

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments regarding this proposal. Comments should refer to the proposal by name and/or OMB approval number (2529-0046) and should be sent to: Lauren Wittenberg, OMB Desk Officer, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503; Fax number (202) 395-6974; E-mail [Lauren\\_Wittenberg@omb.eop.gov](mailto:Lauren_Wittenberg@omb.eop.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Wayne Eddins, Reports Management Officer, AYO, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street, Southwest, Washington, DC 20410; e-mail [Wayne\\_Eddins@HUD.gov](mailto:Wayne_Eddins@HUD.gov); telephone (202) 708-2374. This is not a toll-free number. Copies of the proposed forms and other available documents submitted to OMB may be obtained from Mr. Eddins.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Department has submitted the proposal

for the collection of information, as described below, to OMB for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). The Notice lists the following information: (1) The title of the information collection proposal; (2) the office of the agency to collect the information; (3) the OMB approval number, if applicable; (4) the description of the need for the information and its proposed use; (5) the agency form number, if applicable; (6) what members of the public will be affected by the proposal; (7) how frequently information submissions will be required; (8) an estimate of the total number of hours needed to prepare the information submission including number of respondents, frequency of response, and hours of response; (9) whether the proposal is new, an extension, reinstatement, or revision of an information collection requirement; and (10) the name and telephone number of an agency official familiar

with the proposal and of the OMB Desk Officer for the Department.

This Notice also lists the following information:

*Title of Proposal:* Housing for Older Persons exemption for familial status discrimination.

*OMB Approval Number:* 2529-0046.

*Form Numbers:* None.

*Description of the Need for the Information and its Proposed Use:* This information collection supports an allowance for housing providers to claim exemption to the familial status provision of the Fair Housing Act, as amended by the Housing for Older Persons Act of 1995.

*Respondents:* Business or other for-profit, not-for-profit institutions, State, Local or Tribal Government.

*Frequency of Submission:* Other upon declaring housing for older persons; upon receipt of a familial status complaint, on occasion.

	Number of respondents	×	Annual responses	×	Hours per response	=	Burden hours
Reporting burden .....	12,000		1		0.45		5,500

*Total Estimated Burden Hours:* 5,500.  
*Status:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

**Authority:** Section 3507 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 35, as amended.

Dated: May 14, 2003.

**Wayne Eddins,**

*Departmental Reports Management Officer,  
Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. 03-12682 Filed 5-20-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4210-72-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

[Docket No. FR-4818-N-05]

**Notice of Proposed Information Collection for Public Comment: Extension of Survey of Housing Conditions for Households Living in Federally-Assisted Units**

**AGENCY:** Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research, HUD.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The proposed information collection requirement described below will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act. The Department is

soliciting public comments on the subject proposal.

**DATES:** *Comments Due Date:* July 21, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments regarding this proposal. Comments should refer to the proposal by name and/or OMB Control Number and should be sent to: Reports Liaison Officer, Office of Policy Development and Research, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street, SW., Room 8226, Washington, DC 20410-6000.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Barbara Haley, 202-708-5537, ext. 5708 (this is not a toll-free number), for copies of the proposed forms and other available documents.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Department will submit the proposed information collection to OMB for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35, as amended). This notice is soliciting comments from members of the public and affected agencies concerning the proposed collection of information to: (1) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the

burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond; including through the use of appropriate automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

This notice also lists the following information:

*Title of Proposal:* Extension of Survey of Housing Conditions for Households Living in Federally-Assisted Units.

*OMB Control Number:* 2528-0170 (exp. 02/21/04).

*Description of the Need for the Information and its Proposed Use:* HUD developed and tested a cost-effective mail survey instrument for assessing the condition of housing units assisted through HUD's Choice Voucher Program (formerly known as section 8). The pilot survey, which elicited renters' ratings of their housing, provided high levels of agreement with independent condition ratings by professional inspectors. HUD implements the survey as an ongoing tool to assess customer ratings of the condition of housing assisted through the Housing Choice Voucher Program. This survey helps HUD focus its monitoring and technical assistance resources on property owners and

housing authorities whose performance most need improvement. It also provides policy and program managers with valid measures for tracking housing conditions over time.

*Agency Form Numbers:* None.

*Members of the Affected Public:*

Households residing in units receiving assistance from the Housing Choice Voucher Program.

