

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service**

[FWS-R6-R-2008-N0331; 60138-1265-6CCP-S3]

Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Nine Wetland Management Districts, North Dakota**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.**ACTION:** Notice of Availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces that the Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for nine Wetland Management Districts (Districts) is available. This final CCP describes how the Service intends to manage the Districts for the next 15 years.

ADDRESSES: A copy of the CCP may be obtained by writing to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Refuge Planning, 134 Union Boulevard, Suite 300, Lakewood, Colorado 80228; or by download from <http://mountain-prairie.fws.gov/planning>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Esperance, 303-236-4369 (phone); 303-236-4792 (fax); or john_esperance@fws.gov (e-mail).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The nine Districts are Devils Lake, Arrowwood, Audubon, Chase Lake, Crosby, J. Clark Salyer, Kulm, Lostwood, and Valley City Wetland Management Districts.

The Districts are part of the National Wildlife Refuge System of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Districts were started as part of the Small Wetlands Acquisition Program in the 1950s to save wetlands from various threats, particularly drainage. The passage of Public Law 85-585 in August, 1958, amended the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act of 1934, allowing for the acquisition of waterfowl production areas and easements for waterfowl production.

All nine of the Districts have a primary purpose to provide optimal habitat conditions for the needs of a suite of waterfowl and other migratory birds, and, to a lesser extent native, resident wildlife.

To achieve goals and objectives, aggressive wetland and upland habitat management must be conducted. Wetland and upland habitats need to be protected and enhanced through management. Habitat protection needs to be evaluated through a priority system so that different means of protection, either through fee title or easements, can be evaluated.

The draft CCP/EA was made available to the public for a 30-day review and

comment period following the announcement in the **Federal Register** on August 19, 2008 (73 FR 48388). The draft CCP/EA identified and evaluated three alternatives for managing the refuges for the next 15 years.

Alternative A, the No Action alternative, promotes a continuation of all aspects of the District's current management. Staff would conduct monitoring, inventory, and research activities at their current level (*i.e.*, limited, issue-driven research and limited avian and vegetative monitoring and inventory). Funding and staff levels would not change and programs would follow the same direction, emphasis, and intensity as they do at present. The current management of wildlife habitat and associated species on Districts Wetland Productions Areas (WPAs) are prioritized into high, medium, and low areas. Currently, only high priority Wetland Production Areas are receiving consistent management. All conservation easements are monitored by Service personnel; however, only the high priority easement violations are consistently enforced. Currently public use events and workshops with such groups as school districts, youth groups, and conservation groups are conducted on a multiyear rotation among Districts.

Alternative B is the Service's proposed action and basis for the CCP. This alternative will allow for enhanced wetland and upland management where warranted on District lands. Management objectives for various habitat types would be based on habitat preferences of groups of target species, such as waterfowl, migratory shore birds, grassland bird species and priority species. District staff will focus on high priority tracts and medium priority tracts. The District staff will implement compatible production enhancement techniques for targeted migratory bird populations. The District staff will maintain existing environmental education and public use programs, with additional waterfowl emphases. The Service proposes, at a future date, a new administration and visitor center for Audubon and Kulm WMD and additionally a new visitor contact station for Lostwood, Valley City, and Arrowwood Wetland Management District.

In Alternative C, management by the District staff would be more intensive and widespread that targets native prairie/wetland complexes. District staff would seek out where restoration projects were expanded and where returning native grasslands to quality native prairie was a priority. This alternative would have the potential to provide additional management options

to address habitat requirements and needs of specific groups of water-dependent birds (*e.g.*, waterfowl and shorebirds). The staff would develop new environmental education and public use programs. The Service proposes, at a future date, a new administration and visitor center for Audubon and Kulm WMD and additionally, a new visitor contact station for Lostwood, Valley City, and Arrowwood Wetland Management District.

The Service is furnishing this notice to advise other agencies and the public of the availability of the final CCP, to provide information on the desired conditions for the refuges, and to detail how the Service will implement management strategies. Based on the review and evaluation of the information contained in the EA, the Regional Director has determined that implementation of the final CCP does not constitute a major Federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared. Future site-specific proposals discussed in the final CCP will be addressed in separate planning efforts with full public involvement.

Dated: February 2, 2009.

Noreen E. Walsh,

Deputy Regional Director.

[FR Doc. E9-2542 Filed 2-5-09; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service**

[FWS-R4-ES-2009-N0024; 40120-1112-0000-F2]

Receipt of Applications for the Amendment of Incidental Take Permits for Residential Construction in Charlotte County, FL**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.**ACTION:** Notice of receipt of permit amendment application; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) issued incidental take permits (permits) (TE136149-0, TE136150-0, TE136151-0, and TE136153-0), pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, for incidental take of the threatened Florida scrub-jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*) (scrub-jay) in Charlotte County, Florida to Peter

Famulari (Applicant). The Applicant has requested an amendment to the permits that will change the mitigation option from payment to the Florida Scrub-jay Conservation Fund administered by The Nature Conservancy to providing the Charlotte County conservation lands program an option to purchase land that will result in acquisition of 79 acres of suitable scrub-jay habitat. The Applicant has agreed to follow all other existing habitat conservation plan (HCP) conditions. If amended, no additional take will be authorized.

