

develops and supports applications using new network technologies, such as telemedicine and video conferencing; (8) provides consulting, guidance and support to the ICs to meet their network requirements; (9) serves as liaison to the NIH ICs and other DHHS components on networking/telecommunications activities to improve information infrastructure; (10) develops, implements, and supports remote access services to NIHnet; (11) provides technical support for wireless services; and (12) provides 24-hour telephone/network support service.

Division of Customer Support (NU6, formerly HNU6). (1) Provides centralized, integrated computer support services to the NIH computing community; (2) advocates customer needs to CIT management and represents services and policies to the Center's customers; (3) plays an active and participatory role in support of desktop computing to the end-user, including the seamless migration of desktop technologies in the areas of software, hardware, Internet, communications, and access; (4) coordinates and oversees the CIT Training Program for the benefit of the NIH computing community; (5) manages NIH-wide HelpDesk and implements problem tracking systems; and (6) provides central account establishment and management services for access to CIT systems.

Division of Computer System Services (NU7, formerly HNU7). (1) Plans, implements, operates, and supports centrally owned or administered computing resources for NIH enterprises use, ensuring interoperability among those resources and between them and other computing facilities owned by customer organizations; (2) promotes awareness and efficient and effective use of these computing resources by customer personnel through training, presentations, consultations, and documentation; (3) investigates new and emerging computing requirements of customer programs; (4) conducts research and development to identify, evaluate, and adapt new computer architectures and technologies to meet identified customer requirements and to enhance current service offerings; and (5) where appropriate, manages and operates departmental computing resources for IC, Office, or Center use.

Division of Enterprise and Custom Applications (NU8, formerly HNU8). (1) Supports the NIH enterprise business process through the development and management of both transaction and decision-support environments for administrative and business applications of the NIH, such as

procurement, budget, accounting and human resource activities; (2) provides systems analysis, programming and application services to the NIH ICs and other Federal agencies; (3) provides databases administration and management services to the NIH; (4) provides World Wide Web development and support services to the NIH community; and (5) provides consulting services to the NIH ICs for applications development.

**Delegations of Authority Statement:** All delegations and redelegations of authority to offices and employees of NIH which were in effect immediately prior to the effective date of this reorganization and are consistent with this reorganization shall continue in effect, pending further redelegation.

Dated: March 17, 1999.

**Harold Varmus,**

*Director, National Institutes of Health.*

[FR Doc. 99-7815 Filed 3-30-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-M

## DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-4415-N-02]

### Notice of Funding Availability for Mainstream Housing Opportunities for Persons With Disabilities (Mainstream Program) Fiscal Year 1999: Extension of Application Deadline

**AGENCY:** Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing, HUD.

**ACTION:** Notice of funding availability (NOFA): extension of application deadline.

**SUMMARY:** On March 8, 1999, HUD published a NOFA that announced Fiscal Year 1999 funding of approximately \$48.5 million in five-year budget authority for approximately 1,600 rental vouchers to enable persons with disabilities (elderly and non-elderly) to rent affordable private housing. The March 8, 1999 NOFA set an application deadline of May 7, 1999. This notice extends the deadline to June 30, 1999.

**APPLICATION DUE DATE:** June 30, 1999.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** The application deadline for submission is being extended because of changes made this year from previous NOFAs for the Mainstream program. New for Fiscal Year 1999 is HUD's opening of the Mainstream Program to the receipt of applications from non-profit disability organizations that provide services to disabled families. Also new is HUD's

encouragement to PHAs and non-profit disability organizations to view each other as a possible contract administrator, or to be otherwise involved in the administration of the Section 8 vouchers that either party might receive under this NOFA.

If you are interested in applying for funding under the Mainstream Program, please read the NOFA published on March 8, 1999, at 64 FR 11301, which will provide you with detailed information regarding the submission of an application, Section 8 program requirements, the application selection process to be used by HUD in selecting applications for funding, and other valuable information relative to a PHA's or non-profit disability organization's application submission and participation in the Mainstream Program.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

George C. Hendrickson, Housing Program Specialist, Office of Public and Assisted Housing Delivery, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Room 4216, 451 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20410-8000; telephone (202) 708-1872, ext. 4064. (The number listed above is not a toll-free number). Persons with hearing or speech impairments may access this number via TTY (text telephone) by calling the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 (this is a toll-free number).

Dated: March 24, 1999.

**Deborah Vincent,**

*General Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing.*

[FR Doc. 99-7824 Filed 3-30-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210-33-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Notice of Availability (NOA) of a Final Environmental Impact Statement on the Proposed Expansion of the Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge in Missouri

**ACTION:** Notice of Availability.

**SUMMARY:** This notice advises the public that a Final Environmental Impact Statement on the Proposed Expansion of the Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge in Missouri will be available for public review beginning March 30, 1999. Comments and suggestions are invited.

