

*Description of the Need for the Information and Its Proposed Use:* This information is required for approval of all FHA Title I lender and Title II mortgagees; issuers of Ginnie Mae mortgage-backed securities. Additional information is then required of all FHA approved Title I lenders and Title II

mortgagees to: (1) Maintain their approval (annual Recertification); (2) add/delete branches; (3) pay additional fees to FHA for annual Recertification, new branches, and business conversions; (4) report business changes of lender or mortgagee including structure, addresses, and principal

owners and officers; (5) report non-compliance detected by lender and mortgagee quality control plans; and (6) voluntarily terminate FHA approval.

*Frequency of Submission:* On occasion, Annually.

	Number of respondents	Annual responses	×	Hours per response	=	Burden hours
Reporting Burden .....	13,514	3.04		0.69		28,410

*Total Estimated Burden Hours:* 28,410.

*Status:* Revision of a currently approved collection.

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

Dated: December 22, 2005.

**Wayne Eddins,**

*Departmental Paperwork Reduction Act Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. E5-8046 Filed 12-28-05; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4210-72-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

[Docket No. FR-4978-N-09]

**Notice of Proposed Information Collection for Public Comment; Management Operations Certification**

**AGENCY:** Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing, HUD.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The proposed information collection requirement described below will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act. The Department is soliciting public comments on the subject proposal.

**DATES:** *Comments Due Date:* February 27, 2006.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments regarding this proposal. Comments should refer to the proposal by name/or OMB Control number and should be sent to: Aneita Waites, Reports Liaison Officer, Public and Indian Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street, SW., Room 4116, Washington, DC 20410-5000.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Aneita Waites, (202) 708-0713, extension 4114, for copies of the proposed forms and other available

documents. (This is not a toll-free number.)

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Department will submit the proposed information collection to OMB for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended). This notice is soliciting comments from members of the public and affected agencies concerning the proposed collection of information to: (1) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

This Notice also lists the following information:

*Title of Proposal:* Management Operations Certification.

*OMB Control Number:* 2507-0106.

*Description of the Need for the Information and Proposed Use:* To meet the requirements of the Public Housing Assessment System (PHAS) rule, the Department has developed the management operations template that public housing agencies (PHAs) use to annually submit electronically specific management information to HUD. HUD uses the management operations information it collects from each PHA to assist in the evaluation and assessment of the PHAs' overall condition. Requiring PHAs to report electronically has enabled HUD to provide a more comprehensive assessment of the PHAs receiving Federal funds from HUD.

*Agency Form Number, if Applicable:* Form HUD-50072.

*Members of Affected Public:* Public housing agencies.

*Estimation of the Total Number of Hours Needed to Prepare the Information Collection Including Number of Respondents:* The estimated number of respondents is 3,174 PHAs that submit one certification annually. The average number for each PHA response is 1.147 hours, for a total reporting burden of 3,643 hours.

*Status of the Proposed Information Collection:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

**Authority:** Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended.

Dated: December 21, 2005.

**Bessy Kong,**

*Deputy Assistant Director, Office of Policy, Program and Legislative Initiatives.*

[FR Doc. E5-8084 Filed 12-28-05; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4210-33-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR**

**Fish and Wildlife Service**

**Notice of Intent To Prepare a Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment for Grand Bay National Wildlife Refuge in Jackson County, MS, and Mobile County, AL**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** The Fish and Wildlife Service, Southeast Region, intends to gather information necessary to prepare a comprehensive conservation plan and environmental assessment pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and its implementing regulations.

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 comprehensive conservation plan for each national

wildlife refuge. The purpose in developing a comprehensive conservation plan is to provide refuge managers with a 15-year strategy 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 Service policies. In addition to outlining broad management direction on conserving wildlife and their habitats, plans identify wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities available to the public, including opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, wildlife photography, and environmental education and interpretation.

