

The refuge's acquisition boundary is 7,500 acres, and stretches from Sussex County, New Jersey, to Orange County, New York. It is located along a 9-mile stretch of the Wallkill River, and lies in a rolling valley within the Appalachian Ridge and Valley physiographic province. The region's major wetlands are former glacial lake bottoms, and the lake's organic muck soils support extensive bottomland hardwood forests, wet meadows, and farm fields. Since establishing the refuge, we have acquired approximately 5,106 acres, and have focused primarily on conserving, restoring, and enhancing the natural diversity of fish, wildlife, and plants, and their habitats, along the Wallkill River. Refuge management activities include restoring wetlands, creating moist soil management units, maintaining grasslands, and providing opportunities for wildlife-dependent recreation.

We announce our decision and the availability of the FONSI and the final CCP for Wallkill River NWR in accordance with the requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (40 CFR 1506.6(b)). We completed a thorough analysis of impacts on the human environment, which we included in the draft CCP/EA.

The CCP will guide us in managing and administering Wallkill River NWR for the next 15 years. Alternative B, which we describe in the draft CCP/EA as the Service-preferred alternative, is the foundation for the final CCP.

Background

The National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 668dd–668ee; Improvement Act), which amends the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, requires us to develop a CCP for each national wildlife refuge. The purpose for developing a CCP is to provide refuge managers with a 15-year plan for achieving refuge purposes and contributing to the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System in a manner consistent with the 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, CCPs identify wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities available to the public, including opportunities for hunting, fishing, observing and photographing wildlife, and enjoying environmental education and interpretation. We will review and update the CCP at least every 15 years, in accordance with the Improvement Act.

CCP Alternatives, Including Alternative B, the Selected Alternative

Our draft CCP/EA (73 FR 23) identifies and addresses several issues in its chapter 1, "The Purpose of and Need for Action." In that document, we developed three alternatives to respond to those issues. Alternative A represents current management. Alternative B focuses on managing for priority species and habitats. Alternative C proposes to establish and maintain the ecological integrity of natural communities on the refuge and surrounding landscape without specific emphasis or concern for any particular species or species groups. We identified alternative B as the Service-preferred alternative for several reasons. It includes an array of management actions that, in our professional judgment, work best toward achieving the purpose of the refuge, our vision and goals for those lands, and goals in state and regional conservation plans. In our opinion, alternative B most effectively addresses the key issues. We recommended alternative B to our Regional Director as the better alternative for managing this refuge over the next 15 years. He selected it for development into the final CCP.

The final CCP will expand the refuge's original acquisition boundary by 9,550 acres, creating a new refuge acquisition boundary of 17,050 acres total. We will acquire new lands from willing sellers through a combination of fee-simple and easement purchase. The expansion area includes four focus areas. The 7,079-acre Papakating Creek Focus Area is the largest, and encompasses a 15-mile tributary of the Wallkill River. All four focus areas have tremendous wetland resource values, and together they form a key corridor connecting preserved habitats on the Kittatinny Ridge to the west and the Hudson Highlands to the east. The expansion area will fully complement and enhance the Federal, State, and private conservation partnerships actively involved in protecting this unique ecosystem.

In the final CCP, we will allocate more resources toward managing and monitoring federal-listed species that now live or historically lived on the refuge. We will take a more proactive approach to restoring wetlands, and establish a 100-meter forested riparian corridor along either side of the Wallkill River. We will establish three grassland focus areas on the refuge, and let other small fields revert to scrub-shrub habitat.

We will open the part of the refuge in New Jersey to bear hunting according to

State seasons, and provide at least one additional fishing access site within the original refuge acquisition boundary. We will increase access to Service-owned lands by opening at least two new trails and extending an existing trail. We will also develop new interpretive materials, and work with partners to expand our environmental education programs.

Comments

We solicited comments on the draft CCP/EA for Wallkill River NWR from February 4, 2008 to April 9, 2008. We held public meetings in Augusta, New Jersey, on February 20, 2008; in Wantage, New Jersey, on February 21, 2008; and in Warwick, New York, on March 6, 2008. We evaluated all comments received during the public comment period, and included them with our responses as appendix J of the final CCP.

Selected Alternative

After considering the comments we received, we have selected alternative B from the draft CCP/EA.

Public Availability of Documents

In addition to the methods in ADDRESSES above, you can view or obtain documents at the Sussex-Wantage Branch Library, 69 Route 639, Wantage, New Jersey 07461, during regular library hours.

Dated: December, 29, 2008.

Thomas J. Healy,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[F–19155–16; AK–964–1410–KC–P]

Alaska Native Claims Selection

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of decision approving lands for conveyance.

SUMMARY: As required by 43 CFR 2650.7(d), notice is hereby given that an appealable decision approving the surface and subsurface estates in certain lands for conveyance pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act will be issued to Doyon, Limited. The lands are in the vicinity of Galena, Alaska, and are located in:

Kateel River Meridian

T. 7 S., R. 9 E., Secs. 24, 25, and 26.

Containing approximately 1,866 acres.

T. 9 S., R. 9 E., Secs. 14 and 23.
Containing approximately 1,240 acres.

T. 8 S., R. 10 E.,
Sec. 6;
Secs. 13 and 14;
Secs. 15, 16, and 17;
Secs. 19 to 24, inclusive.

Containing approximately 7,283 acres.

