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

Dated: August 15, 2007.

**Lillian L. Deitzer,**

*Departmental Paperwork Reduction Act  
Officer, Office of the Chief Information  
Officer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare a comprehensive conservation plan and environmental assessment for Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge in Chesterfield County, South Carolina.

**SUMMARY:** The Fish and Wildlife Service intends to gather information necessary to prepare a comprehensive conservation plan and environmental assessment for Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge. This notice is furnished in compliance with the Service's comprehensive conservation planning policy to advise other agencies and the public of our intentions, and to obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues to be considered in the planning process.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, comments must be received by October 9, 2007.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments, questions, and requests for more information regarding Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge should be sent to: Allyne H. Askins, Refuge Manager, Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge, 23734 U.S. Highway 1, McBee, SC 29101; Telephone: 843/335-8401; Fax: 843/335-8406; e-mail: [fw4rwc Carolinasandhills@fws.gov](mailto:fw4rwc Carolinasandhills@fws.gov). You may find additional information concerning the refuge at the refuge's Internet site: <http://www.fws.gov/carolinasandhills>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 668dd-668ee), requires the Service to develop a comprehensive conservation plan for each national wildlife refuge. The purpose in developing a

comprehensive conservation plan is to provide refuge managers with a 15-year strategy for achieving refuge purposes and contributing toward the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System, consistent with sound principles of fish and wildlife management, conservation, legal mandates, and Service policies. In addition to outlining broad management direction on conserving wildlife and their habitats, plans identify wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities available to the public, including opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, wildlife photography, and environmental education and interpretation. Public input in this planning process is essential.

Each unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System is established with specific purposes. These purposes are used to develop and prioritize management goals and objectives with the National Wildlife Refuge System mission, and to guide which public uses will occur on the refuge. The planning process is a means for the Service and the public to evaluate management goals and objectives for the best possible conservation efforts of this important wildlife habitat, while providing for wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities that are compatible with the refuge's establishing purposes and the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

A comprehensive conservation planning process will be conducted that will provide opportunities for Tribal, State, and local governments; agencies; organizations; and the public to participate in issue scoping and public comment. The Service invites anyone interested to respond to the following questions:

1. What problems or issues do you want to see addressed in the comprehensive conservation plan?
2. What improvements would you recommend for Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge?

The above questions have been provided for your optional use. You are not required to provide any information. The Planning Team developed these questions to gather information about individual issues and ideas concerning the refuge. The Planning Team will use comments it receives as part of the planning process; however, it will not reference individual comments or directly respond to them.

Special mailings, newspaper articles, and other media announcements will be used to inform State and local government agencies and the public of the opportunities for input throughout the planning process. An open house

style meeting will be held to solicit comments during the scoping phase of the planning process. The date and time will be announced through local mailings, newspaper articles, and other media outlets.

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); and other appropriate Federal laws and regulations. All comments received become part of the official public record. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Congress established Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge in 1939. The refuge comprises more than 45,000 acres of longleaf pine and is home to the largest population of the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker on Service-owned lands. Management of the refuge focuses on longleaf pine restoration, endangered species recovery, migratory and upland game birds, and wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities.

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

Dated: July 24, 2007.

**Cynthia K. Dohner,**

*Acting Regional Director.*

[FR Doc. E7-16611 Filed 8-21-07; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge, Wells, York County, ME

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability: Final comprehensive conservation plan and finding of no significant impact.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce the availability of the final Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and Finding of No Significant Impact for Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge (NWR).

Prepared in conformance with the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the plan describes how we intend to manage the refuge over the next 15 years.

**ADDRESSES:** You may obtain copies of this CCP on compact disk or in print by writing to Rachel Carson NWR, 321 Port Road, Wells, Maine 04090, telephone 207-646-9226. You may also access and download a copy from the Web sites <http://library.fws.gov/ccps.htm> or <http://rachelcarsonrefuge.fws.gov>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ward Feurt, Refuge Manager, Rachel Carson NWR, at 207-646-9226, or by electronic mail at [Ward\\_Feurt@fws.gov](mailto:Ward_Feurt@fws.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 668dd *et seq.*), requires CCPs for all refuges to provide refuge managers with 15-year strategies for achieving refuge purposes and furthering the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Developing CCPs is done according to the sound principles of fish and wildlife science and laws, while adhering to Service planning and related policies. In addition to outlining broad management direction on conserving refuge wildlife and habitat, CCPs identify wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities available to the public, including opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education and interpretation. We will review and update this CCP at least once every 15 years.

