

Four technological and operational alternatives are analyzed in the PEA that meet the requirements to define and process secure, standardized travel documents under WHTI. The four alternatives are: (1) Maintaining the status quo by continuing current processes for assessing individuals with multiple documents; (2) implementing standardized features and limiting the number of documents accepted for entry into the United States; (3) defining and enhancing a limited number of standardized acceptable documents with machine readable zone (MRZ) technology; and/or (4) defining and enhancing a limited number of standardized acceptable documents with MRZ and radio-frequency identification (RFID) technologies at the top volume land ports of entry. The potential impacts evaluated include air quality, noise, and environmental justice, among others.

#### Next Steps

This process is being conducted pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500–1508), and Department of Homeland Security Management Directive 5100.1, *Environmental Planning Program of April 19, 2006*.

Substantive comments concerning environmental impacts received from the public and agencies during the comment period will be evaluated to determine whether further environmental impact review is needed in order to publish the final PEA. Should CBP determine that the implementation of the proposed action or alternatives would not have a significant impact on the environment, it will prepare a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The FONSI would be published in the **Federal Register** and in newspapers of general circulation in border areas along the border with both Canada and Mexico.

Should CBP determine that significant environmental impacts exist due to the plan, CBP would proceed with preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Dated: June 19, 2007.

**Thomas S. Winkowski,**

*Acting Assistant Commissioner, Office of Field Operations.*

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buildings and other infrastructure, so no environmental impacts are anticipated.

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Rice Lake and Mille Lacs National Wildlife Refuges, Aitkin, Pine, and Mille Lacs Counties, MN

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability: Draft comprehensive conservation plan and environmental assessment; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce the availability of a draft comprehensive conservation plan (CCP) and environmental assessment for Rice Lake and Mille Lacs National Wildlife Refuges (NWRs) for public review and comment. In this draft CCP/EA, we describe how we propose to manage these refuges for the next 15 years.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, we must receive your written comments by July 30, 2007. Open house style meetings will be held during the comment period to receive comments and provide information on the draft plan. Special mailings, newspaper articles, Internet postings, and other media announcements will inform people of the meetings and opportunities for written comments.

**ADDRESSES:** Send your comments or requests for more information by any of the following methods. You may also drop off comments in person at Rice Lake NWR.

- *Agency Web site:* View or download a copy of the document and comment at <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/planning/RiceLake/>.

- *E-mail:* [r3planning@fws.gov](mailto:r3planning@fws.gov). Include “Rice Lake Draft CCP/EA” in the subject line of the message.

- *Fax:* 218–768–3040.
- *Mail:* Refuge Manager, Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge, 36289 State Hwy 65, McGregor, MN 55760.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Walt Ford, 218–768–2402.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Introduction

With this notice, we continue the CCP process for Rice Lake and Mille Lacs NWRs, which was started with the notice of intent published in 70 FR 5693 (February 3, 2005). For more about the initial process and the history of these refuges, see that notice. Rice Lake and Mille Lacs NWRs are located in east-central Minnesota. Both refuges are administered by the staff at Rice Lake NWR. Rice Lake NWR is a mosaic of lakes, marshes, forests, and grasslands

that provide a variety of habitat for migrant and resident wildlife. The Refuge is especially noted for its fall concentrations of Ring-necked Ducks, which often number over 150,000 birds. The Refuge also includes pre-historic and historic cultural resources of recognized importance. Mille Lacs NWR is the smallest refuge in the National Wildlife Refuge System. The 0.57-acre Refuge consists of two islands in Mille Lacs Lake. One island is managed as a nesting colony for the State-listed threatened Common Tern. The other island is used by other colonial nesting species.

#### Background

##### *The CCP Process*

The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 668dd-668ee), requires us to develop a comprehensive conservation plan for each national wildlife refuge. The purpose in developing a CCP 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 our 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.

#### CCP Alternatives and Our Preferred Alternative

##### *Priority Issues*

During the public scoping process, we, other governmental partners, and the public identified several priority issues, which include: Management of the grassland area on auto tour route; management of water levels in Rice Lake; pending Wilderness recommendation; Native American activities on the Refuge; interpretation of cultural resources on the Refuge; unmet demand for interpretation and environmental education; erosion of Hennepin Island (Mille Lacs); operation of the Sandstone Unit. To address these issues, we developed and evaluated the following alternatives during the planning process.