T. 10 S., R. 10 E.,
Secs. 3 and 10;
Secs. 14 and 15;
Secs. 22 and 23;
Secs. 25, 26, and 27;
Sec. 36.

Containing approximately 7,390 acres.
Aggregating approximately 17,779 acres.

Notice of the decision will also be published four times in the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner.

DATES: The time limits for filing an appeal are:

1. Any party claiming a property interest which is adversely affected by the decision shall have until March 25, 2009 to file an appeal.

2. Parties receiving service of the decision by certified mail shall have 30 days from the date of receipt to file an appeal.

Parties who do not file an appeal in accordance with the requirements of 43 CFR Part 4, Subpart E, shall be deemed to have waived their rights.

ADDRESSES: A copy of the decision may be obtained from: Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Office, 222 West Seventh Avenue, #13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7504.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The Bureau of Land Management by phone at 907-271-5960, or by e-mail at ak.blm.conveyance@ak.blm.gov. Persons who use a telecommunication device (TTD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8330, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to contact the Bureau of Land Management.

Jenny M. Anderson,
Land Law Examiner, Land Transfer Adjudication I.

[FR Doc. E9-3792 Filed 2-20-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-JA-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

60-Day Notice of Intention To Request Clearance of Collection of Information; Opportunity for Public Comment

AGENCY: Department of the Interior, National Park Service.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: Under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 and 5

CFR Part 1320, Reporting and Record Keeping Requirements, the National Park Service (NPS) invites public comments on a proposed new collection of information (OMB# 1024-xxxx).

DATES: Public comments on this Information Collection Request (ICR) will be accepted on or before April 24, 2009.

ADDRESSES: *Send Comments To:* Wayne Freimund, Arkwright Professor of Protected Area Studies, University of Montana, College of Forestry and Conservation, 32 Campus Drive, CHCB 463, Missoula, MT 59812, (406) 243-5184, wayne.freimund@umontana.edu. Also, you may send comments to Leonard Stowe, NPS Information Collection Clearance Officer, 1849 C St., NW., (2605), Washington, DC 20240; or by e-mail at Leonard_stowe@nps.gov.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

To Request a Draft of Proposed Collection of Information Contact: Wayne Freimund, Arkwright Professor of Protected Area Studies, University of Montana, College of Forestry and Conservation, 32 Campus Drive, CHCB 463, Missoula, MT 59812; or via phone at 406/243-5184; or via e-mail at wayne.freimund@umontana.edu, or Jack Potter, Chief of Science and Resource Management, Glacier National Park, NPS, P.O. Box 128, West Glacier, MT 59936; or via phone at 406/888-7821; or via e-mail at jack.potter@nps.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. James Gramann, NPS Social Science Program, 1201 "Eye" St., Washington, DC 20005; or via phone at 202/513-7189; or via e-mail at James_Gramann@partner.nps.gov. You are entitled to a copy of the entire ICR package free of charge once the package is submitted to OMB for review. You can access this ICR at <http://www.reginfo.gov/public/>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Understanding Glacier National Park Visitors' Beliefs about Climate Change.

Bureau Form Number(s): None.

OMB Number: To be requested.

Expiration Date: To be requested.

Type of Request: New Collection.

Description of Need: The National Park Service (NPS) Organic Act of 1916, as amended and supplemented, 16 U.S.C. 1, *et seq.*, requires that the NPS preserve national parks for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. Climate change may significantly impact the conditions in Glacier National Park (GNP), which

among other predicted impacts, may lose its glaciers in the next twenty-five years. In order to develop effective responses to climate change impacts on both natural resources and visitor experiences in GNP, park managers need better information on what park visitors believe about climate change, the connections they make between climate change and GNP, and strategies to effectively educate park visitors about climate change and ways to reduce its impacts.

The NPS and GNP are currently developing a range of responses to climate change including educational programming. A centerpiece of these education programs is the Do Your Part for Climate Friendly Parks initiative, which asks park visitors to assess their personal contribution to climate change and then make commitments to lower their carbon footprint to help protect a national park of their choice from the impacts of climate change. This website was launched in the summer of 2008. GNP visitors may be a prime audience for this website, as melting glaciers in the park is one of the more obvious symbols of climate change impacts in the National Park System. However, more information is needed about visitors' beliefs about climate change to make this website as effective as possible. In addition, GNP implemented a mass transit system in the summer of 2007 as part of a major reconstruction of the Going to the Sun Road. Surveys of visitor attitudes about the shuttles found that a large percentage of GNP shuttle riders chose to ride the shuttle to protect the environment of the park. However, further understanding of the connections people make between protecting the environment, reducing climate change and mass transit in general and the GNP shuttle in particular will help park managers develop more effective climate change response and education strategies.

The primary objectives of this research are to provide information that will assist the GNP staff in developing climate change education programming and to develop recommendations for improving the Do Your Part for Climate Friendly Parks initiative. Specifically, this research will seek to understand the connections visitors make between riding the shuttle, protecting the environment of Glacier National Park (GNP), and reducing potential impacts of climate change on GNP, and to assess their awareness of and willingness to utilize the planned Do Your Part for Climate Friendly Parks Web-based initiative.

Automated data collection: This information will be collected by on-site,