

regulations. The Service is furnishing this notice in compliance with the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 668dd *et seq.*), to achieve the following:

- (1) Advise other agencies and the public of our intentions, and
- (2) Obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues to include in the environmental document.

DATES: Public scoping meetings will be held in February 2003, with special mailings, newspaper articles, and other media announcements being used to inform people of the opportunities to participate in the meetings and provide input throughout the planning process.

ADDRESSES: Address comments, questions, and requests for more information to the following: Allyne Askins, Project Leader, Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge, 12295 State Highway 180, Gulf Shores, Alabama 36542; Telephone 251/540-7720; Fax 251/540-7301; e-mail allyne_asksins@fws.gov. Additional information concerning the refuge may be found at the refuge's Internet site <http://bonsecour.fws.gov/>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: By Federal law, all lands within the National Wildlife Refuge System are to be managed in accordance with an approved comprehensive conservation plan. The plan guides management decisions and identifies refuge goals, long-range objectives, and strategies for achieving refuge purposes. The planning process will consider many elements including wildlife and habitat management, public recreational activities, and cultural resource protection. Public input into the planning process is essential.

Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge was established by Congress in June 1980, and encompasses some of Alabama's last remaining undisturbed coastal barrier habitat. Located 50 miles due west of Pensacola, Florida, and 50 miles southeast of Mobile, Alabama, Bon Secour refuge comprises about 6,700 acres of coastal lands ranging from dynamic beach dunes to pine flatwood and oak hammocks. Management of the refuge is aimed at protecting and preserving these unique habitats and associated wildlife.

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

Dated: December 10, 2002.

Judy L. Pulliam,

Acting Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 03-1071 Filed 1-16-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Intent To Prepare Comprehensive Conservation Plans and Associated Environmental Documents for Des Lacs, Upper Souris, and J. Clark Salyer National Wildlife Refuges in Northern North Dakota

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service intends to gather information necessary to prepare Comprehensive Conservation Plans and associated environmental documents for Des Lacs, Upper Souris, and J. Clark Salyer National Wildlife Refuges near Minot, North Dakota. The Service is issuing this notice in compliance with its policy to advise other organizations and the public of its intentions and to obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues to be considered in the planning process.

DATES: Written comments should be received by April 30, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Comments and requests for more information should be sent to: Bridget McCann, Planning Team Leader, PO Box 25486, Denver Federal Center, Denver, CO 80225-0486; Fax (303) 236-4792; E-mail bridget_mccann@fws.gov or, Toni Griffin, Planning Team Leader, PO Box 25486, Denver Federal Center, Denver, CO 80225-0486; Fax (303) 236-4792; E-mail toni_griffin@fws.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bridget McCann, Planning Team Leader, PO Box 25486, Denver Federal Center, Denver, CO 80225-0486; Fax (303) 236-4792; E-mail bridget_mccann@fws.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Service has initiated comprehensive conservation planning for Des Lacs, Upper Souris, and J. Clark Salyer National Wildlife Refuges for the conservation and enhancement of their natural resources. These Refuges are located in the Souris River watershed of northern North Dakota. Des Lacs National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) encompasses more than 19,500 acres on the Des Lacs River, a tributary to the Souris River, in Ward and Burke Counties, and borders Saskatchewan Province. Upper Souris NWR encompasses 32,000 acres along the Souris River in Renville and Ward Counties. J. Clark Salyer NWR encompasses 58,700 acres along the Souris River in Bottineau and McHenry Counties, and borders Manitoba Province.

All three Refuges were established in 1935 by Executive Order as "* * * * * refuge[s] and breeding ground[s] for migratory birds and other wildlife * * *" under the Migratory Bird Conservation Act. During the comprehensive planning process, management goals, objectives, and strategies will be developed to carry out the purposes of the Refuges and to comply with laws and policies governing refuge management and public use of refuges. The three Refuges discussed here are open to public uses.

The Service requests input as to which issues affecting management or public use should be addressed during the planning process. The Service is especially interested in receiving public input in the following areas:

- What do you value most about these Refuges?
- What problems or issues do you see affecting management or public use of these Refuges?
- What changes, if any, would you like to see in the management of these Refuges?

The Service has provided the above questions for your optional use. The Service has no requirement that you provide information. The Planning Team developed these questions to facilitate gathering information about individual issues and ideas. Comments received by the Planning Team will be used as part of the planning process.

Opportunities for public input will also be provided at public meetings during the week of March 24, 2003. Exact dates and times for these public meetings are yet to be determined, but will be announced via local media.

