

and elk. These include: Alternative 1—No Action; Alternative 2—Minimal Management of Habitat and Populations; Support Migration; Alternative 3—Restore Habitat, Support Migration, and Phase Back Supplemental Feeding; Alternative 4—Restore Habitat, Improve Forage, and Phase Back Supplemental Feeding; Alternative 5—Restore Habitat, Improve Forage and Continue Supplemental Feeding; and Alternative 6—Restore Habitat, Adaptively Manage Populations, and Phase Out Supplemental Feeding.

Alternative 4, the proposed action, strives to balance the major issues and stakeholder perspectives, identified during prescoping and public scoping, with the purposes, missions, and management policies of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service. Assuming that the WGFD's herd objective of 11,029 had been met, and that higher numbers of elk would use the winter range, approximately 4,000–5,000 elk and up to 500 bison would winter in the National Elk Refuge, and 1,300–1,600 elk would summer in the Grand Teton National Park. The elk hunt in the National Elk Refuge, and the herd reductions in the Grand Teton National Park would continue. A bison hunt would be instituted in the National Elk Refuge. Supplemental feeding would take place only in above-average winters (estimated to occur in roughly 5 out of 10 years). The potential for disease outbreaks would be somewhat reduced, and WGFD personnel would be permitted to use Strain 19 to vaccinate elk.

After the review and comment period for this draft Plan/EIS, all comments will be analyzed and considered by the lead agencies. A final Plan/EIS will be prepared and published, and will include the substantive comments received and the lead agencies' responses to those comments. Changes made to the proposed action will also be identified in the final Plan/EIS. A ROD and final management plan will then be published.

All comments received from individuals on environmental impact statements become part of the official public record. Requests for such comments will be handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, the Privacy Act, the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1506.6(f)), and other policies and procedures of the lead agencies and DOI.

Reviewers should provide their comments during the review period of the draft Plan/EIS. This enables the lead

agencies to analyze and respond to the comments at one time and to use information acquired in the preparation of the final Plan/EIS, thus avoiding undue delay in the decision making process. Comments on the draft EIS should be specific and should address the adequacy of the plan, the impact statement, and the merits of the alternatives discussed (40 CFR 1503.3).

In the final Plan/EIS, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will respond to all substantive comments. Comments are considered substantive if they:

- Question, with reasonable basis, the accuracy of the information in the document.
- Question, with reasonable basis, the adequacy of the environmental analysis.
- Present reasonable alternatives other than those presented in the EIS.
- Cause changes or revisions to the Bison and Elk Management Plan.
- Provide new or additional information relevant to the analysis.

Dated: July 13, 2005.

Ralph O. Morgenweck,

Regional Director, Region 6, Denver, CO.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

U.S. Geological Survey

Request for Public Comments on a Proposed New Information Collection To Be Submitted to OMB for Review Under the Paperwork Reduction Act

A request for a new information collection described below will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for approval under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). Copies of the proposed collection may be obtained by contacting the USGS Clearance Officer at the phone number listed below. Comments on the proposal should be made within 60 days to the Bureau Clearance Officer, U.S. Geological Survey, 807 National Center, Reston, VA 20192.

As required by OMB regulations at 5 CFR 1320.8(d)(1), the USGS solicits specific public comments as to:

1. Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions on the bureaus, including whether the information will have practical utility;
2. The accuracy of the bureau's estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
3. The quality, utility, 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: Community Survey of Rappahannock River Residents

OMB Approval No: New collection

Summary: This information collection is in support of development of a Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Rappahannock National Wildlife Refuge. Under the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, all national wildlife refuges are required to develop a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP). A CCP is a document that provides a framework for guiding refuge management decisions. This planning process ensures the opportunity for active public involvement in the preparation and revision of comprehensive conservation plans. This information collection will inform the planning process by providing information to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the attitudes and opinions of local residents regarding Rappahannock National Wildlife Refuge and its management.

Estimated Completion Time: 20 minutes.

Estimated Annual Number of Respondents: 1,000.

Frequency: One time.

Estimated Annual Burden Hours: 333 hours.

Affected Public: Residents adjacent to the Rappahannock River Basin, Virginia.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To obtain copies of the survey, contact the Bureau clearance office, U.S. Geological Survey, 807 National Center, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, Virginia, 20192, telephone (703) 648-7313.

Dated: July 14, 2005.

Susan D. Haseltine,

Associate Director for Biology

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CA-660-05-1220]

Notice of Extension of Emergency Closure of Public Lands to Recreational Shooting on Public Lands Administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office, CA

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.