

Background

The CCP Process

The National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 668dd–668ee) (Improvement Act), 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 strategy for achieving refuge purposes and contributing to 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 Improvement Act.

Each unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System is established for specific purposes. We use these purposes as the foundation for developing and prioritizing the management goals and objectives for each refuge within the National Wildlife Refuge System mission, and to determine how the public can use each refuge. The planning process is a way for us and the public to evaluate management goals and objectives for the best possible conservation approach to this important wildlife habitat, while providing for wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities that are compatible with the refuge's establishing purposes and the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Our CCP process provides participation opportunities for Tribal, State, and local governments; agencies; organizations; and the public. At this time we encourage input in the form of issues, concerns, ideas, and suggestions for the future management of Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge. Special mailings, newspaper articles, and other media outlets will be used to announce opportunities for input throughout the planning process.

We will conduct the environmental assessment in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*); NEPA regulations (40 CFR parts 1500–1508); other appropriate Federal laws and regulations; and our policies

and procedures for compliance with those laws and regulations.

On June 19, 1997, the Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge was established under the “Emergency Wetland Resources Act of 1986 (100 Stat. 3582–91.)” The purposes are “* * * 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 * * *” 16 U.S.C. 3901(b), 100 Stat. 3583.

The refuge was first identified as a high priority site for protection in 1978 by the Service's bottomland hardwood conservation program. In 1991, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources asked the Service to consider the site for protection as a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The refuge currently consists of approximately 8,500 acres, with an approved acquisition boundary of approximately 18,000 acres that extends along the East Fork of the Clarks River from just south of Benton, Kentucky, northwest to within five miles of the city of Paducah, Kentucky. The office/visitor center and maintenance facilities are located on the refuge in Benton, Kentucky. The most common public use activities on the refuge consist of hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, wildlife photography, and hiking. Environmental education is also a significant use on the refuge.

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 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.

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

Dated: July 1, 2008.

Cynthia K. Dohner,

Acting Regional Director.

[FR Doc. E8–20086 Filed 8–28–08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–55–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

U.S. Geological Survey

Interim Steering Committee for the National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center

AGENCY: U.S. Geological Survey.

ACTION: Notice of open public meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Public Law 106–503, the Interim Steering Committee for the National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center will hold a meeting to discuss priority wildlife climate change research needs of land management and natural resources agencies. Agenda topics will be provided under the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this notice. Meetings of the Interim Steering Committee for the National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center are open to the public.

ADDRESSES: The meeting location is Main Interior Building, Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, NW., Washington, DC 20240, Room B253.

DATES: September 23, 2008, commencing at 9:15 a.m. and adjourning at 12 p.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robin Schrock, U.S. Geological Survey, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive MS301, Reston, Virginia 20192, 703–648–4066, Robin_Schrock@usgs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center Interim Steering Committee is comprised of members from Federal and State government. The Interim Steering Committee shall advise the Director of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) on matters relating to the development of the National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center.

Matters To Be Considered: The meeting will begin with Federal, State and non-governmental organizations provided an opportunity to discuss the agenda for the planned December Workshop on climate change and wildlife research needs. The committee will use common themes and unique needs identified in previous meetings, including modeling, forecasting, and technology transfer, to build a workshop program that will explore additional needs and address the current state of knowledge and management and policy implications. The meeting will conclude with identification of potential workshop speakers and invitees.

Dated: August 22, 2008.

Gladys Cotter,

Associate Chief Biologist for Information.

[FR Doc. E8-20023 Filed 8-28-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[ES-020-08-1610-DQ-028M]

Notice of Availability of the Alabama and Mississippi Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Availability.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared a Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP/FEIS) for Alabama and Mississippi.