##### *Alternative A, Current Management*

Under Alternative A, Current Management, the 170 acres of grassland

on the auto tour route would be maintained; stable water levels in Rice Lake would be maintained throughout the growing season and at sufficient level to allow rice harvest; the 1,400 acre area with the pending Wilderness recommendation would be managed as de facto wilderness; Native American ceremonies would be held under special use permit and wild rice harvest coordinated with local Native American committee; cultural resources would not be interpreted on-site; demand for interpretation and environmental education would be responded to as staff and time permitted; the erosion of Hennepin Island would continue; and the 2005 landcover at the Sandstone Unit would be maintained while allowing for forest succession.

#### *Alternative B, Preferred Alternative*

Under Alternative B, Preferred Alternative, 85 acres would be maintained as grassland on the auto tour route to facilitate wildlife observation; water levels would be allowed to fluctuate in Rice Lake to more closely approximate a natural system; the 1,400 acre Wilderness recommendation would be withdrawn to allow for more active management; Native American ceremonies would be held under special use permit and wild rice harvest would be coordinated with local Native American committee; additional interpretation of cultural resources would be developed in cooperation with the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe; demand for interpretation and environmental education would be responded to with additional interpretive opportunities and educational programs with the addition of a park ranger position; the erosion of Hennepin Island would be reversed through rebuilding and protection with a constructed reef; and the 2005 landcover at the Sandstone Unit would be maintained while allowing for forest succession.

#### **Public Meeting**

We will give the public an opportunity to provide comments at a public meeting. You may obtain the schedule from the addresses listed above (see **ADDRESSES**). You may also submit comments anytime during the comment period.

#### **Public Availability of Comments**

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should know that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you may 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.

Dated: April 27, 2007.

**Charles M. Wooley,**

*Acting Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Fort Snelling, Minnesota.*

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## **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

### **Fish and Wildlife Service**

#### **Meeting Announcement: North American Wetlands Conservation Council**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Council) will meet to select North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant proposals for recommendation to the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission (Commission). This meeting is open to the public, and interested persons may present oral or written statements.

**DATES:** July 17, 2007, 1–3 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Best Western Ramkota Inn, 800 South 3rd Street, Bismarck, ND 58504. The meeting is coordinated by the Council Coordinator, located at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop: MBSP 4501–4075, Arlington, VA 22203.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mike Johnson, Council Coordinator, (703) 358–1784 or [dbhc@fws.gov](mailto:dbhc@fws.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In accordance with NAWCA (Pub. L. 101–233, 103 Stat. 1968, December 13, 1989, as amended), the State-private-Federal Council meets to consider wetland acquisition, restoration, enhancement, and management projects for recommendation to, and final funding approval by, the Commission. Proposal due dates, application instructions, and eligibility requirements are available on the NAWCA Web site at <http://birdhabitat.fws.gov>. Proposals require a minimum of 50 percent non-Federal matching funds. The Council will consider U.S. Standard and Canadian grant proposals at the meeting. The tentative date for the Commission meeting is September 12, 2007.

Dated: June 1, 2007.

**Paul Schmidt,**

*Assistant Director—Migratory Birds.*

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## **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

### **Bureau of Land Management**

[AK-930-5420-FR-L045; AA-086376-AA-086380]

#### **Notice of Applications for Recordable Disclaimers of Interest for Lands Underlying Waterbodies Within the Yukon-Kuskokwim Portage, Alaska**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The State of Alaska (State) has filed applications for Recordable Disclaimers of Interest from the United States in certain lands underlying waterbodies within the Yukon-Kuskokwim Portage, located in the Lower Kuskokwim Region, Alaska. The State asserts that the water bodies were navigable and unreserved at the time of statehood; therefore, title to the submerged lands passed to the State at the time of statehood (1959). The lands included in the applications are within the boundary of the Yukon-Delta National Wildlife Refuge, created by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of December 2, 1980.

**DATES:** Comments on the State of Alaska's applications should be submitted on or before September 24, 2007. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Draft Summary Report will be posted on the BLM-Alaska Web-site within this notice period. Once posted, interested parties will have sixty (60) days to comment on the findings: <http://www.blm.gov/ak/ak930/rdi/index.html>.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments on the State of Alaska's application or the BLM Draft Summary Report should be sent to the Chief, Branch of Lands and Realty, BLM Alaska State Office, 222 West 7th Avenue, #13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513–7599.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jack Frost at (907) 271–5531 or [Jack\\_Frost@ak.blm.gov](mailto:Jack_Frost@ak.blm.gov) or visit the BLM-Alaska Web site <http://www.blm.gov/ak/ak930/rdi/index.html>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On March 10, 2006, the State of Alaska filed applications for Recordable Disclaimers of Interest pursuant to Section 315 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the regulations