

Mary Morris, Natural Resource Planner, Chassahowitzka NWR, 1502 Southeast Kings Bay Drive, Crystal River, FL 34429.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Mary Morris, Natural Resource Planner; telephone: 850/567-6202; e-mail: ChassCCP@fws.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Introduction

With this notice, we initiate our process for developing a CCP for Chassahowitzka NWR in Citrus and Hernando Counties, Florida. This notice complies with our CCP policy to: (1) Advise other Federal and State agencies, Tribes, and the public of our intention to conduct detailed planning on this refuge; and (2) obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues to consider in the environmental document and during development of the CCP.

Background

The CCP Process

The National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 668dd-668ee) (Improvement Act), which amended the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, requires us to develop a CCP for each refuge. The purpose for developing a CCP is to provide refuge managers with a 15-year strategy for achieving refuge purposes and contributing to the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System, consistent with sound principles of fish and wildlife management, conservation, legal mandates, and our policies. In addition to outlining broad management direction for conserving wildlife and their habitats, CCPs identify wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities available to the public, including opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, wildlife photography, and environmental education and interpretation. We will review and update the CCP at least every 15 years in accordance with the Improvement Act.

Each unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System was established for specific purposes. We use these purposes as the foundation for developing and prioritizing the management goals and objectives for each refuge within the National Wildlife Refuge System mission, and to determine how the public can use each refuge. The planning process is a way for us and the public to evaluate management goals and objectives for the best possible conservation approach to 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.

Our CCP process provides participation opportunities for Tribal, State, and local governments; agencies; organizations; and the public. At this time we encourage input in the form of issues, concerns, ideas, and suggestions for the future management of Chassahowitzka NWR.

We will conduct the environmental review of this project and develop an environmental assessment in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*); NEPA regulations (40 CFR parts 1500-1508); other appropriate Federal laws and regulations; and our policies and procedures for compliance with those laws and regulations.

Located in the southwestern corner of Citrus County and the northwestern corner of Hernando County, approximately 65 miles north of Tampa, the 30,843-acre Chassahowitzka NWR was established by authority of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act on June 15, 1943, as "an inviolate sanctuary" for wintering waterfowl and other migratory birds. In 1976, we designated 16,893 acres in Citrus County and 6,736 acres in Hernando County as "Wilderness." The refuge's diverse ecosystem, including prime estuarine habitat, is home for an incredible variety and abundance of flora and fauna. The marshlands, swamplands, shallow bays, and tidal streams provide both the quantity and quality of aquatic plant and animal life required to support thousands of wintering waterfowl, marsh and waterbirds, shorebirds, fishes, and a variety of animal species that depend on a marine environment. Additionally, the refuge includes 2,560 acres of hardwood swamplands and 250 acres of upland forest that form its eastern boundary. Notable imperiled species include Florida manatees, whooping cranes, Gulf sturgeon, and smalltooth sawfish. The endangered whooping crane was introduced to the refuge's marsh habitats. A highly visible partnership program has been in place for several years.

Public Availability and Comments

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.

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

Dated: May 5, 2009.

Cynthia K. Dohner,
Acting Regional Director.

[FR Doc. E9-13291 Filed 6-5-09; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R4-R-2009-N0074; 40136-1265-0000-S3]

Bayou Teche National Wildlife Refuge, St. Mary Parish, LA

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability: draft comprehensive conservation plan and environmental assessment; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce the availability of a draft comprehensive conservation plan and environmental assessment (Draft CCP/EA) for Bayou Teche National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) for public review and comment. In this Draft CCP/EA, we describe the alternative we propose to use to manage this refuge for the 15 years following approval of the final CCP.

DATES: To ensure consideration, we must receive your written comments by July 8, 2009.

ADDRESSES: Send comments, questions, and requests for information to: Mr. Paul Yakupzack, Refuge Manager, Bayou Teche NWR, 3599 Bayou Black Drive, Houma, LA 70360. The Draft CCP/EA is available on compact disk or in hard copy. The Draft CCP/EA is also available at the Service's Internet site: <http://southeast.fws.gov/planning/>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Paul Yakupzack; telephone: 985/853-1078; fax: 985/853-1079; e-mail: paul_yakupzack@fws.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Introduction

With this notice, we continue the CCP process for Bayou Teche NWR. We started this process through a notice in the **Federal Register** on March 19, 2007 (72 FR 12811).

