

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and the South Florida Water Management District intend to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on the feasibility of implementing a plan for extreme drawdowns and habitat enhancement activities for the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Florida.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Questions about the proposed action and DEIS may be addressed to Ms. Heather Carolan or Ms. Lizabeth R. Manners, U.S. Army Engineer District, P.O. Box 4970, Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019; Telephone 904-232-2016/3923.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**1. Proposed Project**

a. The Kissimmee Chain of Lakes is located in Central Florida. These lakes have previously undergone seven extreme drawdowns; Lake Tohopekaliga in 1971, 1979 and 1987; Lake Kissimmee in 1977 and 1996; East Lake Tohopekaliga in 1990 and Lake Alligator in 2000. The drawdowns were designed to improve aquatic habitat that had been negatively impacted by flood control practices and nutrient enrichment. Following refill of the lakes the number of fish food organisms, sport fish and forage fish increased; new desirable aquatic vegetation communities became established; and organic sediments decreased in the lakes.

b. The purpose of this project is to restore the environmental ecosystem of the lakes, which will provide habitat for fisheries, birds and other wildlife. Beneficial effects associated with the drawdown plan include bottom substrate improvements as organic build-up is reduced. This will lead to an increase in diversity and density of desirable vegetation. The drawdown will also allow the control of nuisance aquatic plants, such as hydrilla, water hyacinth, cattails, alligator weed, smartweed and pickerelweed, which proliferate under the unnatural static lake level conditions. In addition, the water quality of the lakes will be enhanced by the nutrient uptake and filtration abilities by the recruitment of native plant species. Restoring littoral habitat, which favors bass, will increase native fish species.

c. Drawdown and in-lake habitat enhancement efforts in the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes should be conducted on a regular basis to mimic natural processes that would benefit the natural resources of these lakes. Enhancement activities may include muck removal, burning, discing and herbicide

application to reduce dense vegetation, tussock formation and organic build-up on lake bottoms.

d. In an effort to mimic natural processes the proposed cycle is for each lake to be drawn down every seven to ten years, which would mean rotating between lakes once a year. The rotating schedule will provide the benefit of supplying sportfish species somewhere in the area consistently and limit access problems to one area at a time.

**2. Alternatives**

a. Several drawdown alternatives will be identified and evaluated during the study.

b. Potential environmental resources and issues to be evaluated in the DEIS include project impacts on:

- (1) Fish and wildlife resources.
- (2) Wetlands resources.
- (3) Wildlife habitat & values.
- (4) Vegetation.
- (5) Water quality.
- (6) Surface & groundwater resources.
- (7) Endangered or threatened species.
- (8) Historical or archeological resources.
- (9) Aesthetics.
- (10) Nuisance and exotic plant species.
- (11) Downstream effects.
- (12) Air quality & noise.
- (13) Soils.
- (14) Navigation and recreation.
- (15) Freeze protection.
- (16) Local tropical fish farms.

c. Because of the magnitude and duration of this project the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the South Florida Water Management District have determined that a DEIS should be prepared for the Project pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

**3. Scoping**

The scoping process as outlined by the Council on Environmental Quality will be followed to involve Federal, State, and local agencies; and other interested persons and organizations. A scoping letter will be sent to interested Federal, State, local agencies and interested parties requesting comments and concerns regarding issues to consider during the study. Responses to this letter will help identify potential environmental impacts to be evaluated in the DEIS. Additional comments are welcome and may be provided to the above address. Public meetings may be held in the future. Exact dates, times, and locations will be published in local papers.

**4. Schedule**

It is estimated that the DEIS will be available to the public by the spring of 2001.

**Gregory D. Showalter,**

*Army Federal Register, Liaison Officer.*

[FR Doc. 00-20005 Filed 8-7-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3710-AJ-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests**

**AGENCY:** Department of Education.

**SUMMARY:** The Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, invites comments on the proposed information collection requests as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before October 10, 2000.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. OMB may amend or waive the requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere with any agency's ability to perform its statutory obligations. The Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, publishes that notice containing proposed information collection requests prior to submission of these requests to OMB. Each proposed information collection, grouped by office, contains the following: (1) Type of review requested, *e.g.* new, revision, extension, existing or reinstatement; (2) Title; (3) Summary of the collection; (4) Description of the need for, and proposed use of, the information; (5) Respondents and frequency of collection; and (6) Reporting and/or Recordkeeping burden. OMB invites public comment. The Department of Education is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the

information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology.

Dated: August 2, 2000.

**John Tressler,**

*Leader, Regulatory Information Management, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

**Office of Student Financial Assistance Programs**

*Type of Review:* Revision of a currently approved collection.

*Title:* Student Right-to-Know (JS)\*.

*Frequency:*

*Affected Public:* Individuals or household, Not-for-profit institutions.

*Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:*

Responses: 9,800.

Burden Hours: 189,900.

*Abstract:* These regulations require institutions that participate in a title IV, Higher Education Act of 1965 program to make available to students the graduation rates of full-time undergraduates, and institutions that also are attended by students receiving athletically related student aid to make available to prospective student-athletes, and their parents, coaches, and counselors the graduation rates of students, and student athletes, by race, gender, and sport. This exact collection was cleared in the spring of 1999. Nothing has been changed.

Requests for copies of the proposed information collection request may be accessed from <http://edicsweb.ed.gov>, or should be addressed to Vivian Reese, Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Room 4050, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, D.C. 20202-4651. Requests may also be electronically mailed to the internet address OCIO\_IMG\_Issues@ed.gov or faxed to 202-708-9346. Please specify the complete title of the information collection when making your request. Comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements should be directed to Joe Schubart at (202) 708-9266. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

[FR Doc. 00-19976 Filed 8-7-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

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Dated: August 3, 2000.

**John Tressler,**

*Leader, Regulatory Information Management, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

**Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services**

*Type of Review:* Extension.

*Title:* National Early Intervention Longitudinal Study (NEILS).

*Frequency:* On Occasion, Weekly, Semi-Annually, Annually.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or household; Businesses or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions State, Local, or Tribal Gov't, SEAs or LEAs.

*Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:*

Responses: 7,241.

Burden Hours: 5,898

*Abstract:* NEILS will provide the first national picture of experiences and outcomes for infants and toddlers served in early intervention (EI) under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and their families. Data is collected from families, service records, and service providers. Findings will inform special education policy and practice regarding early intervention for young children with disabilities and their families. The study will support the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) measurement and IDEA reauthorization with data from parents, service providers and teachers of children who received early intervention services.

Requests for copies of the proposed information collection request may be accessed from <http://edicsweb.ed.gov>, or should be addressed to Vivian Reese, Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Room 4050, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, D.C. 20202-4651. Requests may also be electronically mailed to the internet address OCIO\_IMG\_Issues@ed.gov or faxed to 202-708-9346. Please specify the complete title of the information collection when making your request.

Comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements should be directed to Sheila Carey at (202) 708-6287 or via her internet address Sheila\_Carey@ed.gov. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

[FR Doc. 00-20006 Filed 8-7-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

**Bonneville Power Administration**

**Transmission System Vegetation Management Program**

**AGENCY:** Bonneville Power Administration (Bonneville), Department of Energy (DOE).

**ACTION:** Notice of Availability of Record of Decision (ROD).