*Estimation of the Total Number of Hours Needed to Prepare the Information Collection Including Number of Respondents, Frequency of Response, and Hours of Response:* Information will be collected by a periodic mail survey of 259,000 of the 1.8 million households who live in housing units assisted through the Housing Choice Voucher Program. Based on the first year of data collection, a 62 percent response rate is expected. The survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. This means a total of 40,145 hours of response time annually is expected for the information collection.

*Status of the Proposed Extension of Information Collection:* Pending submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

**Authority:** Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. chapter 35, as amended.

Dated: May 14, 2003.

**Christopher D. Lord,**

*Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy Development.*

[FR Doc. 03-12684 Filed 5-20-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4210-62-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of the Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment for Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge located in Noxubee, Oktibbeha, and Winston Counties, Mississippi.

**SUMMARY:** The Fish and Wildlife Service announces that a Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment for Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge are available for review and comment. These documents have been prepared pursuant to the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and describe the Service's proposal for managing the refuge over the next 15

years. Proposed goals for the refuge include:

- Perpetuating a diversity of high quality, more natural-like communities as habitats for trust and resident species;
- Continuing to protect, maintain, and enhance native plant and animal species;
- Improving conditions for fish, wildlife, habitats, special management areas, and wilderness through the use of current land protection programs, laws, policies, and partnerships;
- Developing recreation and education opportunities that promote fish and wildlife conservation consistent with the Service's mission and policies, and the purpose for which the refuge was established;
- Protecting the cultural resources of the refuge; and
- Developing and maintaining a comprehensive refuge facility responsive to supporting the management of fish and wildlife resources, and the safety and experience of refuge visitors.

Also available for review are the draft compatibility determinations for recreational hunting, recreational fishing, wildlife observation and photography, environmental education and interpretation, forest habitat management, haying, and research and collections.

#### Proposed Action

The proposed action is to adopt and implement a comprehensive conservation plan for the refuge that best achieves the refuge's purpose, vision, and goals; contributes to the National Wildlife Refuge System mission; addresses the significant issues and relevant mandates; and is consistent with principles of sound fish and wildlife management. The Service analyzed three alternatives for future management of the refuge and chose Alternative 2, as the one to best achieve all of these elements.

#### Alternatives

The draft comprehensive conservation plan and environmental assessment evaluates the three alternatives for managing the refuge over the next 15 years. These alternatives are briefly described as follows:

Alternative 1 represents the status quo; e.g., no changes from current management of the refuge. The refuge would continue with its existing forest management plan that emphasizes older age classes of trees and late successional wildlife communities. Waters and wetlands would be managed under current policies. Cultural resources would be protected at current levels.

Under Alternative 2, the Service's proposed action, wildlife and habitat would be managed with emphasis on old growth forest communities, and increasing emphasis on education and recreation programs. Refuge programs provide the public with an opportunity to learn about, enjoy, and appreciate fish and wildlife. These programs include hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education and interpretation. Deer hunting opportunities would continue in order to manage the population, and small game and waterfowl hunting opportunities would continue as well. Game fish populations at Bluff and Loakfoma lakes would be maintained to support an annual average of 13,000 angler-use days through natural reproduction, habitat management, regulated harvest, and stocking when appropriate. Under this alternative, the refuge would seek to maintain and improve overlooks, boardwalks and trails, and provide special guided and education program tours each season, with an objective of increasing interpretation activities to at least 15 events annually. The refuge would coordinate with the local school district and others to share expertise, host meetings at the environmental education center, refuge outdoor classroom, and off-site locations to support 15,000 students annually. This alternative emphasizes providing habitat for forest nesting birds dependent on mature hardwood forests and adequate habitat for resident and migratory waterfowl. Current partnerships that assist the refuge in accomplishing its conservation objectives would continue under this alternative, as would coordination with the Service's private lands' biologist to implement the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program with local landowners and other conservation groups. Communication with local landowners and community groups would continue in order to promote wildlife conservation. A comprehensive cultural resources' survey would be conducted, and protection and interpretation of cultural resources would be improved.

Alternative 3 emphasizes providing early successional forest habitat and increases in certain education and recreation programs. Forest management of pine and pine/hardwood forests would be directed towards providing old growth adequate to support the refuge's goal for the redcockaded woodpecker, and for providing early successional habitat for neotropical migratory birds and certain game