

Cote National Wildlife Refuge located in Avoyelles Parish, Louisiana.

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 and its implementing regulations. The Service is furnishing this notice in compliance with the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 668dd *et seq.*), to achieve the following:

- (1) Advise other agencies and the public of our intentions, and
- (2) Obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues to include in the environmental document.

Special mailings, newspaper articles, and other media announcements will be used to inform the public and state and local government agencies of the opportunities for input throughout the planning process. Open house style meetings will be held throughout the scoping phase of the comprehensive conservation plan development process.

DATES: To ensure consideration, we must receive written comments on or before April 5, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Address comments, questions, and requests for more information to Tina Chouinard, Natural Resource Planner, Central Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex, 401 Island Road, Marksville, Louisiana 71351.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: By Federal law, all lands within the National Wildlife Refuge System are to be managed in accordance with an approved comprehensive conservation plan. This plan guides management decisions and identifies the goals, long-range objectives, and strategies for achieving refuge purposes. The planning process will consider many elements, including wildlife and habitat management, public recreational activities, and cultural resource protection. Public input into this planning process is essential.

Grand Cote National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1989 to provide wintering habitat for mallards, pintails, blue-winged teal, and wood ducks, as well as production habitat for wood ducks to meet the goals of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. Additional objectives of the refuge include providing habitat for threatened and endangered species, providing habitat for a natural diversity of plant and wildlife species, and providing opportunities for wildlife-oriented recreation and environmental education

when compatible with other refuge objectives.

Grand Cote Refuge, consisting of 6,075 acres, is a component of the Central Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex, which includes Lake Ophelia and Cat Island Refuges, three fee title Farmers Home Administration tracts, and thirteen conservation easements located in four central Louisiana Parishes.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Natural Resource Planner, Central Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex, telephone: 318/253-4238; fax: 318/253-7139; e-mail: tina_chouinard@fws.gov; or mail (write to the Natural Resource Planner at address in **ADDRESSES** section).

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

Dated: January 29, 2004.

J. Mitch King,

Acting Regional Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

U.S. Geological Survey

Request for Public Comments on Information Collection Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for Review Under the Paperwork Reduction Act

A request extending the collection of information listed below has been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for approval under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). Copies of the proposed collection of information and related forms may be obtained by contacting the USGS Clearance Officer at the phone number listed below. OMB has up to 60 days to approve or disapprove the information collection but may respond after 30 days; therefore, public comments should be submitted to OMB within 30 days in order to assure their maximum consideration. Address your comments and suggestions on the information collection requirement by either fax (202) 395-6566 or e-mail (oira_docket@omb.eop.gov) to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Attention: Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior (OMB Control Number 1028-0059). Send copies of your comments and suggestions to the USGS Clearance Officer, U.S. Geological Survey, 807

National Center, Reston, VA 20192, or e-mail (jcordyack@usgs.gov).

As required by OMB regulations at CFR 1320.8(d)(1), the U.S. Geological Survey solicits specific public comments regarding the proposed information collection as to:

1. Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the USGS, including whether the information will have practical utility;
2. The accuracy of the USGS estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
3. The utility, quality, and clarity of the information to be collected; and,
4. How to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated electronic, mechanical, or other forms of information technology.

Title: Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

Current OMB approval number: 1028-0059.

Abstract: The information, required by the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), will provide the CTBT Technical Secretariat with geographic locations of sites where chemical explosions greater than 300 tons TNT-equivalent have occurred. Respondents to the information collection request are U.S. nonfuel minerals producers.

Bureau form number: 9-4040-A.

Frequency: Annual.

Description of respondents:

Companies that have conducted in the last calendar year, or that will conduct in the next calendar year, explosions with a total charge size of 300 tons of TNT-equivalent, or greater.

Annual Responses: 3,000.

Annual burden hours: 750.

Bureau clearance officer: John E. Cordyack, Jr., (703) 648-7313.

John H. DeYoung, Jr.,

Chief Scientist, Minerals Information Team.

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