

Next Steps

The Service will evaluate the HCP and comments received to determine whether the applications meet the requirements of section 10(a) of the Act. The Service will also evaluate whether issuance of the section 10(a)(1)(B) ITPs complies with section 7 of the Act by conducting an intra-Service section 7 consultation. The results of this consultation, in combination with the above findings, will be used in the final analysis to determine whether or not to issue the ITPs. If it is determined that the requirements of the Act are met, the ITPs will be issued for the incidental take of loggerhead, green, leatherback, hawksbill, and Kemp's Ridley sea turtles.

Submitting Comments

If you wish to submit comments or information, you may do so by any one of several methods. Please reference permit numbers TE65165A-0, TE65167A-0, and TE65168A-0 in such comments. You may mail comments to the Service's South Florida Ecological Services Office (see **ADDRESSES**). You may also submit comments via email to trish_adams@fws.gov. Please also include your name and return address in your email message. If you do not receive a confirmation from us that we have received your email message, contact us directly at the telephone number listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. Finally, you may hand deliver comments to the Service office listed under **ADDRESSES**.

Availability of Public Comments

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comments, 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 provided pursuant to Section 10 of the Act and NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

Dated: March 15, 2012.

Larry Williams,

Field Supervisor, South Florida Ecological Services Office.

[FR Doc. 2012-6776 Filed 3-20-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R2-R-2012-N230; 1265-0000-10137-S3]

Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge, Boundary County, ID; Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Finding of No Significant Impact for Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce the availability of our final comprehensive conservation plan (CCP) and finding of no significant impact for the environmental assessment for the Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge (NWR/refuge). In this final CCP, we describe how we will manage the refuge for the next 15 years.

ADDRESSES: You may view or obtain copies of the final CCP and finding of no significant impact (FONSI) for the environmental assessment (EA) by any of the following methods. You may request a hard copy or CD-ROM.

Agency Web Site: Download a copy of the document at <http://www.fws.gov/pacific/planning>.

Email:

FW1PlanningComments@fws.gov.

Include "Kootenai NWR FCCP/EA" in the subject line.

Fax: Attn: Dianna Ellis, Refuge Manager, (208) 267-3888.

U.S. Mail: Dianna Ellis, Refuge Manager, Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge, 287 Westside Road, Bonners Ferry, ID 83805.

In-Person Viewing or Pickup: Call (208) 267-3888 to make an appointment during regular business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dianna Ellis, Refuge Manager, (208) 267-3888.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Introduction

With this notice, we announce the completion of the CCP process for Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge. The Service started this process through a notice of intent in the **Federal Register** (74 FR 8102; February 23, 2009). We released the draft CCP/EA to the public, announcing and requesting comments in a notice of availability in the **Federal Register** (76 FR 48877; August 9, 2011).

Kootenai NWR encompasses 2,774 acres along the lower Kootenai River in Boundary County, Idaho. Habitat types

on the refuge include seasonal, semipermanent, and permanent wetlands; floodplain forests; coniferous forests; managed pastures; and croplands. The refuge was established under the Migratory Bird Conservation Act "for use as an inviolate sanctuary, or for any other management purpose, for migratory birds." The refuge provides important habitat for waterbirds, migratory landbirds, and raptors; a variety of mammals including white-tailed deer, elk, and moose; and bull trout, which is listed as a threatened species under the Federal Endangered Species Act.

We announce our CCP decision and the availability of a FONSI for Kootenai NWR in accordance with the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd-668ee) (Refuge Administration Act) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (40 CFR 1506.6(b)) requirements. We prepared an analysis of environmental impacts, which we included in an EA that accompanied the draft CCP.

The CCP will guide us in managing and administering the refuges for the next 15 years. Alternative 2, as described in the draft CCP, is the basis for the final CCP.

Background

The Refuge 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 compatible wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities available to the public, including opportunities for compatible 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.

CCP Alternatives, Including Selected Alternative

Our draft CCP/EA (76 FR 48877; August 9, 2011) discussed several issues. To address these, we developed and evaluated the following alternatives.

Alternative 1 (No Action)

Under Alternative 1, we analyzed the following ongoing actions:

- Continuing to manage wetlands, croplands, and grasslands for migratory waterfowl, shorebirds, deer, and elk.
- Growing 200 acres of grain crops annually.
- Maintaining existing riparian and forest habitat; minimal management of instream habitat.
- Allowing waterfowl hunting on the 740-acre hunt area, 4 days per week, in accordance with the State's season. A 200-yard no-shooting area (91 acres) would continue along the auto tour route to provide for safety.
- Allowing big game and upland game (grouse) hunting on the 295 acres of timber on the west side of Lions Den and Westside Roads.
- Allowing fishing from the banks of Myrtle Creek only.
- Providing a 4.5-mile auto tour route that is open year-round to vehicles, walking, bicycling, jogging, dog walking (on leash only), cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing as weather and road conditions permit.
- Providing slightly over 5 miles of trails that are open to walking, jogging, and dog walking (on leash only) year-round, except for Island Pond Trail, which would be closed on hunt days during the waterfowl hunting season.
- Providing an Environmental Education Center for teacher-led, and occasionally staff-led, programs.

