

Dated: April 2, 2004.

R. David Paulison,

U.S. Fire Administrator, Director of the Preparedness Division.

[FR Doc. 04-8111 Filed 4-8-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 9110-17-P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Federal Emergency Management Agency

Open Meeting, Board of Visitors for the National Fire Academy

AGENCY: U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), FEMA, Emergency Preparedness and Response, Homeland Security.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2, FEMA announces the following committee meeting:

Name: Board of Visitors (BOV) for the National Fire Academy.

DATES: May 6-7, 2004.

Place: Building H, Room 300, National Emergency Training Center, Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Time: May 6, 2004, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. May 7, 2004, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Proposed Agenda: May 6-7, Review National Fire Academy Program Activities.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting will be open to the public with seating available on a first-come, first-served basis. Members of the general public who plan to attend the meeting should contact the Office of the Superintendent, National Fire Academy, U.S. Fire Administration, 16825 South Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg, MD 21727, (301) 447-1117, on or before April 30, 2004.

Minutes of the meeting will be prepared and will be available for public viewing in the Office of the U.S. Fire Administrator, U.S. Fire Administration, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727. Copies of the minutes will be available upon request within 60 days after the meeting.

Dated: March 31, 2004.

R. David Paulison,

U.S. Fire Administrator, Director of the Preparedness Division.

[FR Doc. 04-8112 Filed 4-8-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-4901-N-15]

Federal Property Suitable as Facilities To Assist the Homeless

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development, HUD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This Notice identifies unutilized, underutilized, excess, and surplus Federal property reviewed by HUD for suitability for possible use to assist the homeless.

DATES: April 9, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kathy Burruss, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Room 7262, 451 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20410; telephone (202) 708-1234; TTD number for the hearing- and speech-impaired (202) 708-2565, (these telephone numbers are not toll-free), or call the toll-free Title V information line at 1-800-927-7588.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with the December 12, 1988 court order in *National Coalition for the Homeless v. Veterans Administration*, No. 88-2503-OG (D.D.C.), HUD publishes a Notice, on a weekly basis, identifying unutilized, underutilized, excess and surplus Federal buildings and real property that HUD has reviewed for suitability for use to assist the homeless. Today's Notice is for the purpose of announcing that no additional properties have been determined suitable or unsuitable this week.

Dated: April 1, 2004.

Mark R. Johnston,

Acting Director, Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs.

[FR Doc. 04-7812 Filed 4-8-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210-29-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Information Collection To Be Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Approval Under the Paperwork Reduction Act; Federal Fish and Wildlife Permit Application; Native Endangered and Threatened Species

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will submit a request for

approval of a collection of information to OMB under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act. A description of the information collection requirement is included in this notice. If you wish to obtain copies of the proposed information collection requirement, related forms, or explanatory material, contact the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer at the address listed below.

DATES: You must submit comments on or before June 8, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Send your comments on the information collection requirement via mail to the Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop 222-ARLSQ, Arlington, Virginia 22203; or via fax at (703) 358-2269; or via e-mail at Anissa_Craghead@fws.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request a copy of the proposed information collection requirement, related forms, or explanatory material, contact Anissa Craghead, Information Collection Clearance Officer, by telephone at (703) 358-2445 or by e-mail at Anissa_Craghead@fws.gov. You may also contact Mary Klee, Endangered Species Program, by telephone at (703) 358-2061 or by e-mail at Mary_Klee@fws.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR 1320, which implement provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), require that interested members of the public and affected agencies have an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping activities (*see* 5 CFR 1320.8(d)). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service or we) plans to submit a request to OMB to renew its existing approval of the collection of information for Native Threatened and Endangered Species Permit Applications, which expires on July 31, 2004. We are requesting a 3-year term of approval for this information collection activity.

Federal agencies may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB control number for this collection of information is 1018-0094.

Under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), it is unlawful to import or export; deliver, receive, carry, transport, or ship in interstate or foreign commerce in the course of a commercial activity; sell or offer for sale in interstate or foreign

commerce; take (includes harm, harass, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect any wildlife within the United States); take on the high seas; possess, ship, deliver, carry, transport, sell, or receive unlawfully taken wildlife; remove and reduce to possession any plant from areas under Federal jurisdiction; maliciously damage or destroy an endangered plant on areas under Federal jurisdiction; and remove, cut, dig up, or damage or destroy any endangered plant in knowing violation of any State law or regulation or in the course of a violation of a State criminal trespass law. These prohibitions apply equally to live or dead animals or plants, their progeny (seeds in the case of plants), and parts or products derived from them.

The ESA provides a number of exceptions to these prohibitions, including the prohibition against "take" of listed species. Regulations have been promulgated at 50 CFR 17.22 (endangered wildlife species), 17.32 (threatened wildlife species), 17.62 (endangered plant species), and 17.72 (threatened plant species) to guide implementation of these exceptions through permitting programs.

