

Request for Public Comments

Section 4(f) of the Act requires us to provide public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment during recovery plan development. It is also our policy to request peer review of recovery plans (July 1, 1994; 59 FR 34270). In an appendix to the approved recovery plan, we will summarize and respond to the issues raised by the public and peer reviewers. Substantive comments may or may not result in changes to the recovery plan; comments regarding recovery plan implementation will be forwarded as appropriate to Federal or other entities, so that they can be taken into account during the course of implementing recovery actions. Responses to individual commenters will not be provided, but we will provide a summary of how we addressed substantive comments in an appendix to the approved recovery plan.

We invite written comments on the draft revised recovery plan. We specifically seek comments on the following:

- Do you have comments or concerns regarding the proposed recovery criteria?
- Do actions and priorities in the plan's Implementation Schedule reflect a biologically sound conservation approach for Lost River sucker and shortnose sucker recovery?
- Are the proposed monitoring and management actions appropriate and sufficient?
- Are there important recovery actions which have not been included in the plan?

Before we approve the plan, we will consider all comments we receive by the date specified in **DATES**. Methods of submitting comments are in **ADDRESSES**.

Public Availability of Comments

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, 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.

Comments and materials we receive will be available, by appointment, for public inspection during normal business hours at our office (see **ADDRESSES**).

Authority

We developed our draft recovery plan under the authority of section 4(f) of the

Act, 16 U.S.C. 1533(f). We publish this notice under section 4(f) Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Dated: October 11, 2011.

Alexandra Pitts,

Acting Regional Director, Pacific Southwest Region.

[FR Doc. 2011-26798 Filed 10-17-11; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R1-ES-2011-N201; 10120-1113-0000-F5]

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Recovery Permit Application

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), invite the public to comment on the following application for a recovery permit to conduct enhancement of survival activities with endangered species. The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act), prohibits activities with endangered species unless a Federal permit allows such activity. The Act also requires that we invite public comment before issuing such permits.

DATES: To ensure consideration, please send your written comments by November 17, 2011.

ADDRESSES: Endangered Species Program Manager, Ecological Services, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pacific Regional Office, 911 NE 11th Avenue, Portland, OR 97232-4181. Please refer to the permit number for the application when submitting comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Grant Canterbury, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, at the above address or by telephone (503-231-2071) or fax (503-231-6243).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) prohibits activities with endangered and threatened species unless a Federal permit allows such activity. Along with our implementing regulations in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 50 CFR 17, the Act provides for permits, and requires that we invite public comment before issuing these permits.

A permit granted by us under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Act authorizes the

permittee to conduct activities with U.S. endangered or threatened species for scientific purposes, enhancement of propagation or survival, or interstate commerce. Our regulations implementing section 10(a)(1)(A) for these permits are found at 50 CFR 17.22 for endangered wildlife species, 50 CFR 17.32 for threatened wildlife species, 50 CFR 17.62 for endangered plant species, and 50 CFR 17.72 for threatened plant species.

Application Available for Review and Comment

We invite local, State, and Federal agencies, and the public to comment on the following application. Please refer to the appropriate permit number for the application when submitting comments.

Documents and other information submitted with this application are available for review, subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a) and Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552).

Permit Number: TE-003483

Applicant: U.S. Geological Survey, Pacific Island Ecosystem Research Center, Honolulu, Hawaii.

The permittee requests an amendment to an existing permit to take (capture; band; collect blood, ectoparasites, fecal samples, feather samples, and tissue scrapings of lesions; measure, and release) the Maui akepa (*Loxops coccineus ochraceus*), small Kauai thrush (*Myadestes palmeri*), and Kauai creeper (*Oreomystis bairdi*); and take (capture; band; collect blood, ectoparasites, fecal samples, feather samples, and tissue scrapings of lesions; measure, attach radio transmitters, release, and search for and monitor nests) the akiapolaau (*Hemignathus munroi*), Hawaii akepa (*Loxops coccineus coccineus*), and Hawaii creeper (*Oreomystis mana*) in conjunction with monitoring and population studies on the islands of Hawaii and Kauai in the State of Hawaii, for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

The existing permit currently covers limited take of the following species: Palila (*Loxioides bailleui*), Laysan duck (*Anas laysanensis*), Hawaiian hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus semotus*),

Nene (*Branta sandvicensis*).