Rachel Carson NWR spans over 5,293 acres, which comprises 10 divisions between the towns of Kittery and Cape Elizabeth in York and Cumberland Counties, Maine. The refuge harbors estuaries that provide nurseries for many marine fish. Its tidal rivers provide passage to upstream spawning areas for anadromous fish. Its diverse aquatic and upland habitats support breeding, migrating, and wintering birds, and provide essential habitat for nationally threatened and endangered species. The Service acquired most of the refuge under authority of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 1929 (16 U.S.C. 715-715r) for "use as an inviolate sanctuary, or for any other management purposes, for migratory birds."

We distributed a draft CCP/ Environmental Assessment (EA) for

public review and comment for 30 days between August 17 and September 18, 2006. Its distribution was announced in the **Federal Register** on August 17, 2006 (71 FR 47511). That draft analyzed three alternatives for managing the refuge. We also held two public meetings on August 29 and September 7, 2006, to obtain public comments. We received 41 comments from local towns, conservation and recreational organizations, and local residents. Appendix J of the final CCP includes a summary of those comments and our responses to them.

We selected Alternative B (the Service-proposed action) from the draft CCP/EA as the alternative for implementation. Our final CCP fully describes its details. Staff from Rachel Carson NWR headquarters office in Wells, Maine, will continue to administer all divisions of the refuge. Highlights of Alternative B, which will be incorporated into the final CCP, include:

(1) Acquire the remaining 3,833 acres within the approved acquisition boundary and expand the refuge by 5,558 acres beyond its current approved boundary for future acquisitions;

(2) Build a new administrative complex including office space, maintenance facilities, and visitor contact station;

(3) Combine the Moody, Lower Wells, Upper Wells, and Mousam River Divisions into one Wells Bay Division;

(4) Increase public use opportunities, e.g., provide expanded hunting and fishing opportunities in new land acquisitions;

(5) Improve the availability and quality of interpretive signs and kiosks, nature trails, and parking areas;

(6) Incorporate a pilot recreation fee program to support public use activities;

(7) Enhance outreach and partnerships with local communities, expand the role and membership of our Friends Group, and strengthen our relationships with neighbors and elected officials; and

(8) Develop Rachel Carson NWR as an outstanding center for research and demonstration emphasizing land management techniques for restoring and sustaining healthy estuarine ecosystems in concert with the Service's Land Management Research and Demonstration program.

Dated: July 25, 2007.

**Thomas J. Healy,**  
Acting Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Hadley, Massachusetts.  
[FR Doc. E7-16614 Filed 8-21-07; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-55-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Vieques National Wildlife Refuge

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of the Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

**SUMMARY:** The Fish and Wildlife Service announces that a Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for Vieques National Wildlife Refuge in Puerto Rico is 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 wildlife observation, wildlife photography, and environmental education and interpretation; bicycling, horseback riding, hiking, jogging, and moped/motorcycle riding; and kayaking and canoeing are also available in the plan.

**DATES:** A Record of Decision may be signed on or after September 21, 2007.

**ADDRESSES:** A copy of the plan and environmental impact statement is available on compact diskette or hard copy by writing: Oscar Diaz, Refuge Manager, Vieques National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 1527, Vieques, Puerto Rico 00765. The plan and environmental impact statement may also be accessed and downloaded from the Service's Web site address: <http://www.fws.gov/southeast/planning/>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Gisella Burgos, Telephone: 787/741-2138.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The availability of the Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for Vieques National Wildlife Refuge for a 60-day public review and comment period was announced in the **Federal Register** on February 28, 2007 (72 FR 9018). The plan and environmental impact statement identified and evaluated three alternatives for managing the refuge over the next 15 years.

Alternative A, the "No Action" alternative, would have continued current management.

Alternative B would have focused on wildlife and habitat management but would have maintained the existing visitor programs and public uses. Habitat management and monitoring