The information collection requirement in this submission implements the regulatory requirements of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1539), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 704), the Lacey Act (18 U.S.C. 42-44), the Bald Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668), and the Marine Mammal Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1374) contained in Service regulations in chapter I, subchapter B of title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).

This entire information collection is titled, "Federal Fish and Wildlife Permit Application; Native Endangered and Threatened Species." These permit applications are used to collect information on prohibited activities that may impact native endangered and threatened species. The information supplied on the application form and the attachments will be used to review the application and allow the Service to make decisions, according to criteria established in various Federal wildlife conservation statutes and regulations on the issuance, suspension, revocation, or denial of permits. The obligation to provide the information is "required to obtain a benefit" (*i.e.*, to obtain an exception to the prohibited activities). An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information (*i.e.*, the permit application form) displays a currently valid OMB control number. We have revised the following

information collection requirement, and they are included in this submission:

1. *Title of Form:* Enhancement of Survival Permits associated with Safe Harbor Agreements, and Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances.

Approval Number: 1018-0094.

Service Form Number: 3-200-54.

Frequency of Collection: Annually.

Description of Respondents:

Individuals, households, businesses, State agencies, private organizations.

Total Annual Burden Hours: The reporting burden is estimated to average 3 hours per respondent for the application and 8 hours per respondent for the annual report of permitted activities. The Total Annual Burden hours are 66 hours for the application and 424 hours for the annual report on the permitted activities.

Total Annual Responses: The total number of annual responses is estimated to be 22 for the application and 53 for the annual report of the permitted activities.

Background Explanation: Service form number 3-200-54 addresses application and reporting requirements for Enhancement of Survival Permits associated with Safe Harbor Agreements and Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA. The permittee is required to notify the Service of any transfer of lands subject to the Safe Harbor Agreement so that any landowners may be offered the opportunity to continue the actions which the original landowner agreed to, and thus he or she may be offered the same regulatory assurances. A major incentive for landowner participation in the Safe Harbor program is the long-term certainty the program provides, including the certainty that the take authorization will stay with the land when it changes hands. The Service also requires the permittee/landowner to notify the Service as far in advance as possible when he or she expects to "take" any species covered under the permit and provide the Service with an opportunity to translocate affected individual specimens, if possible and appropriate.

2. *Title of Form:* Permits for Scientific Purposes, Enhancement of Propagation or Survival (*i.e.*, Recovery) and Interstate Commerce.

Approval Number: 1018-0094.

Service Form Number: 3-200-55.

Frequency of Collection: Annually.

Description of Respondents:

Individuals, scientific and research institutions.

Total Annual Burden Hours: The reporting burden is estimated to average

4 hours per respondent for the application and 8 hours per respondent for the annual report on the permitted activities. The Total Annual Burden hours are 3,280 hours for the application and 11,680 hours for the annual report on the permitted activities.

Total Annual Responses: The total number of annual responses is estimated to be 820 for the application and 1,460 for the annual report of the permitted activities.

Background Explanation: Form number 3-200-55 addresses application and reporting information requirements for Recovery and Interstate Commerce permits under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA. Recovery permits allow "take" of listed species as part of scientific research and management actions, enhancement of propagation or survival, zoological exhibition, educational purposes, or special purposes consistent with the ESA designed to benefit the species involved. Interstate Commerce permits allow transport and sale of listed species across State lines as part of breeding programs enhancing the survival of the species. Detailed descriptions of the proposed taking, its necessities for success of the proposed action, and benefits to the species resulting from the proposed action are required under the implementing regulations cited above. Take authorized under this permit program would otherwise be prohibited by the ESA.

3. *Title of Form:* Incidental Take Permits Associated With a Habitat Conservation Plan.

Approval Number: 1018-0094.

Service Form Number: 3-200-56.

Frequency of Collection: Annually.

Description of Respondents:

Individuals, households, businesses, local and State agencies.

Total Annual Burden Hours: The reporting burden is estimated to average 3 hours per respondent for the application and 20 hours per respondent for the annual report on the permitted activities. The Total Annual Burden hours are 288 hours for the application and 4,020 hours for the annual report on the permitted activities.

Total Annual Responses: The total number of annual responses is estimated to be 96 for the application and 201 for the annual report of the permitted activities.

Background Explanation: Form number 3-200-56 addresses application and reporting requirements for Incidental Take Permits under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA. These permits allow "take" of listed species that is incidental to otherwise lawful non-

Federal actions. Take authorized under this permit program would otherwise be prohibited by the ESA.