DATES: The BLM planning regulations (43 CFR 1610.5-2) state that any person who meets the conditions as described in the regulations may protest the BLM's Proposed RMP. A person who meets the conditions and files a protest must file the protest within 30 days of the date that the Environmental Protection Agency publishes its notice in the **Federal Register**.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the Alabama and Mississippi PRMP/FEIS have been sent to affected Federal, State, and local government agencies and to interested parties. Copies of the Proposed RMP/FEIS are available for public inspection at the BLM-ES Jackson Field Office, 411 Briarwood Drive, Suite 404, Jackson, Mississippi 39206. Interested persons may also review the Proposed RMP/FEIS on the Internet at http://www.es.blm.gov/AL_MS_RMP. All protests must be in writing and must be mailed to:

Regular Mail: Director (210), Attention: Brenda Williams, P.O. Box 66538, Washington, DC 20035.

Overnight Mail: Director (210), Attention: Brenda Williams, 1620 L Street, NW., Suite 1075, Washington, DC 20036.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Gary Taylor, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, Bureau of Land Management-Eastern States, Jackson Field Office, 411 Briarwood Drive, Jackson, Mississippi 39206. Mr.

Taylor may also be contacted by telephone: (601) 977-5413.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This PRMP/FEIS covers all the public land resources administered by the BLM in the States of Alabama and Mississippi. The issues addressed in the PRMP/FEIS are mineral leasing and ownership adjustment of the scattered surface tracts. Within the two States combined, the BLM administers approximately 333 acres of public land surface and mineral estate and 621,090 acres of Federal minerals where the surface estate is in non-Federal ownership. The BLM also has responsibility for 2,081,880 acres of mineral estate where the surface is managed by other Federal agencies, including 1,871,550 acres of National Forest lands. On these lands, leasing of Federal minerals is subject to management as directed by the surface managing agency, and the decisions of this RMP will pertain only to the BLM's role in administering the minerals. The RMP will not make decisions on oil and gas leasing of National Forest acreage, because by regulation the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) is responsible for land use planning decisions on oil and gas leasing. Within the two States, there are also 9,788 acres of lands with uncertain title. These are public domain lands according to General Land Office records, but may have private claims of ownership. The RMP will not make management decisions on these lands per se; however, these lands will be available for disposal to qualified applicants under the Color-of-Title Act. Public participation was solicited during the formation of the Draft RMP/EIS through public meetings in Gulf Shore, AL; Birmingham, AL; and Jackson, MS.

Comments on the Draft RMP/EIS received from the public and internal BLM review were incorporated into the proposed plan. Public comments resulted in the addition of clarifying text, but did not significantly change proposed land use decisions.

Instructions for filing a protest with the Director of the BLM regarding the PRMP/FEIS may be found in the Dear Reader Letter of the Alabama and Mississippi PRMP/FEIS and at 43 CFR 1610.5. E-mail and faxed protests will not be accepted as valid protests unless the protesting party also provides the original letter by either regular or overnight mail postmarked by the close of the protest period. Under these conditions, the BLM will consider the e-mail or faxed protest as an advance copy and it will receive full consideration. If you wish to provide the BLM with such advance notification, please direct faxed

protests to the attention of the BLM protest coordinator at 202-452-5112, and e-mails to Brenda_Hudgens-Williams@blm.gov. All protests, including the follow-up letter (if e-mailing or faxing) must be in writing and mailed to the address(es) set forth in the **ADDRESSES** section, above.

Before including your phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your protest, you should be aware that your entire protest—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your protest to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Dated: March 25, 2008.

Juan Palma,

State Director, Eastern States.

Editorial Note: This document was received at the Office of the Federal Register on August 25, 2008.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[UT-070-1610-011J]

Notice of Availability of the Price Field Office Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP/FEIS)

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Availability.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared a Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP/FEIS) for the Price Field Office.

DATES: The BLM planning regulations (43 CFR 1610.5-2) state that any person who meets the conditions as described in the regulations may protest the BLM's PRMP/FEIS. A person who meets the conditions and files a protest must file the protest within 30 days of the date that the Environmental Protection Agency publishes this notice in the **Federal Register**.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the Price Field Office PRMP/FEIS were sent to affected Federal, state, and local government agencies and to interested parties. Copies of the PRMP/FEIS are available