

Dated: May 23, 2000.

Jane M. Harrison,

Director, Division of Policy Review and Coordination.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Information Collection To Be Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Approval Under the Paperwork Reduction Act

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will submit the collection of information listed below to OMB for approval under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act. A copy of the information collection requirement is included in this notice. If you wish to obtain copies of the proposed information collection requirement, related forms, and explanatory material, contact the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer at the address listed below.

DATES: You must submit comments on or before July 31, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Send your comments on the requirement to the Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, ms 222-ARLSQ, 1849 C Street NW., Washington, DC 20204.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request a copy of the information collection request, explanatory information and related forms, contact Rebecca A. Mullin at (703) 358-2287, or electronically to rmullin@fws.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR 1320, which implement provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13), 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)). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (We) plan to submit a request to OMB to renew its approval of the collection of information for the nontoxic shot approval process. We are requesting a 3-year term of approval for this information collection activity.

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. The OMB control number for this collection of information is 1018-0067.

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703-711) and Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742d) designate the Department of the Interior as the key agency responsible for the wise management of migratory bird populations frequenting the United States and for the setting of hunting regulations that allow appropriate harvests that are within the guidelines that will allow for those populations' well being. These responsibilities include approval of nontoxic shot materials that are allowed for use in hunting waterfowl and coots in the U.S.

As of January 1, 1991, lead shot was banned for hunting waterfowl and coots in the U.S. At that time, steel shot was the only nontoxic alternative available. Since then, we have encouraged manufacturers to develop other alternatives that the hunting public may use. In approving a candidate material as nontoxic for hunting waterfowl and coots we must first ensure that secondary exposure (ingestion of spent shot or its components) are not a hazard to migratory birds and the environment. In order to make this decision, we require the applicant to collect information about the toxicity of their candidate material to migratory birds and the environment. A further requirement pertains to law enforcement. A noninvasive field detection device must be available to distinguish the candidate shot from lead shot. The above information provides the bulk of an application. Once a candidate material is approved as nontoxic there is no seasonal or annual information collection requirement.

Title: Protocol for Nontoxic Approval Procedures for Shot and Shot Coatings.

Approval Number: 1018-0067.

Service Form Number: Not applicable.

Frequency of Collection: Upon application.

Description of Respondents: Shot manufacturers.

Total Annual Burden Hours: The reporting burden is estimated to average 3,200 hours per application.

Total Annual Responses: We expect no more than 3 applications per year.

We invite comments concerning this renewal on: (1) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of our migratory bird management functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of our estimate of the burden of the 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. The information collections in this program are part of a system of record covered by the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552(a)).

Dated: May 19, 2000.

Paul R. Schmidt,

Assistant Director, Refuges and Wildlife.

[FR Doc. 00-13384 Filed 5-26-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Intent To Prepare a Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare a Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) intends to gather information necessary to prepare a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and its implementing regulations, for the Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex refuges located in the State of New York. These refuges include Amagansett National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Conscience Point NWR, Lido Beach NWR, Morton NWR, Oyster Bay NWR, Seatuck NWR, Target Rock NWR, and Wertheim NWR. The Refuges are in Suffolk and Nassau Counties, New York.

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.*):

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

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

DATES: Inquire at the address below for dates of planning activity and due dates for comments.

ADDRESSES: Address comments and requests for more information to the following: Refuge Manager, Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex, P.O. Box 21, Shirley, New York 11976, 631/286-0485.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: By Federal law, all lands within the National

Wildlife Refuge System are to be managed in accordance with an approved CCP. The CCP guides management decisions and identifies refuge goals, long-range objectives, and strategies for achieving refuge purposes. The planning process will consider many elements, including habitat and wildlife management, habitat protection and acquisition, public use, and cultural resources. Public input into this planning process is essential. The CCP will provide other agencies and the public with a clear understanding of the desired conditions for the Refuges and how the Service will implement management strategies.

The Service will solicit information from the public via open houses, meetings, and written comments. Special mailings, newspaper articles, and announcements will inform people in the general area near each refuge of the time and place of opportunities for public input to the CCP.

The Long Island NWR Complex is a diverse group of nine units totaling over 6,200 acres, and contain most of the habitat types found on Long Island which are important to hundreds of migratory bird species and other wildlife.

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 1500–1508), other appropriate Federal laws and regulations, and Service policies and procedures for compliance with those regulations.

We estimate that the draft environmental documents will be available in summer 2001.

Dated: May 11, 2000.

Mamie A. Parker,

Deputy Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Hadley, Massachusetts.

[FR Doc. 00–13395 Filed 5–26–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–55–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Receipt of Application for an Incidental Take Permit by Culebra Northshore, S.E. for Development of a Residential Project in Culebra, PR

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Culebra Northshore, S.E. (Applicant), seeks an incidental take permit (ITP) from the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), pursuant to section

10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended. The ITP would authorize incidental take of hatchlings from two nests of the leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) or the hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), both endangered species, on Tortola Beach for a period of twelve (12) years. The proposed taking is incidental to lighting and other activities associated with the development and occupation of a single-family residential project on a 66.80–“cuerda” (64.8-acre) lot adjacent to Tortola Beach, Culebra, Puerto Rico (Project). Nest surveys on this beach indicate that both sea turtle species use the beach for nesting, although in very low numbers. The Applicant’s Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) describes the mitigation and minimization measures proposed to address the effects of the Project to the protected species. These measures are outlined in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section below. The Service has determined that the Applicant’s proposal, including the proposed mitigation and minimization measures, will individually and cumulatively have a minor or negligible effect on the species covered in the HCP. Therefore, the ITP is a “low effect” project and would qualify as a categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as provided by the Department of Interior Manual (516 DM2, Appendix 1 and 516 DM 6, Appendix 1).

The Service also announces the availability of the HCP and our determination of Categorical Exclusion for the incidental take application. Copies of the HCP and Service supporting documents may be obtained by making a request to the Regional Office (see **ADDRESSES**). Requests must be in writing to be processed. This notice is provided pursuant to Section 10 of the Endangered Species Act and NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1506.6). The Service specifically requests information, views, and opinions from the public via this notice on the Federal action. Further, the Service specifically solicits information regarding the adequacy of the HCP as measured against the Service’s Permit issuance criteria found in 50 CFR parts 13 and 17.

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 “david_dell@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 below (see **FURTHER INFORMATION**). Finally, you may hand deliver comments to either Service office listed below (see **ADDRESSES**). Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours.

Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the administrative record. We will honor such requests to the extent allowable by law. There may also be other circumstances in which we would withhold from the administrative record a respondent’s identity, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. We will not; however, consider anonymous comments. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

DATES: Written comments on the permit application, supporting documentation, and HCP should be sent to the Service’s Regional Office (see **ADDRESSES**) and should be received on or before June 29, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the application, supporting documentation, and HCP may obtain a copy by writing the Service’s Southeast Regional Office, Atlanta, Georgia. Documents will also be available for public inspection by appointment during normal business hours at the Regional Office, 1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 200, Atlanta, Georgia 30345 (Attn: Endangered Species Permits), or Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 491, Boqueron, Puerto Rico 00622. Written data or comments concerning the application, or HCP should be submitted to the Regional Office. Requests for the documentation must be in writing to be processed. Please reference permit number TE026114–0 in such comments, or in requests of the documents discussed herein.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. David Dell, Regional Permit Coordinator, (see **ADDRESSES** above), telephone: 404/679–7313; or Ms. Marelisa Rivera, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, Boqueron Field Office, (see **ADDRESSES** above), telephone 787/851–7297.