

Total Estimated Burden Hours:
44,800.

Status: Reinstatement, without change.

Authority: Section 3507 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 35, as amended.

Dated: September 29, 2000.

Wayne Eddins,

*Departmental Reports Management Officer,
Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. 00-25670 Filed 10-5-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

**Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee
National Wildlife Refuge;
Comprehensive Conservation Plan,
Environmental Assessment and
Finding of No Significant Impact**

ACTION: Notice of Availability.

SUMMARY: The Fish and Wildlife Service has published a Comprehensive Conservation Plan, Environmental Assessment, and a Finding of No Significant Impact for the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. This refuge, located seven miles west of Boynton Beach, Florida, consists of 221 square miles of the last remaining northern Everglades. The plan describes how the Fish and Wildlife Service intends to manage the refuge for the next 15 years.

ADDRESSES: A copy of the above documents will be available on October 6, 2000, and may be obtained by writing to Mark J. Musaus, Refuge Manager, Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 10216 Lee Road, Boynton Beach, Florida 33437-4796. In the meantime, a copy of the Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment can be obtained from the following website address: <http://loxahatchee.fws.gov>

SUMMARY INFORMATION: The plan provides a clear statement regarding the future management of the refuge; ensures that the refuge's management actions are consistent with refuge purposes and mandates of the National Wildlife Refuge System; and addresses the issues regarding the renewal (planned by January 1, 2002) of the refuge's license agreement with the South Florida Water Management District, including issues relating to modifying the agreement and management capabilities and responsibilities. The major issues

addressed in the plan include invasive exotic species; biological diversity; water quality, quantity, timing, and delivery; land use changes; habitat and wildlife protection; appropriate and compatible wildlife-dependent public recreational opportunities and access; environmental education and interpretation; and partnerships.

Dated: September 19, 2000.

Steven P. Thompson,

Acting Regional Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

**Notice of Intent To Prepare
Comprehensive Conservation Plans,
and Conduct Biological, Public Use,
and Wilderness Reviews for the
Central Mississippi National Wildlife
Refuge Complex. The Complex
Includes Yazoo Refuge in Washington
County; Panther Swamp Refuge in
Yazoo County; Hillside and Morgan
Brake Refuges in Holmes County; and
Mathews Brake Refuge in Leflore
County**

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the Fish and Wildlife Service, Southeast Region, intends to gather information necessary to prepare a comprehensive conservation plan and associated environmental documents pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and implementing regulations to achieve the following:

- (1) Advise other agencies and the public of our intentions, and
- (2) To obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues to include in the environmental documents.

DATES: Written comments should be received within 60 days of this publication.

ADDRESSES: Address comments and requests for more information to the following:

Ms. Laura Reid, Natural Resource Planner, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 728 Yazoo Refuge Road, Hollandale, Mississippi 38748, (662) 839-2638.

If you wish to comment, you may submit your comments by any one of several methods. You may mail comments to the above address. You may also comment via the Internet to the following address: Laura_Reidfws.gov. Please submit Internet comments as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Please also

include your name and return address in your Internet message. If you do not receive a confirmation from the system that we have received your Internet message, contact us directly at the above address. 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 rulemaking record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There also may be circumstances in which we would withhold from the rulemaking record a respondent's identity, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. However, we will not 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.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: By Federal law, all lands within the National Wildlife Refuge System are to be managed in accordance with an approved comprehensive conservation plan. These plans will guide management decisions and identify refuge goals, long-range objectives, and strategies for achieving refuge purposes. The planning process will consider many elements, including habitat and wildlife management, habitat protection and acquisition, public use, and cultural resources. Public input into this planning process is essential. The plan will provide other agencies and the public with a clear understanding of the desired conditions for the refuge and how the Service will implement management strategies.

The Service will solicit information from the public via open houses, meetings, and written comments. Special mailings, newspaper articles, and announcements will inform people in the general refuge area of the time and place of such opportunities for public involvement. Review of this project will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), National Environmental Policy Act Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), other appropriate Federal laws and regulations, including the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, Executive Order 12996, and Service policies and procedures for compliance with those regulations.