DATES: We must receive your written comments on the permit amendments on or before March 9, 2009.

ADDRESSES: See the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section below for information on how to submit your comments on the permit amendments. You may obtain a copy of the permit amendment applications and the HCP by writing to the South Florida Ecological Services Office, Attn: Permit number TE136149-1/TE136153-1, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1339 20th Street, Vero Beach, FL 32960-3559. In addition, we will make the permit amendment applications and HCP available for public inspection by appointment during normal business hours at the above address.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: If you wish to comment on the permit amendments, you may submit comments by any one of the following methods. Please reference permit number TE136149-1/TE136153-1 in such comments.

1. Mail or hand-deliver comments to our South Florida Ecological Services Office address (see **ADDRESSES**).

2. E-mail comments to trish_adams@fws.gov. If you do not receive a confirmation that we have received your e-mail message, contact us directly at the telephone number listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

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

Residential construction will take place on six parcels in the vicinity of latitude 27.013 and longitude -82.015 in Punta Gorda Isles, Punta Gorda, Charlotte County, Florida. These parcels are within scrub-jay occupied habitat. The parcels encompass about 3.2 acres, and the footprint of the structure, infrastructure, and landscaping precludes retention of scrub-jay habitat on these parcels. More details on the specific parcel locations are available in the HCP (see **ADDRESSES**). The original permits became effective on February 28, 2007. Opportunity for public review of the original applications was provided in 71 FR 65125 (November 7, 2006).

The Service has made preliminary determinations that amendment of the permits is neither a major Federal action that will significantly affect the quality of the human environment within the meaning of section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), nor will they individually or cumulatively have more than a negligible effect on the species covered in the HCP. Therefore, the permit amendment qualifies as a categorical exclusion under NEPA as provided by the Department of Interior Manual (516 DM 2, Appendix 1 and 516 DM 8.5).

Authority: We provide this notice pursuant to Section 10 of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

Dated: January 16, 2009.

Paul Souza,

Field Supervisor, South Florida Ecological Services Field Office.

[FR Doc. E9-2554 Filed 2-5-09; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

U.S. Geological Survey

Agency Information Collection Activities: Comment Request

AGENCY: U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Interior.

ACTION: Notice of an extension of an information collection (1028-0082).

SUMMARY: To comply with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), we are notifying the public that we will submit to OMB an information collection request (ICR) to renew approval of the paperwork requirements for "Bird Banding Lab (2 USGS forms)." This notice provides the public an opportunity to comment on the paperwork burden of this form.

DATES: You must submit comments on or before April 7, 2009.

ADDRESSES: Send your comments on this information collection directly to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior via OMB e-mail: (OIRA_DOCKET@omb.eop.gov); or by fax (202) 395-6566; and identify your submission with #1028-0082. Please submit a copy of your comments to the Phadrea Ponds, Information Collections, U.S. Geological Survey, 2150-C Center Avenue, Fort Collins, CO 80525 (mail); (970) 226-9230 (fax); or FAX: pponds@usgs.gov (e-mail). Use Information Collection Number 1028-0082 in the subject line.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request additional information about this ICR, contact David Smith at davidasmith@usgs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Bird Banding Laboratory.
OMB Control Number: 1028-0082.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: The USGS Bird Banding Laboratory is responsible for monitoring the trapping and marking of wild migratory birds by persons holding Federal permits. The Bird Banding laboratory collects information using two forms: (1) The Application for Federal Bird Marking and Salvage Permit; and (2) The Bird Banding Recovery Report. This request does not include the Bird Banding Schedule.

We will protect information from respondents considered proprietary under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and its implementing regulations (43 CFR Part 2), and under regulations at 30 CFR 250.197, "Data and information to be made available to the public or for limited inspection." Responses are voluntary. No questions of a "sensitive" nature are asked.

Affected Public: General Public.
Respondent Obligation: Voluntary.
Frequency of Collection: On occasion.
Estimated Number and Description of Respondents: 85,550 Individuals encountering a banded bird and volunteer bird banders.

Annual Burden Hours: 4,525 hours.
Estimated Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping "Hour" Burden: The currently approved "hour" burden for this collection is 4,525 hours. We do not expect the burden for each form to change as a result of this request (30 minutes for Permit Application form; 3 minutes for Recovery Report form).

Estimated Reporting and Recordkeeping "Non-Hour Cost" Burden: We have not identified any "non-hour cost" burdens associated with this collection of information.