Alternative 2 (Selected Action)

Alternative 2, our preferred alternative, represents a balanced approach among the many competing needs at the refuge. An emphasis on managing wetlands, croplands, and grasslands for migratory waterfowl, shorebirds, deer, and elk would continue. The Service will pursue measures to improve habitat quality and restore native habitats, such as:

- Repairing and improving the existing water management infrastructure to increase the refuge's ability to manage wetlands.
- Increasing the acreage of moist-soil wetlands from 10–20 acres (current) to 75–100 acres to provide natural food sources for waterfowl. Once moist soil habitat is established, 50–75 acres of croplands would be restored to native upland grassland or wet meadow, while 125–200 acres of small grains and green browse would continue to be provided annually for migratory waterfowl.
- Maintaining 200 acres of existing riparian habitat and restoring 35–50 acres of native riparian and grassland habitats. White-tailed deer and elk

populations would be managed, in consultation with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG), through special permit hunts in order to protect restored riparian habitat.

- Suppressing wildfires and thinning forests to maintain an open understory and reduce ladder fuels.
- Working with partners to examine the feasibility of restoring degraded stream habitats for the benefit of native fish.
- Initiating a land protection plan study to analyze alternatives for possible refuge boundary expansion to include 120 acres of floodplain owned by the Idaho Department of Lands.

The refuge would continue to provide opportunities for compatible wildlife-dependent recreation, including waterfowl hunting, wildlife observation and photography, big game and upland game hunting, environmental education, and interpretation. Waterfowl hunting will continue be permitted 4 days per week, in accordance with the State's season. Current fishing regulations would continue (fishing is allowed from the banks of Myrtle Creek only). The 4.5-mile auto tour route will remain open year round to vehicles, walking, bicycling, jogging, dog walking (on leash only), cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing as weather and road conditions permit. A number of changes would be implemented to improve the quality of and access to these programs, increase public safety, and reduce disturbance to wildlife, including:

- The waterfowl hunt area will be reduced to 582 acres due to increasing the size of the 200-yard non-shooting area to include the area along the Deep Creek Trail (266 acres) to provide for safety. Overall, waterfowl hunting opportunities will be the same as under current management because the non-shooting area is rarely hunted.
- The location of fixed blinds and free-roam hunt areas would be adjusted as necessary based on habitat quality, waterfowl use of wetlands, and data from hunter surveys.
- An additional ADA-accessible blind will be constructed on the north hunt unit. South Pond will be open to hunting from the ADA blind only.
- Big game, upland game (grouse only), and turkey hunting will be allowed west of Lions Den Road (173 acres). Big game and upland game hunting will be discontinued west of Westside Road (122 acres). To reduce damage to riparian vegetation on the refuge flats, special permit and/or depredation hunts will be developed for white-tailed deer and elk, in consultation with Idaho Department of Fish and Game, if monitoring

demonstrates a need for population control. Overall, opportunities for big game and upland game hunting will increase compared to current management.

- Wildlife observation, photography, walking, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing will be allowed on four trails (3.7 miles total) year round, weather permitting. The Island Pond Trail will be closed to reduce disturbance to waterfowl.
- Environmental education programs will increase.

Alternative 3

This alternative was analyzed but not selected. Under Alternative 3, actions to protect, maintain, and restore habitat for priority species are the same as under Alternative 2, except that fewer areas would be planted to crops since more acres are managed as moist soil wetlands. The acreage in crops and moist soil would be intermediate between Alternatives 1 and 2.

Waterfowl, big game, upland game, and turkey hunting would be the same as in Alternative 2. As in Alternative 2, special permit hunts for white-tailed deer and elk on the refuge flats would be developed to reduce damage to riparian vegetation. Catch-and-release fishing would be allowed from the banks of Myrtle Creek using single, barbless, non-baited hooks only.

The 4.5-mile auto tour route would remain open year-round to vehicles, walking, bicycling, jogging, dog walking (on leash only), cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing as weather and road conditions permit. Wildlife observation, photography, walking, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing would be allowed on five trails (4.8 miles total) year round, weather permitting. The Island Pond Trail would be closed, but the 1.1-mile Kootenai River Trail would be reopened. Environmental education programs would increase.

Comments

We solicited comments on the draft CCP/EA from August 9, 2011, to September 12, 2011 (76 FR 48877; August 9, 2011). To address the public comments we received, responsive changes and clarifications were made to the final CCP where appropriate. These changes are summarized in the FONSI.

