

DATES: Written comments on the ITP applications and HCPs should be sent to the South Florida Ecological Services Office (see **ADDRESSES**) and should be received on or before April 16, 2007.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the application and HCP may obtain a copy by writing the Service's South Florida Ecological Services Office. Please reference permit number TE 136147-0 in such requests. Documents will also be available for public inspection by appointment during normal business hours at the South Florida Ecological Services Office, 1339 20th Street, Vero Beach, Florida 32960-3559.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Trish Adams, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, South Florida Ecological Services Office, Vero Beach, Florida (see **ADDRESSES**), telephone: 772/562-3909, ext. 232.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: If you wish to comment, you may submit comments by any one of several methods. Please reference permit number TE 136147-0 in such requests. You may mail comments to the Service's South Florida Ecological Services Office (see **ADDRESSES**). You may also comment via the Internet to trish_adams@fws.gov. Please also include your name and return address in your Internet message. If you do not receive a confirmation from us that we have received your internet 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**. Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the administrative record. We will honor such requests to the extent allowable by law. There may also be other circumstances in which we would withhold from the administrative record a respondent's identity, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. We will not, however, consider anonymous comments. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

Construction of the Project will take place within Section 30, Township 40 South, Range 43 East, Tequesta, Palm

Beach County, Florida. The Project site is bounded by the Casa del Sol development project on the north, County Line Plaza on the south, U.S. Highway 1 on the east, and by the Village of Tequesta water treatment plant on the west. Scrub-jays occupy 3.58 acres of the 6-acre site.

The Applicant proposes to minimize take of scrub-jays by avoiding land clearing activities during the breeding or nesting season (March through June) and by preserving, restoring, and maintaining 1.34 acres of scrub-jay habitat on their 6-acre lot in perpetuity. The Applicants propose to mitigate for the loss of 2.24 acres of occupied scrub-jay habitat by contributing a total of \$384,017.78 to the Florida Scrub-jay Conservation Program Fund administered by The Nature Conservancy. Funds in this account are ear-marked for use in the conservation and recovery of scrub-jays and may include habitat acquisition, restoration, and management.

The Service has determined that the Applicant's proposal, including the proposed mitigation and minimization measures, will have a minor or negligible effect on the species covered in the HCP. Therefore, the ITP is for a "low-effect" project and qualifies as a categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as provided by the Department of the Interior Manual (516 DM 2, Appendix 1 and 516 DM 6, Appendix 1). This preliminary information may be revised based on our review of public comments that we receive in response to this notice. Low-effect HCPs are those involving (1) minor or negligible effects on federally listed or candidate species and their habitats, and (2) minor or negligible effects on other environmental values or resources.

The Service will evaluate the HCP and comments submitted thereon to determine whether the application meets the requirements of section 10(a) of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et. seq.). If it is determined that those requirements are met, the ITP will be issued for the incidental take of the Florida scrub-jay. The Service will also evaluate whether issuance of the section 10(a)(1)(B) ITP 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 ITP.

Authority: This notice is provided pursuant to Section 10 of the Endangered Species Act and NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

Dated: March 9, 2007.

Paul Souza,

Field Supervisor, South Florida Ecological Services Office.

[FR Doc. E7-4853 Filed 3-15-07; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment for Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces the availability of the Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and Environmental Assessment (EA). It describes how we intend to manage Missisquoi NWR during the next 15 years. We prepared this Draft CCP/EA in conformance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act, as amended.

DATES: The Draft CCP/EA will be available for public review and comment for a 30-day period starting with the publication of this notice.

ADDRESSES: You may obtain copies of the draft CCP/EA on compact diskette or in print by writing to Carl Melberg, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Northeast Regional Office, 300 Westgate Center Drive, Hadley, Massachusetts 01035-9589, or by electronic mail at northeastplanning@fws.gov, noting in the subject line "Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge." You may also view the draft on the Web at <http://library.fws.gov/ccps.htm>. During the 30-day comment period, we plan to host public meetings in the local area. We will post the details of each meeting at least 2 weeks in advance to our project mailing list in local papers, at the refuge and at our Web site, <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/missisquoiarefuge/>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carl Melberg, 413-253-8521.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, requires the Service to develop a CCP for each refuge. The purpose of 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 (NWRS), in conformance with the sound principles of fish and wildlife science, natural resources conservation, legal mandates, and Service policies. In addition to outlining broad management direction on conserving wildlife and habitats, CCPs identify wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities available to the public, including opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental interpretation and education. The Service will review and update each CCP at least once every 15 years, in accordance with the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA).