**DATES:** Comments may be submitted until May 3, 1999, and will be considered during preparation of the Record of Decision.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be addressed to: Ms. Judy McClendon, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 24385 State Highway 51, Puxico, Missouri 63960. Telephone: Toll-free 800/686-8339; or 573/222-6001. Individuals with speech or hearing impairments may call the Missouri Relay Services at 800/735-2966 (TTY). Fax: 573/222-6150. E-Mail: R3planning@fws.gov or judy\_mcclendon@fws.mail.gov

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Judy McClendon at the address, phone number, or E-Mail above. Individuals wishing copies of this Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for review should immediately contact the above individual. Copies of the EIS or Summary have been sent to all agencies and individuals who participated in the scoping process and to all others who have already requested copies.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Ms. Judy McClendon, Wildlife Biologist, is the primary author of this document. The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), Department of the Interior, has prepared a final EIS on the proposal to expand the Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge in Missouri from its currently authorized 16,628 acres to a total of 60,000 acres.

The Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge expansion would be accomplished by acquiring from willing sellers an additional 43,372 acres along the 20-county Missouri River floodplain from Kansas City, Missouri, to St. Louis, Missouri, and the lower 10 miles of major tributaries. Acquisition could include methods such as fee title purchase, easements or agreements with landowners, partnerships, or donations. Selection criteria, such as willing sellers, presence of remnant floodplain ecosystems, and potential ecosystem restoration capabilities, will be used to determine specific sites for acquisition. Management goals of the Big Muddy project are to restore acquired acreage to a natural floodplain condition which could include restoring bottomland forests, improve and restore wetland values, improve fishery and wildlife resources, and provide additional public use areas for fish and wildlife dependent recreation.

This action is designed to preserve and restore the natural river floodplain ecosystem, allow for management of viable and diverse fish and wildlife habitats, and provide for compatible fish and wildlife dependent recreation.

The major alternatives under consideration that were analyzed and evaluated during planning are: (A) No Action. The Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge would not be

expanded beyond the currently authorized 16,628 acres. This acreage figure amounts to 2.7 percent of the 800,000 acre floodplain in this reach of the Missouri River and is insufficient to protect the health of the Missouri River floodplain ecosystem; (B) Expand the Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge to 60,000 acres by acquisition of 43,372 acres dispersed along the Missouri River corridor from its confluence with the Kansas River, near Kansas City, to its confluence with the Mississippi River, near St. Louis, Missouri. Expansion under Alternative B (Preferred) would allow approximately 8 percent of riverine habitat losses of the Missouri River and its floodplain from Kansas City to St. Louis, Missouri to be restored. This amount of floodplain ecosystem preservation, along with a combined 30,000 acres to be acquired by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Missouri Department of Conservation, will equal about 12 percent of the subject floodplain. Natural resource managers in the Midwest recommend preserving 10 to 20 percent of the floodplain.

Three other alternatives were considered but not analyzed. They include: (C) seek permanent protection of fish, wildlife, and habitats through cooperative agreements with landowners and other agencies with no acquisition of lands; (D) encourage private land programs to preserve or restore fish, wildlife, and their habitats without further acquisition; and (E) acquire the entire Missouri River floodplain from Kansas City to St. Louis, Missouri, about 800,000 acres.

Alternatives, C, D, and E were rejected because they did not have the capacity to address the Service's mandated responsibilities, did not provide permanent resource protection and restoration opportunities, failed to meet the purpose and need for which the Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge was established, or were considered to be impractical and cost-prohibitive.

Other governmental agencies and members of the general public contributed to the planning and evaluation of the proposal and to the preparation of the EIS. The Notice of Intent to prepare the EIS was published in the **Federal Register** on November 28, 1995. Public open house meetings to receive comments on the Draft EIS were held in five locations in November 1997; a 90-day public comment period began in November 1997, and closed February 17, 1998. Over 500 comments were received and considered during preparation of the Final EIS. The

Service gave presentations to county officials, conservation groups, other interested parties and the media, and informed the public through intermittent distribution of the *Big Muddy Update*. The Service's mailing list has over 1,800 names.

All comments received by May 3, 1999, will be considered in preparation of the Record of Decision for this proposed action.

Dated: March 22, 1999.

**William F. Hartwig,**

*Regional Director.*

[FR Doc. 99-7870 Filed 3-30-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Geological Survey

#### **Biological Resources Division; Request for Public Comments on Information Collection To Be Submitted to OMB for Review Under the Paperwork Reduction Act**

A request extending the information collection described below will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for approval under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). Copies of the proposed collection of information may be obtained by contacting the Bureau's clearance officer at the phone number listed below. Comments and suggestions on the proposal should be made within 60 days directly to the Bureau clearance officer, U.S. Geological Survey, 807 National Center, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive., Reston, Virginia, 20192, telephone (703) 648-7313.

As required by OMB regulations at 5 CFR 1320.8(d)(1), the U.S. Geological Survey solicits specific public comments as to:

1. Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the bureaus, including whether the information will have practical utility;
2. The accuracy of the bureau's estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
3. The quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
4. How to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other forms of information technology.

*Title:* Frogwatch USA.

*Current OMB Approval Number:* 1028-0072.