Background

The National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 668dd–668ee) (Improvement Act), which amended the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, requires us to develop a CCP for each national wildlife refuge. The purpose for developing a CCP 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 our policies. In addition to outlining broad management direction on conserving wildlife and their habitats, CCPs identify wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities available to the public, including opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, wildlife photography, and environmental education and interpretation. We will review and update the CCP at least every 15 years in accordance with the Improvement Act.

Bayou Teche NWR is located near the town of Franklin in St. Mary Parish, Louisiana. The refuge contains 9,028 acres and is composed of wet bottomland hardwood forests laced with bayous and canals. The refuge was established on lands important to the coastal subpopulation of the Louisiana black bear. The refuge consists of six separate units, ranging in size from 3,724 acres to 80 acres. Bayou Teche NWR is one of eight refuges within the Southeast Louisiana NWR Complex, which is headquartered in Lacombe, Louisiana.

CCP Alternatives, Including Our Proposed Alternative

We developed three alternatives for managing the refuge and chose Alternative B as the proposed alternative. A full description is in the Draft CCP/EA. We summarize each alternative below.

Alternative A—No Action Alternative

Under this alternative, no new actions would be taken to improve or enhance the refuge's current habitat, wildlife, and public use management programs. Species of Federal responsibility, such as threatened and endangered species and migratory birds, would continue to be monitored at present levels. Additional species monitoring would occur through the use of volunteers as they become available. Current programs of marsh management would be maintained, with no improvements or adaptations. No progressive wetland

restoration projects would be implemented. All public use programs of hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, wildlife photography, and environmental education and interpretation would continue at present levels and with current facilities.

Acquisition of lands into the refuge would occur when funding is appropriated and willing sellers offer land that is quality waterfowl or Louisiana black bear habitat. Staff would consist of a refuge manager and a wildlife biologist supporting both Bayou Teche NWR and Mandalay NWR; a part-time law enforcement officer supporting Bayou Teche NWR; and supplementary support from the remainder of the Southeast Louisiana NWR Complex staff when needed. The refuge headquarters would serve as an administrative office, with no enhancement of the grounds for public use.

Alternative B—Resource Focused Management (Proposed Alternative)

Alternative B would emphasize management of the natural resources of Bayou Teche NWR based on maintaining and improving Louisiana black bear and wetland habitats, monitoring targeted flora and fauna representative of the Lower Atchafalaya River Basin, and providing quality wildlife-dependent public use activities. All species occurring on the refuge would be considered and certain targeted species would be managed and monitored, in addition to species of Federal responsibility. These species would be chosen based on the criteria that they would be indicators of the health of important habitat or species of concern.

Wetland loss would be documented and, whenever possible, the lost wetlands would be restored. Public use programs would be improved by offering more facilities and wildlife observation areas. Public use facilities would undergo annual reviews for maintenance needs and safety concerns. Overall public use would be monitored to determine if any uses would negatively impact refuge resources. Education programs would be reviewed and improved to complement current refuge management and staffing. Archaeological resources would be surveyed.

Land acquisition within the approved acquisition boundary would be based on importance of the habitat for target management species. The refuge headquarters would house a small administrative office. We would offer interpretation of refuge wildlife and habitats, as well as demonstrate habitat

improvements for individual landowners. The main interpretive facilities would be housed at the Southeast Louisiana NWR Complex Headquarters in Lacombe, Louisiana.

In general, under Alternative B, management decisions and actions would support wildlife species and habitats occurring on the refuge based on well-planned strategies and sound scientific judgment. Quality wildlife-dependent recreational uses and environmental education and interpretation programs would be offered to support and explain the natural resources of the refuge.

Alternative C—Maximized Public Use

Alternative C would emphasize the management of natural resources of Bayou Teche NWR for maximized public use activities. The majority of staff time and efforts would support hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, wildlife photography, and environmental education and interpretation. Federal trust species and archaeological resources would be monitored as mandated.

All refuge programs for conservation of wildlife and habitats, such as monitoring, surveying, and managing marsh, would support species and resources of importance for public use. More emphasis would be placed on interpreting and demonstrating these programs. Access, through means such as trails for walking and dredged areas for boat access, would be maximized, and we would provide public use facilities throughout the refuge.

Land acquisition within the approved acquisition boundary would be based on importance of the habitat for public use. The refuge headquarters at Mandalay NWR would provide a small administrative office and a visitor center, which would be developed for public use activities.

In general, Alternative C would focus on expanding public use activities to the fullest extent possible and conducting only mandated resource protection.

Next Step

After the comment period ends, we will analyze the comments and address them.

Public Availability of Comments

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.

Authority

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

Dated: May 9, 2009.

Cynthia K. Dohner,
Acting Regional Director.