This Draft CCP/EA identifies goals, long-range objectives, and strategies for achieving the purposes for which this refuge was established. The document poses two management alternatives:

Alternative A (Current Management): This alternative is the "No Action" alternative required by NEPA. Alternative A defines our current management activities, including those planned, funded, or underway, and serves as the baseline for comparing Alternative B, our preferred alternative. It would maintain our present levels of approved refuge staffing and the biological and visitor programs now in place. The refuge would continue to pursue acquisition of the eight parcels composing 253 acres that remain within the original approved acquisition boundary of the refuge, and the occasional parcel that becomes available adjacent to the refuge.

Alternative B (the Service-preferred alternative): This alternative represents the combination of actions that we believe will most effectively achieve the purposes and goals of the refuge and address the major issues. It builds on the programs identified under Alternative A. Funding and staffing would need to increase to adequately support the program expansions we propose. Key strategies in this alternative include greater inventory, monitoring, and management of the Missisquoi River Delta wetlands to maintain their ecological integrity and diversity of plants and animals on the refuge; increased management of high-quality grasslands, shrublands, and other early successional habitats for a range of wildlife species of conservation concern; enhanced, expanded programs of outreach, and environmental education and interpretation; expanded wildlife-dependent recreational

opportunities, including hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography; greater inventory, protection, and interpretation of the rich cultural history of the Missisquoi River Delta and enhanced partnerships with the local Abenaki Tribe; a new \$1.00 Refuge Activity Fee that will raise additional funds for trail maintenance, informational kiosks, educational programs, and other actions to benefit all visitors to the refuge; a critical new law enforcement position to enhance staff and visitor safety; other new critical positions, including a park ranger, maintenance worker, and biological technician. Alternative B also proposes that, within 1 year of CCP completion, upon Director's approval, we will conduct a study with our partners to determine if undeveloped lands within 5 miles of the refuge warrant additional Service protection to conserve Federal trust resources and aid in fulfilling the mission of the NWRS and the purposes of the refuge.

A wilderness review of the refuge was completed in 1974. This review, based on refuge management needs and public input at the time, proposed that Shad Island be designated wilderness under the Wilderness Act of 1964. As part of the CCP process, we completed a wilderness review, evaluating all refuge land for its current wilderness potential. The review concluded no lands at the refuge are suitable for inclusion into the National Wilderness Preservation System, and we propose to withdraw Shad Island as a proposed wilderness to the U.S. Congress.

After the 30-day review and comment period ends, we will analyze, address, and consider all comments received and prepare a final CCP. Availability of the final CCP will be published in the **Federal Register**. All comments, including names and addresses, become part of the official public record. Requests for the public record of this plan will be handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA regulations, and other Service and Departmental policies and procedures.

Dated: August 2, 2006.

Marvin E. Moriarty,

Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Hadley, MA 01035-9589.

This document was received at the Office of the Federal Register on March 13, 2007. [FR Doc. E7-4854 Filed 3-15-07; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CA-110]

Meeting of the Central California Resource Advisory Council

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Central California Resource Advisory Council will meet as indicated below.

DATES: The meeting will be held Friday and Saturday, April 20 and 21, 2007, in the University of California Lindcove Research and Extension Center meeting room, 22963 Carson Ave., Exeter, California. On April 20, the members will convene at 8 a.m. for a business meeting, followed by a field trip to Atwell Island beginning at noon. Members of the public are welcome to attend the tour and meeting. Field tour participants must provide their own transportation and lunch. The Advisory Council will resume its meeting at 8 a.m. on April 21 in the Lindcove Research and Extension Center meeting room. Time for public comment is reserved from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on April 21.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: BLM Bakersfield Field Office Acting Manager Patty Gradek, (661) 391-6006; or BLM Central California Public Affairs Officer David Christy, (916) 985-4474.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The twelve-member Central California Resource Advisory Council advises the Secretary of the Interior, through the Bureau of Land Management, on a variety of public land issues associated with public land management in the Central California. At this meeting, agenda items include discussion of the Caliente Resource Management Plan update by the Bakersfield Field Office and preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for the Carrizo Plain National Monument. The RAC members will also hear status reports from managers for the Folsom, Hollister, Bakersfield and Bishop field offices. The meeting is open to the public. The public may present written comments to the Council, and time will be allocated for hearing public comments. Depending on the number of persons wishing to comment and the time available, the time for individual oral comments may be limited. Individuals who plan to attend and need special