–S3]**

#### **Mandalay National Wildlife Refuge, Terrebonne Parish, LA**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability: Final comprehensive conservation plan and finding of no significant impact.

**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 the environmental assessment for Mandalay National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). In the final CCP, we describe how we will manage this refuge for the next 15 years.

**ADDRESSES:** You may obtain a copy of the CCP by writing to: Mr. Paul Yakupzack, Refuge Manager, Mandalay NWR, 3599 Bayou Black Drive, Houma, LA 70360. You may also access and download the document from the Service's Web site: <http://southeast.fws.gov/planning>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Paul Yakupzack; telephone: 985/853–1078; fax: 985/853–1079; e-mail: [paul\\_yakupzack@fws.gov](mailto:paul_yakupzack@fws.gov).

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **Introduction**

With this notice, we finalize the CCP process for Mandalay NWR. We started this process through a notice in the **Federal Register** on March 19, 2007 (72 FR 12811). For more about the process, see that notice.

Mandalay NWR, approximately 5 miles west of Houma, Louisiana, was established on May 2, 1996, with the purchase of 4,416 acres under the authority of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 1929 and the Endangered Species Act of 1973. The refuge, predominately freshwater marsh and cypress-tupelo swamp, provides excellent habitat for waterfowl, wading birds, and neotropical migratory songbirds.

We announce our decision and the availability of the final CCP and FONSI for Mandalay NWR 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 Mandalay NWR for the next 15 years.

The compatibility determinations for boating, recreational fishing, recreational hunting, wildlife observation/photography, control of mammals (nutria) and alligators, and environmental education/interpretation are available in the CCP.

### 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

Approximately 100 copies of the Draft CCP/EA were made available for a 30-day public review period as announced

in the **Federal Register** on May 28, 2009 (74 FR 25577). We received 11 comments from local citizens, the Safari Club, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources.

### Selected Alternative

After considering the comments we received, and based on the professional judgment of the planning team, we selected Alternative B to implement the CCP. The primary focus of the CCP is to optimize migratory bird and resident wildlife habitats. We consider Alternative B to be the most effective for meeting the purposes of the refuge by maintaining and enhancing a diversity of habitats for a variety of fish and wildlife species, enhancing resident wildlife populations, restoring wetlands, and providing opportunities for a variety of compatible wildlife-dependent recreation, education, and interpretive activities.

### 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, 2009.

**Patrick Leonard,**

*Acting Regional Director.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

**[FWS-R9-IA-2009-N258]**

**[96300-1671-0000-P5]**

### Issuance of Permits

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of issuance of permits.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), have issued the following permits to conduct certain activities with endangered species and/or marine mammals.

**ADDRESSES:** Documents and other information submitted with these applications are available for review, subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act, by any party who submits a written request for a copy of such documents to: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 212, Arlington, Virginia 22203; fax 703-358-2281.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Division of Management Authority, telephone 703-358-2104.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Notice is hereby given that on the dates below, as authorized by the provisions of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and/or the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the Fish and Wildlife Service issued the requested permits subject to certain conditions set forth therein. For each permit for an endangered species, the Service found that (1) the application was filed in good faith, (2) the granted permit would not operate to the disadvantage of the endangered species, and (3) the granted permit would be consistent with the purposes and policy set forth in Section 2 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. Endangered Species

## ENDANGERED SPECIES

Permit number	Applicant	Receipt of application Federal Register notice	Permit issuance date
179638 .....	Samuel K. Wasser/University of Washington .....	74 FR 41454; August 17, 2009 .....	October 9, 2009
206026 .....	Earl E. Wismer .....	74 FR 37241; July 28, 2009 .....	November 5, 2009
207047 .....	Hidden Harbor Marine Environmental Project .....	74 FR 28523; June 16, 2009 .....	November 6, 2009
213672 .....	James L. Scull, Jr. ....	74 FR 32192; July 7, 2009 .....	August 28, 2009
216076 .....	William R. Morgan, III .....	74 FR 32192; July 7, 2009 .....	August 28, 2009
216464 .....	Hidden Harbor Marine Environmental Project .....	74 FR 37240; July 28, 2009 .....	November 6, 2009
216468 .....	Donald E. Coon .....	74 FR 32192; July 7, 2009 .....	August 28, 2009
218607 .....	Philadelphia Zoo .....	74 FR 37240; July 28, 2009 .....	November 4, 2009
219116 .....	Jon L. Blocker .....	74 FR 37240; July 28, 2009 .....	August 28, 2009
220562 .....	Richard R. Arend .....	74 FR 49017; September 25, 2009 .....	October 26, 2009
220718 .....	James R. Boyd .....	74 FR 40230; August 11, 2009 .....	October 16, 2009
221391 .....	Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission .....	74 FR 46222; September 8, 2009 .....	November 5, 2009
221404 .....	Ralph D. Miller .....	74 FR 221404; September 8, 2009 .....	October 15, 2009
222050 .....	Mark Peterson .....	74 FR 46222; September 8, 2009 .....	October 15, 2009
222864 .....	Joe B. Tinney .....	74 FR 49017; September 25, 2009 .....	November 2, 2009