[FR Doc. E9–13329 Filed 6–5–09; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Notice of Termination of the Environmental Impact Statement for the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve, Chalmette Battlefield, and National Cemetery General Management Plan Amendment

AGENCY: National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Termination of the Environmental Impact Statement for the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park, and Preserve, Chalmette Battlefield, and National Cemetery General Management Plan Amendment.

SUMMARY: The National Park Service (NPS) is terminating the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve, Chalmette Battlefield, and National Cemetery General Management Plan Amendment (GMPA). A Notice of Intent to prepare this EIS was published in the *Federal Register* on May 2, 2003. After public scoping and a preliminary analysis of impacts related to the GMPA alternatives, the NPS determined that the impacts of the alternatives considered would be at or below the minor/negligible level. Consequently, the EIS is not necessary and NPS decided to terminate the EIS. The NPS intends to continue the GMPA process by completing an Environmental Assessment.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

National Park Service, Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve, 419 Decatur Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130–1035, telephone: 504–589–3882, e-mail: JELA_Superintendent@nps.gov.

The authority for publishing this notice is 42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C).

The responsible official for this EIS is David Vela, Regional Director, Southeast Region, National Park Service, 100 Alabama Street, SW., 1924 Building, Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

Dated: May 7, 2009.

Art Frederick,

Acting Regional Director, Southeast Region.

[FR Doc. E9–13325 Filed 6–5–09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–VE–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CACA 49539, CACA 49537, LLCAD08000, L51030000]

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement/Staff Assessment and Land Use Plan Amendment for the SES Solar One Project, San Bernardino County, CA

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA), and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), together with the California Energy Commission, (hereinafter jointly referred to as the Agencies) intend to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement/Staff Assessment (EIS/SA), and a Proposed Land Use Plan Amendment for the Stirling Energy Systems (SES) Solar One Project (Project), a Stirling engine systems solar dish project in San Bernardino County, California. SES is seeking approval to construct and operate an electrical generating facility with a nominal capacity of 850 megawatts (MW), using concentrated solar thermal power. Approximately 8,230 acres of BLM administered public land are needed to develop the Project. SES has submitted an application to the BLM requesting a right-of-way (ROW) to construct the Project and related facilities. Pursuant to BLM's California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan (1980, as amended), sites associated with power generation or transmission not identified in the CDCA Plan will be considered through the plan amendment process.

Under Federal law, BLM is responsible for processing requests for rights-of-way to authorize solar projects and associated transmission lines and other appurtenant facilities on the land it manages. BLM must comply with the requirements of NEPA to ensure that environmental impacts associated with construction, operation, and decommissioning will be identified, analyzed and considered in the application process. This will be accomplished through preparation of

Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) in coordination with the Energy Commission.

Under California law, the Energy Commission is responsible for reviewing the Application for Certification (AFC) filed for thermal power plants over 50 MW, and also has the role of lead agency for the environmental review of such projects under the CEQA (Pub. Res. Code, sections 21000 *et seq.*, 25500 *et seq.*) The Energy Commission conducts this review in accordance with the administrative adjudication provisions of California's Administrative Procedure Act (Government Code section 11400 *et seq.*) and its own regulations governing site certification proceedings (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 20, section 1701 *et seq.*), which have been deemed CEQA equivalent by the Secretary of Resources. SES Solar One, LLC, has submitted an AFC to the Energy Commission. The AFC facilitates analysis and review by staff prior to an Energy Commission decision on the proposed project.

DATES: Publication of this notice initiates a public scoping period of at least 30 days. During the formal public scoping period, the Agencies will solicit public comments on issues, concerns, potential impacts, alternatives, and mitigation measures that should be considered in the analysis of the proposed action. In addition, the Agencies expect to hold one BLM public scoping meeting/Energy Commission information hearing during the formal scoping period to encourage public input. The public scoping meeting will be held in Barstow, California on June 22, 2009 with further details to be announced through the local news media, newspapers, mailings, the BLM Web page [<http://www.ca.blm.gov/barstow>] and the Energy Commission Web page [<http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/solarone/>] at least 15 days prior to the event. While you may have the opportunity to make oral comments at the June 22nd BLM public scoping meeting, written comments are strongly encouraged to be submitted. In order to be included in the Draft EIS/Preliminary Staff Assessment (DEIS/PSA), all comments must be received prior to the close of the formal scoping period which will be July 7, 2009. Additional opportunities for public participation and formal comment occur when the DEIS/PSA is issued. BLM will also utilize and coordinate the NEPA commenting process to satisfy the public involvement process for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (16 U.S.C.