

laws and regulations; and our policies and procedures for compliance with those laws and regulations. As a requirement of NEPA, we must identify resource issues, develop alternatives for the use of GMCs, and evaluate the effects of each of our chosen alternatives on the human environment.

DATES: To ensure consideration, we must receive your written comments by July 29, 2013.

ADDRESSES: A private consultant, Environmental Management and Planning Solutions, Inc. (EMPSi), will support the Internet Web site associated with the PEA and collect and organize comments.

You may send comments, questions, and requests for information by one of the following methods:

Email: fw4_gmcpea@fws.gov (this email address will transmit comments directly to the Service as well as to EMPSi's database);

Online portal: <https://sites.google.com/site/fwsregion4gmcpeis/home> (this Internet Web site, which will serve as the primary source of information to the public on the PEA, includes a portal for sending comments directly to the Service through EMPSi);

U.S. mail: Richard Warner, NEPA Coordinator, GMCPEA, 1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 420, Atlanta, GA 30345.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Richard Warner, NEPA Coordinator, at 404-679-7110 (telephone).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Introduction

With this notice, we initiate the process for developing a PEA on the cultivation and use of genetically modified crops (GMCs) on our Refuge System lands. Our PEA will concentrate on the refuges in our Region that have used farming in the recent past and are likely to do so in the foreseeable future. The overall analysis in the PEA is intended, however, to apply to the entire Southeast Region.

The specific GMCs that will be analyzed in our PEA are varieties of corn and soybean that could be used to provide a sufficient amount of food for migratory waterfowl and satisfy the conservation goals of our refuges. The proposed use of any other GMCs will require a separate NEPA analysis on a case-by-case basis.

Background

As part of a settlement in *Center for Food Safety v. Salazar*, Case No. 1:11 cv 01457 (D.D.C. 2011), which challenged the cultivation and use of GMCs on our

Refuge System lands, we agreed to cease using GMCs after the 2012 planting season and to refrain from doing so until we completed the appropriate level of NEPA analysis. Up through the end of the 2012 planting season, certain of our refuges cultivated and used GMCs as a management tool to provide food for millions of ducks, geese, doves, cranes, and other migrating waterfowl and shorebirds that inhabit our Refuge System lands.

At this juncture, we have determined that a PEA is appropriate to sufficiently analyze the environmental impacts of the cultivation and use of GMCs on our Refuge System lands. If we determine during preparation of the PEA that it is not appropriate for our NEPA analysis or if we are unable to make a finding of no significant impact at the conclusion of our analysis via the PEA, we will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) in accordance with NEPA.

Refuge farming in the Southeast Region primarily occurs through cooperative farming agreements that are entered into by a refuge manager and a farmer. Via the agreement, the farmer is authorized to grow crops on a designated number of acres on the refuge. In return, the farmer agrees to harvest an agreed upon percentage share of the crop and to leave the remaining crop in the fields as a food source for migrating birds.

The only GMCs that have been cultivated and used on our Refuge System lands are those that have been evaluated and deregulated by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, as described in 7 CFR 340.6. Each of these GMCs was subjected to extensive scientific evaluation and regulatory processes before being granted non-regulated status, as described at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/index.shtml>. Each proposal to grant non-regulated status to the GMCs underwent a NEPA analysis via an environmental assessment. These environmental assessments are posted on the APHIS Web site at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/biotechnology/not_reg.html. In addition, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency evaluates all pesticides associated with GMCs for general environmental effects, while the Food and Drug Administration evaluates the potential impact of the GMC on food safety.

The authority for approving GMCs on refuge lands, nationwide, was delegated by the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service to the Regional Chiefs of the National Wildlife Refuge System in

April 2007. This policy may be found at <http://www.fws.gov/policy/601fw3.html>.

We will conduct six public scoping meetings to solicit input on the issues, concerns, and alternatives for the cultivation and use of GMCs on refuges in the Region. Meetings will be conducted at the following locations: Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge (North Carolina); Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge (Alabama); Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge (Tennessee); Vicksburg, Mississippi; and Alexandria, Louisiana. The addresses, dates, and times of meetings will be announced through local and regional media.

Public Availability of Comments

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, suggestion or correspondence, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you may request in your comment that we 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 Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

Dated: March 27, 2013.

Cynthia K. Dohner,
Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 2013-09898 Filed 4-29-13; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

U.S. Geological Survey

[USGS-GX13LR000F60100]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Comment Request for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (1 Form)

AGENCY: U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Interior.