The existing permit also currently covers removal and reduction to possession of the following species:

Cyrtandra giffardii (haiwale),
Melicope zahlbruckneri (alani),
Nothocestrum breviflorum (aiea),
Phyllostegia parviflora var.
glabriuscula (no common name),

Pleomele hawaiiensis (hala pepe),
Portulaca sclerocarpa (poe),
Sesbania tomentosa (ohai).

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

In compliance with NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), we have made an initial determination that the proposed activities in this permit are categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement (516 DM 6 Appendix 1, 1.4C(1)).

Public Availability of Comments

All comments and materials we receive in response to this request will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the address listed in the ADDRESSES section of this notice.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, 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.

Authority

We provide this notice under section 10 of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*)

Dated: October 7, 2011.

Richard R. Hannan,

Acting Regional Director, Pacific Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 2011-26866 Filed 10-17-11; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R5-R-2011-N156; BAC-4311-K9-S3]

Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, Genesee County and Orleans County, NY; Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Finding of No Significant Impact for Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce the availability of our final comprehensive conservation plan (CCP) and finding of no significant impact (FONSI) for the environmental assessment (EA) for Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge

(NWR, refuge), Genesee County and Orleans County, New York. In this final CCP, we describe how we will manage this refuge for the next 15 years.

ADDRESSES: You may view or obtain copies of the final CCP and FONSI/EA by any of the following methods. You may request a hard copy or CD-ROM.

Agency Web site: Download a copy of the documents at <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/planning/Iroquois/ccphome.html>.

E-mail: northeastplanning@fws.gov. Include "Iroquois NWR final CCP" in the subject line of the message.

U.S. Mail: Iroquois NWR, 1101 Casey Road, Basom, NY 14013.

In-Person Viewing or Pickup: Call 585-948-5445 to make an appointment (necessary for view/pickup only) during regular business hours at above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas Roster, Project Leader, 585-948-5445, or Thomas Bonetti, Planning Team Leader, 413-253-8307 (phone); tom_bonetti@fws.gov (e-mail).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Introduction

With this notice, we finalize the CCP process for Iroquois NWR in Basom, New York. We started this process through a notice in the **Federal Register** (73 FR 10279, February 26, 2008). We released the draft CCP and the EA to the public, announcing and requesting comments in a notice of availability in the **Federal Register** (75 FR 61171, October 4, 2010).

Iroquois NWR was established in 1958 under the Migratory Bird Conservation Act for " * * * use as an inviolate sanctuary, or for any other management purpose, for migratory birds" (16 U.S.C. 715d). The refuge consists of more than 10,800 acres within the rural townships of Alabama and Shelby, New York, midway between Buffalo and Rochester. Freshwater marshes and hardwood swamps are bounded by forests, grasslands, and wet meadows. These areas serve the habitat needs of both migratory and resident wildlife, including waterfowl, songbirds, mammals, and amphibians, as well as numerous indigenous plant species.

We announce our decision and the availability of the FONSI for the final CCP for Iroquois NWR in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (40 CFR 1506.6(b)) requirements. We completed a thorough analysis of impacts on the human environment, which we included in the EA that accompanied the draft CCP. The CCP will guide us in managing and administering Iroquois NWR for the next 15 years.

Background

The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd-668ee) (Administration Act), as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, requires us to develop a CCP for each NWR. The purpose for developing a CCP is to provide refuge managers with a 15-year plan 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, CCPs identify wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities available to the public, including opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education and interpretation. We will review and update the CCP at least every 15 years in accordance with the Administration Act.

CCP Alternatives, Including Selected Alternative

Our draft CCP and our EA (75 FR 61171) addressed several issues. To address these, we developed and evaluated the following alternatives.

Alternative A (Current Management): Alternative A continues existing programs and activities and serves as the baseline against which to compare the other alternatives. Under current management, we manage open water and emergent marsh impoundments, early successional habitat including grasslands, shrublands, and forest habitat including a conifer plantation. Under alternative A, we would continue to conduct furbearer management, monitor waterfowl during spring and fall migration, conduct landbird surveys, and manage for invasive species in the same manner as at present. We would maintain existing opportunities for visitors to engage in wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education and interpretation, as well as maintain existing hunting and fishing opportunities on the refuge. We would maintain existing infrastructure and buildings, and maintain current staffing levels.

Alternative B (the Service-preferred alternative): This alternative focuses on enhancing the conservation of wildlife through habitat management, as well as providing additional visitor opportunities on the refuge. Alternative B incorporates existing management