Selected Alternative

After considering the public comments, we have selected Alternative 2 for implementation. The goals, objectives, and strategies under Alternative 2 best achieve the purpose and need for the CCP while maintaining balance among the varied management

needs and programs. Alternative 2 addresses the refuge purposes, issues, and relevant mandates, and is consistent with principles of sound fish and wildlife management.

Dated: November 10, 2011.

Hugh Morrison,

*Acting Regional Director, Pacific Region,
Portland, Oregon.*

[FR Doc. 2012-6250 Filed 3-20-12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[NPS-NER-HPPC-0206-9480; 4350-HAMP-409]

General Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement, Hampton National Historic Site, Maryland

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The National Park Service (NPS) announces the availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the General Management Plan (Final GMP/EIS) for Hampton National Historic Site (NHS), Maryland. The Final GMP/EIS identifies Alternative 3 as the NPS preferred alternative for the new GMP for Hampton NHS. When approved, the GMP will provide guidance to park management for administration, development, and interpretation of park resources over the next 20 years.

DATES: The NPS will execute a Record of Decision (ROD) no sooner than 30 days after the date of publication by the Environmental Protection Agency of a Notice of Availability of the Final GMP/EIS in the **Federal Register**.

ADDRESSES: The Final GMP/EIS is available for online at the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) Web site (<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/hamp>), and the park's Web site (<http://www.nps.gov/hamp>). Printed hardcopies can be viewed at the following locations: Hampton National Historic Site, 535 Hampton Lane, Towson, Maryland 21286. Fort McHenry National and Historic Shrine, End of East Fort Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21230. Towson Branch Library/Baltimore County Library, 320 York Avenue, Towson, Maryland 21204. Baltimore County Tourism Office and Towson Chamber of Commerce, 44 West Chesapeake Avenue, Towson, Maryland 21204.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tina Orcutt, Superintendent, Hampton National Historic Site, 535 Hampton Road, Towson, Maryland 21286-1397, (410) 823-1309 ext. 101.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The NPS prepared a Draft GMP/EIS to evaluate alternatives to guide the development and future management of Hampton NHS. Alternative 1 would continue current management direction and visitor experience. Alternative 2 would remove post-1948 development and consolidate administrative functions in an effort to recreate the feeling of the Hampton Estate near the end of its period of greatest significance (mid to late 19th century). Alternative 3, the NPS preferred alternative, would expand the visitor experience to include the entire story of the park from the 19th century through the changes of activity and ownership in the 20th century; broaden the stories to include all those who lived and worked at the mansion, the plantations and related Ridgely family enterprises; and provide visitor services and accommodate park operations within the historic and modern buildings existing on the property now. Alternative 3 was also identified as the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The Draft GMP/EIS was available for public and agency review from October 11, 2010, through December 24, 2010. Printed copies of the Draft GMP/EIS were available at the locations listed above and online at the NPS PEPC Web site (<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/hamp>). Three public open houses were held in November, 2010.

The Final GMP/EIS responds to, and incorporates, agency and public comments received on the Draft GMP/EIS. Agency and public comments with NPS responses are provided on page 135 of the Final GMP/EIS. After careful review of all comments received, Alternative 3 remains the NPS preferred alternative for the new GMP for Hampton NHS. The public release of the Final GMP/EIS will be followed by a no-action period that will end no sooner than 30 days from the date of publication by the Environmental Protection Agency of a Notice of Availability of the Final GMP/EIS in the **Federal Register**. After the 30-day no action period, a Record of Decision will be prepared to document the selected alternative and set forth any stipulations for implementation of the GMP.

Dated: January 27, 2012.

Dennis R. Reidenbach,

Regional Director, Northeast Region, National Park Service.

[FR Doc. 2012-6757 Filed 3-20-12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

Yakima River Basin Conservation Advisory Group Charter Renewal

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of renewal.

SUMMARY: Following consultation with the General Services Administration, notice is hereby given that the Secretary of the Interior is renewing the charter for the Yakima River Basin Conservation Advisory Group (CAG). The purpose of the CAG is to provide recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior and the State of Washington on the structure and implementation of the Yakima River Basin Water Conservation Program.

The basin conservation program is structured to provide economic incentives with cooperative Federal, State, and local funding to stimulate the identification and implementation of structural and nonstructural cost-effective water conservation measures in the Yakima River basin. Improvements in the efficiency of water delivery and use will result in improved streamflows for fish and wildlife and improve the reliability of water supplies for irrigation.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Timothy McCoy, Manager, Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project, telephone 509-575-5848, extension 209.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is published in accordance with Section 9(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (Pub. L. 92-463, as amended). The certification of renewal is published below.

Certification

I hereby certify that Charter renewal of the Yakima River Basin Conservation Advisory Group is in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed on the Department of the Interior.

Ken Salazar,

Secretary of the Interior.

[FR Doc. 2012-6768 Filed 3-20-12; 8:45 am]

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