All information provided voluntarily by mail, phone, or at public 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 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 regulations.

Dated: December 4, 2002.

Ralph O. Morgenweck,

Regional Director, Denver, Colorado.

[FR Doc. 03-1068 Filed 1-16-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Sabine, Cameron Prairie, and Lacassine National Wildlife Refuges

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare comprehensive conservation plans and environmental assessments for Sabine, Cameron Prairie, and Lacassine National Wildlife Refuges in Louisiana.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the Fish and Wildlife Service, Southeast Region, intends to gather information necessary to prepare comprehensive conservation plans and environmental assessments pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and its implementing regulations. The Service is furnishing this notice in compliance with the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 668dd *et seq.*), to achieve the following:

(1) Advise other agencies and the public of our intentions, and

(2) Obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues to include in the environmental documents.

Special mailings, newspaper articles, and other media announcements will inform people of the opportunities for written input throughout the planning process.

DATES: The Service has already begun the planning process by hosting a series of local meetings in Cameron and Calcasieu Parishes during October 2002, to solicit comments. An open house to involve the public will be held on January 16, 2003, at Best Suites of America (Downtown Exit off Interstate 10), 401 Lakeshore Drive, Lake Charles, Louisiana. The public may attend formal presentations at 2 p.m., 4 p.m., or 6 p.m., or may visit any time during the open house to view maps and other displays, consider each refuge purpose and mission statement, visit one-on-one with Service representatives, and give personal suggestions for future management of each refuge. Special mailings, newspaper articles, and announcements will inform the public of times and locations of additional meetings and opportunities for input.

ADDRESSES: Address comments, questions, and requests for more information to the following: Judy McClendon, Natural Resource Planner, Southwest Louisiana Refuges, 1428 Highway 27, Bell City, Louisiana 70630; Telephone 337/598-2216; Fax 337/598-2492; E-Mail judy_mcclendon@fws.gov. Additional information concerning these refuges may be found at the Service's Internet site <http://www.fws.gov/>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: By Federal law, all lands within the National Wildlife Refuge System are to be managed in accordance with an approved comprehensive conservation plan. The plan guides management decisions and identifies refuge goals, long-range objectives, and strategies for achieving refuge purposes. The planning process will consider many elements including wildlife and habitat management, public recreational activities, and cultural resource protection. Public input into the planning process is essential.

Sabine National Wildlife Refuge, located in Cameron Parish, Louisiana, encompasses 124,511 acres of fresh/intermediate/brackish marsh and is managed for the protection of wintering waterfowl. Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge, located in Cameron Parish, Louisiana, encompasses 9,621 acres of fresh marsh, prairie, and manipulated moist-soil units and provides for nesting, migrating, and wintering waterfowl and their critical habitats. Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge, located in Cameron and Evangeline Parishes, Louisiana, encompasses 34,886 acres and was established to preserve marshlands and to provide habitat for migrating and wintering waterfowl. Lacassine refuge also manages a 3,345-acre wilderness area, a 20,000-acre private lands mini-refuge program for migrating waterfowl in six refuges, and oversees wetland easements in Jefferson Davis Parish.

Review of the draft plans, expected in 2003, will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), NEPA regulations (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), other appropriate Federal laws and regulations, and Service policies and procedures for compliance with those regulations.

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

Dated: December 3, 2002

J. Mitch King,

Acting Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 03-1070 Filed 1-16-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Receipt of Application for Endangered Species Permit

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of application for endangered species permit.

SUMMARY: The following applicants have applied for permits to conduct certain activities with endangered species. This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

DATES: Written data or comments on these applications must be received, at the address given below, by February 18, 2003.

ADDRESSES: 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 following office within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 200, Atlanta, Georgia 30345 (Attn: Victoria Davis, Permit Biologist). Telephone: 404/679-4176; Facsimile: 404/679-7081.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Victoria Davis, Telephone: 404/679-4176; Facsimile: 404/679-7081.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: If you wish to comment, you may submit comments by any one of several methods. You may mail comments to the Service's Regional Office (see **ADDRESSES**). You may also comment via the internet to victoria_davis@fws.gov. Please submit comments over the internet as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Please also include your name and return address in your internet message. If you do not receive a confirmation from the Service that we have received your internet message, contact us directly at either telephone number listed above (see **FURTHER INFORMATION**). Finally, you may hand deliver comments to the Service office listed below (see **ADDRESSES**). Our practice is to make comments, including