We invite comments concerning this renewal on: (1) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of our endangered and threatened species management functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of our estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents. The information collections in this program are part of a system of records covered by the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552(a)).

Dated: March 30, 2004.

Anissa Craghead,

Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 04-8063 Filed 4-8-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Availability of a Final Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report on the South Bay Salt Ponds Initial Stewardship Plan, San Francisco Bay, CA

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public of the availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report for the South Bay Salt Ponds Initial Stewardship Plan. The Record of Decision will be signed no sooner than 30 days from this notice.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game plan to manage 15,100 acres of former commercial salt ponds in south San Francisco Bay using an interim strategy while a long-term restoration plan is developed and implemented. This interim strategy, the Initial Stewardship Plan (ISP), would use existing and new water control structures, pursuant to permits, to release any remaining saline pond waters to the Bay and to prevent further salt concentration by circulating waters through the ponds. The ponds are located at the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge and at the Eden Landing State Ecological Reserve.

DATES: A Record of Decision will occur no sooner than 30 days from the date of publication of this notice. In accordance with NEPA, we have filed the EIS with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Each Friday, EPA publishes a **Federal Register** notice that lists EISs received during the previous week. The EPA notice officially starts the 30-day review period for these documents. It is the goal of the Fish and Wildlife Service to have the FWS notice published on the same date as the EPA notice. However, if that does not occur, the date of the EPA notice will determine the closing date for the Final EIS.

ADDRESSES: The Final Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report can be viewed at <http://www.southbayrestoration.org/documents>. Copies of the Final Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report are also available for review at the following government offices and libraries:
Government Offices—Don Edwards San Francisco Bay NWR, #1 Marshlands Road, Fremont, CA 94536, (510) 792-0222; Don Edwards San Francisco Bay NWR, Environmental Education Center, 1751 Grand Boulevard, Alviso, CA 95002, (408) 262-5513; California Department of Fish and Game, 7329 Silverado Trail, Napa, CA 94558, (707) 944-5500.

Libraries—Alviso Library, 5050 N. 1st St., Alviso, CA 95002-1060, (408) 263-3626; Hayward Public Library, 835 C St., Hayward, CA 94541-5120, (510) 293-8685; Menlo Park Public Library, 800 Alma Street, Menlo Park, CA 94025-3460, (415) 858-3460; Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View, CA 94041-1998; (650) 903-6335; Union City Library, 34007 Alvarado-Niles Road, Union City, CA 94587-4498; (510) 745-1464.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Margaret Kolar, Refuge Complex Manager, San Francisco Bay NWR Complex, P.O. Box 524, Newark, California 94560, (510) 792-0222.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) prepared a Final Environmental Impact Statement evaluating the impacts of managing the South Bay Salt Ponds in San Francisco Bay under an Initial Stewardship Plan.

On March 6, 2003, the State of California and the United States of America acquired 15,100 acres of commercial salt ponds in South San Francisco Bay from Cargill, Inc. The

purpose of the acquisition was to protect, restore and enhance the property for fish and wildlife, as well as to provide opportunities for wildlife-oriented recreation and education. The Final Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report (Final EIS/EIR) on the South Bay Salt Ponds Initial Stewardship Plan addresses the interim management of these ponds prior to their long-term restoration.

Under commercial salt production, Cargill managed the South Bay salt ponds as shallow water ponds with various salinity levels. The salinity levels varied both geographically, based on the location of the pond within the system, and temporally, based on seasonal and climatic conditions. Although these ponds were managed for salt production, they provided habitat for many water bird species including waterfowl and shorebirds.

The restoration of the salt ponds is taking place in three independent stages. First, Cargill is reducing the salinity levels in the ponds by moving the saltiest brines to its plant site in Newark, California. After the salinities are reduced to levels that are allowed to be discharged to the Bay, Cargill will no longer manage the ponds for salt production. Management of the Baumberg ponds will be turned over to the California Department of Fish and Game and management of the Alviso ponds and West Bay ponds will be turned over to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

In the second stage of restoration, the ponds will be managed by the agencies in a manner that provides habitat values while the long-term restoration plan is being developed and implemented. In this Initial Stewardship stage, Bay waters will be circulated through the ponds following installation of water control structures and the existing levees will be maintained for minimum flood protection. The Final EIS/EIR covers only this second stage of restoration, *i.e.*, Initial Stewardship.

The third stage of restoration is the actual long-term restoration of the salt ponds to a mix of tidal marshes, managed ponds and other habitats. The planning process for this long-term restoration has just begun and will include a substantial amount of data collection, studies, modeling efforts, and public involvement. The long-term planning process will include development of a separate EIS/EIR.

Implementation of the long-term restoration plan is expected to be conducted in phases beginning in 5 years, but with some phases extending beyond 20 years. Therefore, some ponds may be managed under the Initial