

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Information Collection Renewal; OMB Control Number 1018-0121; Depredation Orders for Double-Crested Cormorants, 50 CFR 21.47 and 21.48

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We (Fish and Wildlife Service) plan to request that OMB renew approval for our information collections associated with regulations authorizing the take of double-crested cormorants. The current OMB control number for this information collection is 1018-0121, which expires October 31, 2006. We will ask OMB to renew approval of this information collection for a 3-year term.

DATES: You must submit comments on or before June 19, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Send your comments on the information collection to Hope Grey, Information Collection Clearance Officer, Fish and Wildlife Service, MS 222-ARLSQ, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22203 (mail); *hope_grey@fws.gov* (e-mail); or (703) 358-2269 (fax).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request a copy of the information collection requirement or explanatory information, contact Hope Grey at the addresses above or by telephone at (703) 358-2482.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: OMB regulations at 5 CFR 1320, which implement provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), require that interested members of the public and affected agencies have an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping activities (see 5 CFR 1320.8(d)). Federal agencies may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

This information collection is associated with regulations implementing the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) (16 U.S.C. 703 *et seq.*). The MBTA implements four treaties concerning migratory birds that the United States has signed with Canada, Mexico, Japan, and Russia. The treaties preserve and protect various species of birds. Under the MBTA, it is unlawful to take, possess, import, export, transport, sell, purchase, barter, or offer for sale, purchase, or barter, any migratory bird, their parts, nests, or eggs, except as authorized by regulations implementing the MBTA. In 2003, we promulgated regulations (50 CFR 21.47, Aquaculture Depredation Order, and 21.48, Public Resource Depredation Order) to authorize the take of double-crested cormorants (DCCOs) under certain circumstances.

Aquaculture producers may take DCCOs when the birds are found committing or about to commit depredations on commercial freshwater aquaculture stocks (50 CFR 21.47). Persons operating under this order must:

(a) Immediately report the take of a migratory bird species other than double-crested cormorants to the appropriate Service Regional Migratory Bird Permit Office.

(b) Immediately report the take of species protected under the Endangered Species Act to the Service.

(c) Keep a log recording the date, number, and location of all birds killed each year under this authorization; maintain this log for a period of 3 years (and maintain records for 3 previous years of takings at all times thereafter); and each year, provide the previous year's log to the appropriate Service Regional Migratory Bird Permit Office.

Our regulations at 50 CFR 21.48 authorize State fish and wildlife agencies, U.S. Department of Agriculture (APHIS-Wildlife Services), and Federally recognized tribes in 24 States to take DCCOs to prevent depredations on the public resources of fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats.

Responsible agencies operating under this order must:

(a) Provide a one-time written notice to the appropriate Service Regional Migratory Bird Permit Office indicating that they intend to act under this order.

(b) Provide a report to the Service detailing activities conducted under the authority of this order, including:

(1) Summary (by date and location) of the number of double-crested cormorants killed and/or number of nests in which eggs were oiled;

(2) Statement of efforts being made to minimize incidental take of nontarget species and a report of the number and species of migratory birds involved in such take, if any;

(3) Description of the impacts or anticipated impacts to public resources by double-crested cormorants and a statement of the management objectives for the area in question;

(4) Description of the evidence supporting the conclusion that double-crested cormorants are causing or will cause these impacts;

(5) Discussion of other limiting factors affecting the resource (e.g., biological, environmental, and socioeconomic); and

(6) Discussion of how control efforts are expected to, or actually did, alleviate resource impacts.

(c) Evaluate, by means of collecting data or using best available information, effects of management activities on the public resources being protected and on nontarget species, and include this information in the report mentioned in (b) above.

Title: Depredation Orders for Double-Crested Cormorants, 50 CFR 21.47 and 21.48.

OMB Control Number: 1018-0121.

Service Form Number: None.

Frequency of Collection: Annual, except that reporting of accidental take is on occasion.

Description of Respondents: Aquaculture producers, State fish and wildlife agencies, tribes, and Federal agencies.

Activity	Number of respondents	Number of responses	Estimated completion time (hrs)	Total annual burden hrs
Report take of migratory bird species other than DCCOs	2	2	1	2
Report take of species protected under the Endangered Species Act	1	1	1	1
Written notice of intent to conduct control activities	12	12	2	24
Report of activities conducted under 50 CFR 21.48	8	8	8	64
Report effects of management activities	8	8	80	640
Recordkeeping under 50 CFR 21.47	900	900	2	1,800
Totals	931	931	2,531

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.

