

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

[FWS-R6-R-2008-N0059; 60138-1265-6CCP-S3]

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

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announce that our Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and Environmental Assessment (EA) for the nine Wetland Management Districts (Districts) is available. The nine Districts include Arrowwood, Audubon, Chase Lake, Crosby, Devils Lake, J. Clark Salyer, Kulm, Lostwood, and Valley City Districts, located throughout the State of North Dakota. This Draft CCP/EA describes how the Service intends to manage these Districts for the next 15 years.

DATES: To ensure consideration, we must receive your written comments on the draft CCP/EA by September 18, 2008.

ADDRESSES: Please provide written comments to John Esperance, Planning Team Leader, Division of Refuge Planning, Branch of Comprehensive Conservation Planning, Mountain-Prairie Region, P.O. Box 25486, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225-0486; via facsimile at 303-236-4792; or electronically to John_Esperance@fws.gov. A copy of the CCP/EA 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 wetland management districts provide oversight for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's small wetlands acquisition programs, that from receipts from Duck Stamp funds, acquire habitat under the provisions of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The nine districts manage 1,208 waterfowl production areas (232,509 acres), tens of thousands of conservation easements, and 50 wildlife development areas (18,540 acres) in 34 counties in North Dakota. These district lands (totaling 1,125,100 acres) are part of the

National Wildlife Refuge System, a network of lands set aside to conserve fish and wildlife and their habitat.

This draft CCP/EA identifies and evaluates three alternatives for managing the districts for the next 15 years. Alternative A, funding, staff levels, and management activities at the districts would not change. Programs would follow the same direction, emphasis, and intensity as they do at present. The Service would prioritize management of wildlife habitat and associated species at the districts' WPAs into high, medium, and low areas. Only high-priority WPAs receive consistent management. District staffs conduct limited, issue-driven research and limited monitoring and inventory of birds and vegetation.

The district staffs monitor all conservation easements and high-priority easement violations are consistently enforced. On a multiyear rotation among districts, the staffs conduct public use events and workshops with such groups as school districts, youth groups, and conservation groups.

Alternative B, the Service's proposed action, wildlife habitat management would enhance wetlands and uplands, where warranted, on district lands. Management objectives for habitat types would be based on the habitat preferences of groups of target species such as waterfowl, migratory shorebirds, grassland birds, and threatened and endangered species. District staff would focus on high-priority tracts and medium-priority tracts. The district staff would carry out compatible techniques, such as nest boxes for waterfowl, to enhance production of targeted migratory bird populations. The district staff would maintain existing environmental education and visitor services programs, with additional waterfowl emphases. The Service proposes, at a future date, (1) one new administration and visitor center facility each for Audubon and Kulm wetland management districts, and (2) one new visitor contact station each for Lostwood, Valley City, and Arrowwood wetland management districts.

Alternative C, management by the district staff would be more intensive and widespread, targeting native prairie and wetland habitat. As a priority, district staff would seek out restoration projects that expand and return native grasslands to quality native prairie. This alternative would have potential for additional management options that address habitat requirements and needs of specific groups of water-dependent birds such as waterfowl and shorebirds. The staff would develop new

environmental education and visitor services programs. The Service proposes, at a future date, (1) one new administration and visitor center facility each for Audubon and Kulm wetland management districts, and (2) one new visitor contact station each for Lostwood, Valley City, and Arrowwood wetland management districts.

Opportunity for public input will be provided by the Service. All public comment information provided voluntarily by mail, by phone, or at meetings (e.g., names, addresses, letters of comment, input recorded during meetings) becomes part of the official public record. If requested under the Freedom of Information Act by a private citizen or organization, the Service may provide copies of such information. The environmental review of this project will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*); NEPA Regulations (40 CFR parts 1500-1508); other appropriate Federal laws and regulations; Executive Order 12996; the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997; and Service policies and procedures for compliance with those laws and regulations.

Dated: August 13, 2008.

David Lucas,

Acting Regional Director.

[FR Doc. E8-19145 Filed 8-18-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**U.S. Geological Survey****Agency Information Collection: Comment Request**

AGENCY: United States Geological Survey (USGS), Interior.

ACTION: Notice of a new collection.

SUMMARY: To comply with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), we are notifying the public that we will submit to OMB a new information collection request (ICR) for approval of the paperwork requirements for the National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program—EDMAP (NCGMP—EDMAP). This notice provides the public an opportunity to comment on the paperwork burden of this collection.