ACTION: Notice of an extension of a currently approved information collection (1028-0059).

SUMMARY: We (the USGS) will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve the information collection request (ICR) described below. This collection consists of 1 form. As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, and as part of our continuing efforts to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, we

invite the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on this ICR. This collection is scheduled to expire on September 30, 2013.

DATES: To ensure that your comments on this IC are considered, we must receive them on or before July 1, 2013.

ADDRESSES: Please submit a copy of your comments to the Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Geological Survey, 807 National Center, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, VA 20192 (mail); 703-648-7195 (fax); or dgovoni@usgs.gov (email). Reference Information Collection 1028-0059 in the subject line.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lori E. Apodaca at 703-648-7724 (telephone); lapodaca@usgs.gov (email); or by mail at U.S. Geological Survey, 989 National Center, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, VA 20192.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The collection of this information is required by the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), and will, upon request, provide the CTBT Technical Secretariat with geographic locations of sites where chemical explosions greater than 300 tons TNT-equivalent have occurred.

II. Data

OMB Control Number: 1028-0059.

Form Number: 9-4040-A.

Title: Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Business or Other-For-Profit Institutions: U.S. nonfuel minerals producers.

Respondent Obligation: Voluntary.

Frequency of Collection: Annually.

Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 2,500.

Annual Burden Hours: 625 hours. We expect to receive 2,500 annual responses. We estimate an average of 15 minutes per response.

Estimated Reporting and Recordkeeping "Non-Hour Cost"

Burden: We have not identified any "non-hour cost" burdens associated with this collection of information.

Public Disclosure Statement: The PRA (44 U.S.C. 3501, et seq.) provides that an agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number and current expiration date.

III. Request for Comments

Comments: We are soliciting comments as to: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is

necessary for the agency to perform its duties, including whether the information is useful; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden time to the proposed collection of information; (c) how to enhance the quality, usefulness, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) how to minimize the burden on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Please note that the comments submitted in response to this notice are a matter of public record. Before including your address, phone number, email 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 we will be able to do so.

Dated: April 18, 2013.

John H. DeYoung, Jr.,
Director, National Minerals Information Center, U.S. Geological Survey.

[FR Doc. 2013-10118 Filed 4-29-13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4311-AM-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLAZG02200.L16100000.
D00000.LXSS206A0000]

Notice of Intent To Prepare a Resource Management Plan for the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area and Associated Environmental Impact Statement, Arizona

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), as amended, and the Arizona-Idaho Conservation Act of 1988 (creating the San Pedro National Conservation Area), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Tucson Field Office, Tucson, Arizona, intends to prepare a Resource Management Plan (RMP) with an associated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPRNCA) and by this notice is announcing the beginning of the scoping process to solicit public comments and identify issues. The RMP

will replace the existing Safford RMP decisions for the BLM land within the planning area.

DATES: This notice initiates the public scoping process for the RMP with associated EIS. Scoping will begin when the notice is published and extend for at least 90 days. The date(s) and location(s) of any scoping meetings have not yet been determined. All public meetings will be announced at least 15 days in advance through local media, newspapers, and the BLM Web site at: http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en/fo/tucson_field_office.html. The BLM will accept scoping comments throughout the planning effort. However, in order to be included in the Scoping Report, comments must be received prior to the close of the 90-day scoping period. Documentation of public meetings and all scoping comments received will be available in the public room of the BLM Tucson Field Office for public inspection and for any participant who wishes to clarify the views they have expressed. Additional opportunities for public participation will be provided throughout the process.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments on issues and planning criteria related to the SPRNCA RMP/EIS by any of the following methods:

- *Email:*
blm_az_tfo_sprnca_rmp@blm.gov.
- *Fax:* 520-258-7238.
- *Mail:* Bureau of Land Management Tucson Field Office, 3201 East Universal Way, Tucson, AZ 85756.

Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the Tucson Field Office.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Amy Markstein, Assistant Planner, telephone 520-258-7231; address 3201 East Universal Way, Tucson, AZ 85756; email amarkstein@blm.gov. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This document provides notice that the BLM Tucson Field Office, Tucson, Arizona, intends to prepare an RMP with an associated EIS for the SPRNCA, announces the beginning of the scoping process, and seeks public input on issues and planning criteria. The planning effort is focused on the SPRNCA, which encompasses 56,431 acres of public land located within