Dated: April 6, 2006.

Hope G. Grey,

*Information Collection Clearance Officer,
Fish and Wildlife Service.*

[FR Doc. E6-5882 Filed 4-18-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge, Cameron Parish, Louisiana

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior

ACTION: Notice of availability of the Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Finding of No Significant Impact for Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge.

SUMMARY: The Fish and Wildlife Service announces that a Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Finding of No Significant Impact for Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge are available for distribution. The plan was prepared pursuant to the National Wildlife Refuge system Improvement Act of 1997, and in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and describes how the refuge will be managed for the next 15 years. The compatibility determinations for (1) recreational fishing; (2) recreational hunting; (3) wildlife observation and wildlife photography; (4) environmental education and interpretation; (5) commercial alligator harvest; (6) commercially guided wildlife viewing, wildlife photography, and environmental education and interpretation; (7) research and monitoring; (8) commercial video and photography; (9) adjacent property access; and (10) beneficial use of dredge material are also included in the plan.

ADDRESSES: A copy of the plan may be obtained by writing to Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge, 1428 Highway 27, Bell City, LA 70630, or by calling 337/598-2216. The plan may also be accessed and downloaded from the

Service's Internet Web site at <http://southeast.fws.gov/planning/>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge is one of the three refuges that comprise the Southwest Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex. It is located about 25 miles southeast of Lake Charles, Louisiana, in north central Cameron Parish. The 9,621-acre refuge and the 64,000-acre multi-agency Cameron Creole Watershed Project, which is managed by the refuge, contain freshwater marsh, coastal prairie, and early successional wetlands and are managed to conserve and protect wintering waterfowl and their habitat.

The availability of the draft comprehensive conservation plan and environmental assessment for a 45-day review as announced in the **Federal Register** on July 27, 2005 (70 FR 43445). The draft plan and environmental assessment evaluated three alternatives for managing the refuge. Alternative B was chosen as the "preferred alternative." Under the preferred alternative, the quality and quantity of habitat for wintering waterfowl will be maximized by focusing on a more adaptive management approach through improved biological monitoring. Public use opportunities will generally increase and more emphasis will be placed on environmental education and interpretation. Commercial guides for wildlife viewing, wildlife photography, and environmental education and interpretation will be permitted. Research and monitoring will be enhanced. Programs to promote the beneficial use of dredge material will be allowed. Current partnerships that assist the refuge in accomplishing its conservation objectives will continue and the refuge will strive to develop new partnerships. A more aggressive approach to removal of undesirable plants and animals will be implemented. Cultural resources will continue to be protected. The refuge will assist in developing and maintaining the Southwest Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex Headquarters, located at Cameron Prairie Refuge, in a manner that supports, directs, and manages the needs, resources, and staff of the entire Complex.

Implementation of the goals, objectives, and strategies within the comprehensive conservation plan will allow the refuge to protect a variety of freshwater marshland and upland prairie habitat; to serve as a critical resting area for waterfowl in a heavily hunted area; to conserve, restore, and enhance diverse habitats for migratory

and native wildlife species; to maintain health and viable native fish and wildlife populations; to provide opportunities for safe, quality, compatible, wildlife-dependent public use and recreation; and to protect cultural resources.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Judy McClendon, Natural Resource Planner, Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge, 1428 Highway 27, Bell City, LA 70630; Telephone: 337/598-2216; Fax: 337/598-2492; E-mail: judy_mcclendon@fws.gov.

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

Dated: February 6, 2006.

Cynthia K. Dohner,

Acting Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 06-3731 Filed 4-18-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Endangered Species Recovery Permit Applications

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of permit applications.

SUMMARY: We invite the public to comment on the following applications to conduct certain activities with endangered species.

DATES: Comments on these permit applications must be received on or before May 19, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Written data or comments should be submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Chief, Endangered Species, Ecological Services, 911 NE. 11th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97232-4181 (telephone: 503-231-2063; fax: 503-231-6243). Please refer to the respective permit number for each application when submitting comments. All comments received, including names and addresses, will become part of the official administrative record and may be made available to the public.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Documents and other information submitted with these applications are available for review, subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act, by any party who submits a written request for a copy of such documents to the address above. Please refer to the respective permit number for each application when requesting copies of documents.