DATES: You must submit comment on or before September 18, 2008.

ADDRESSES: Send your comments to the IC to Phadrea Ponds, Information Collections Clearance Officer, U.S. Geological Survey, 2150-C Center Avenue, Fort Collins, CO 80525 (mail);

(970) 226-9230 (fax); or pponds@usgs.gov (e-mail). Please reference Information Collection 1028-NEW, NCGMP-EDMAP.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Randall Orndorff, Associate Program Coordinator (STATEMAP and EDMAP), National Cooperative Geological Mapping Program USGS Geological Survey, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, MS 908 (mail); at 703-648-4316 (telephone); or rorndorff@usgs.gov (e-mail).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program—EDMAP (NCGMP-EDMAP)

OMB Control Number: 1028-new

Abstract: EDMAP is the component of the NCGMP that trains the next generation of geologic mappers. The NCGMP allocates funds to colleges and universities in the United States and Puerto Rico through an annual competitive grant process. Every Federal dollar that is awarded is matched with university funds. Geology professors, who are skilled in geologic mapping, request EDMAP funding to support undergraduate and graduate students at their college or university in a one-year mentored geologic mapping project that focuses on a specific geographic area.

Since 1996, more than \$4 million from the NCGMP has supported geologic mapping efforts of more than 600 students working with more than 214 professors at 131 universities in 44 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Funds for graduate projects are limited to \$15,000 with undergraduate project funds limited to \$7,500. These funds are used to cover field expenses and map production, but not faculty salaries. The college or university matches the EDMAP funding.

The authority for the program is listed in the National Geologic Mapping Act (Public Law 106-148).

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.

Frequency of Collection: Annually.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary (necessary to receive benefits).

Estimated Number and Description of Respondents: Approximately 60 University/College Professors or faculty advisors annually.

Annual Burden Hours: 1,100 hours.

Estimated Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping "Hour" Burden: We

expect to receive approximately 55 applications, taking each applicant approximately 20 hours to complete, totaling 1,100 burden hours.

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

Public Disclosure Statement: The PRA (44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*) provides that an agency may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. Until OMB approves a collection of information, you are not obligated to respond.

Comments: Before submitting an ICR to OMB, PRA section 3506(c)(2)(A) (44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*) requires each agency " * * * to provide notice * * * and otherwise consult with members of the public and affected agencies concerning each proposed collection of information * * *" Agencies must specifically solicit comments. We invite comments concerning this information collection on:

(1) Whether or not the collection of information is necessary, including whether or not the information will have practical utility;

(2) the accuracy of our estimate of the burden for this collection of information;

(3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents.

Please note that the comments submitted in response to this notice are a matter of public record. 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 OMB in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that it will be done. To comply with the public process, we publish this **Federal Register** notice announcing that we will submit this ICR to OMB for approval. The notice provided the required 60 day public comment period.

USGS Information Collection Clearance Officer: Phadrea D. Ponds 970-226-9445.

Dated: August 13, 2008.

Randall Orndorff,

Associate Program Coordinator, National Cooperative Geographic Program.

[FR Doc. E8-19148 Filed 8-18-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[F-21870-2, F-21870-3, F-21870-5, F-21870-25; 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 NANA Regional Corporation, Inc. The lands are in the vicinity of Deering and Buckland, Alaska, and are located in:

Kateel River Meridian, Alaska

T. 6 N., R. 12 W.,

Secs. 1 to 36, inclusive.

Containing approximately 22,613 acres.

T. 6 N., R. 18 W.,

Secs. 1 to 14, inclusive;

Secs. 16, 17, and 18;

Secs. 23 to 26, inclusive;

Secs. 31, 32, 35, and 36.

Containing approximately 15,918 acres.

T. 6 N., R. 20 W.,

Secs. 2 to 5, inclusive;

Secs. 8 to 17, inclusive;

Secs. 20 to 36, inclusive.

Containing approximately 19,810 acres.

T. 7 N., R. 21 W.,

Secs. 1 and 2;

Secs. 4 to 7, inclusive;

Secs. 11 to 15, inclusive;

Secs. 19 to 23, inclusive;

Secs. 26 to 34, inclusive.

Containing approximately 15,840 acres.

Aggregating approximately 74,181 acres.

Notice of the decision will also be published four times in the Arctic Sounder.

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 September 18, 2008 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