The purpose of this notice is to achieve the following:

- (1) Advise other agencies and the public of our intentions, and
  - (2) Obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issue to include in the environmental document.
- DATES:** An open house style meeting will be held during the scoping phase and public draft phase of the comprehensive conservation plan development process. Special mailings, newspaper articles, and other media announcements will be used to inform the public and state and local government agencies of the dates and opportunities for input throughout the planning process.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments and requests for more information regarding the Grand Bay National Wildlife Refuge planning process should be sent to: Mike Dawson, Refuge Planner, Fish and Wildlife Service, 6578 Dogwood View Parkway, Suite B, Jackson, Mississippi 39213; Telephone: 601/965-4903, ext. 20; Fax: 601/965-4010; Electronic mail: [mike\\_dawson@fws.gov](mailto:mike_dawson@fws.gov) To ensure consideration, written comments must be received no later than February 13, 2005. Our practice is to make comments, including names and addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home addresses from the record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Grand Bay National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1992 under the Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986, to protect one of the largest expanses of undisturbed pine savanna habitats in the Gulf Coastal Plain region. It consists of 9,831 acres within an approved acquisition boundary of 17,741 acres. The refuge also manages

930 acres of Farm Service Agency tracts. The largest portion of the refuge consists of a mosaic of pine savannas, interspersed with poorly drained evergreen bays and pond cypress stands graduating to estuarine salt marshes to the south.

Recreation and education opportunities on the refuge include hunting photography, and wildlife observation. Approximately 2,500 people visit the refuge annually.

The Service will conduct a comprehensive conservation planning process that will provide opportunity for state and local governments, agencies, organizations, and the public to participate in issue scoping and public comment. Comments received by the planning team will be used as part of the planning process.

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

Dated: October 27, 2005.

**Cynthia K. Dohner,**

*Acting Regional Director.*

[FR Doc. 05-24592 Filed 12-28-05; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-55-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Harvest and Export of American Ginseng

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice: request for information from the public; announcement of public meetings.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce public meetings on American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*). These meetings will help us gather information from the public in preparation of our 2006 findings on the export of American ginseng roots, for the issuance of permits under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

**DATES:** The meeting dates are:

1. January 31, 2006, 2:30 p.m. to 6 p.m., Moon Township (Pittsburgh), PA.
2. February 10, 2006, 8 a.m. to 12 noon, Asheville, NC.
3. February 15, 2006, 8 a.m. to 12 noon, Indianapolis, IN.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting locations are:

1. Moon Township (Pittsburgh)—DoubleTree Hotel, 8402 University Blvd., Moon Township, PA 15108; telephone number (412) 329-1400.

2. Asheville—Holiday Inn, 1450 Tunnel Road, Asheville, NC 28805; telephone number (828) 298-5611.

3. Indianapolis—Hampton Inn, Indianapolis Airport, 5601 Fortune Circle West, Indianapolis, IN 46241; telephone number (317) 244-1221.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information, or directions to meetings contact Ms. Pat Ford, Division of Scientific Authority, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 750, Arlington, VA 22203; 703-358-1708 (telephone), 703-358-2276 (fax), or [patricia\\_ford@fws.gov](mailto:patricia_ford@fws.gov) (e-mail); or Ms. Anne St. John, Division of Management Authority, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, VA 22203; 703-358-2095 (telephone), 703-358-2298 (fax), or [anne\\_stjohn@fws.gov](mailto:anne_stjohn@fws.gov) (e-mail).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES, or Convention) is an international treaty designed to control and regulate international trade in certain animal and plant species that are now or potentially may be threatened with extinction by international trade. Currently, 169 countries, including the United States, are Parties to CITES. The species for which trade is controlled are listed in Appendix I, II, or III of the Convention. Appendix I includes species threatened with extinction that are or may be affected by international trade. Commercial trade in Appendix-I species is prohibited. Appendix II includes species that, although not necessarily threatened with extinction at the present time, may become so unless their trade is strictly controlled through a system of export permits. Appendix II also includes species that CITES must regulate so that trade in other listed species may be brought under effective control (*i.e.*, because of similarity of appearance between listed species and other species). Appendix III comprises species subject to regulation within the jurisdiction of any CITES Party country that has requested the cooperation of the other Parties in regulating international trade in the species.

American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*) was listed in Appendix II of CITES on July 1, 1975. The Division of Scientific Authority and the Division of Management Authority of the Service regulate the export of American ginseng, including whole plants, whole roots, and root parts. To meet CITES requirements for export of American ginseng from the United States, the