

95. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) announces its intention to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) pursuant to section 102 (2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500–1508). As originally announced, this EIS will continue to evaluate the FWS proposal to protect seabird nesting islands on Maine's coast, while also analyzing the development of a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for Petit Manan National Wildlife Refuge (NWR).

We determined the need to amend the 1995 NOI once we broadened the scope of our analysis to incorporate a CCP for Petit Manan NWR. CCPs are required for all National Wildlife Refuges under the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997. The CCP will not only evaluate protection of coastal islands, but will also evaluate alternatives to managing wildlife and habitat, public use, and protection of cultural resources on all lands within the Refuge. A Wilderness Review of Petit Manan NWR will also be completed concurrently in accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964, as amended.

We have already received considerable public input through a series of workshops and hearings completed in 1995. Comments previously submitted during the scoping period do not need to be resubmitted and will be considered in developing this DEIS. At this time, we invite other Federal agencies, states, Indian tribes, local governments, and the general public to submit additional comments concerning the development of the DEIS/CCP, the proposal to protect Maine's seabird nesting islands, and the Wilderness Review. You are invited to participate in scoping activities by submitting written comments, attending a public meeting to be held in April 2000, or attending a public hearing which will coincide with the Fall 2000 release of the DEIS/CCP. We will consider oral and written comments equally in preparation of the DEIS/CCP.

We will make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review if requested. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the rule-making record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. If you wish to have your name and/or address withheld, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will not consider

anonymous comments. We will make all submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety. If you do not desire to submit comments or suggestions at this time, but would like to receive a copy of the DEIS for review, send a request to Mr. Stan Skutek, at the address given below.

DATES AND LOCATIONS: Written comments related to the scope and content of the DEIS/CCP should be submitted to us by May 12, 2000, to the address provided below. The public scoping meeting on the DEIS/CCP will be held on April 12, 2000, at the Comfort Inn in Augusta, Maine. A further notice announcing the time and location of the public hearing, to be held when the DEIS/CCP is released, will be published in local news media prior to the hearing date.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: If you wish to make comments or receive planning updates and a DEIS/CCP, contact Mr. Stan Skutek, Refuge Manager, Petit Manan National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 279, Milbridge, Maine 04658–0279. (207) 546–2124. Comments may also be submitted electronically to the following address: R5RW_PMNWR@fws.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, all lands within the National Wildlife Refuge System are to be managed in accordance with an approved CCP. The CCP developed for Petit Manan NWR will guide future Refuge management decisions by developing goals, long-range objectives, and strategies for achieving Refuge purposes. The CCP will consider a wide range of issues on Petit Manan NWR, including habitat and wildlife management, land acquisition, public use, and protection of cultural resources.

Petit Manan NWR is recognized internationally as important nesting habitat for seabirds, bald eagles, shorebirds, and wading birds. The Refuge consists of three mainland tracts and 38 coastal islands. The 6,954 acre complex includes such diverse habitats as forest, grasslands, freshwater and saltwater marshes, and peat lands. The coastal islands, which range in size from 1 acre to 1,650 acres, consist of forest, shrub lands, or grassland habitats. In addition, Refuge staff and the Service's Gulf of Maine Program Office have been providing technical assistance to private and public organizations seeking to protect Maine's coastal islands and are

active in promoting partnerships with private landowners, non-governmental organizations, and state agencies.

We will conduct a Wilderness Review, evaluating the wilderness potential of Petit Manan NWR, using the 6 criteria established by the Wilderness Act of 1964, as amended, and using additional considerations established in Service policy. Based on our findings, we may recommend to the Secretary of the Interior that all or some of the Refuge be designated National Wilderness Area(s). You will be able to comment on our proposed wilderness recommendations during the public hearing to be scheduled to coincide with the release of the DEIS/CCP.

We expect to release the DEIS/CCP by Fall 2000. Public comments will be welcome for a 60 day period following its release. We expect to publish the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Record of Decision (ROD) in Spring 2001. The ROD will present my decision and the supporting reasons for selecting the management actions to be implemented, including whether or not a wilderness area is recommended. I will make my final decision after considering public comments and the environmental consequences of the proposed actions as presented in the FEIS. All other applicable laws, regulations and policies will also be considered.

Dated: December 8, 1999.

Ronald E. Lambertson,
Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 99–32745 Filed 12–16–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–55–M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Service Regulations Committee Meeting

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Fish and Wildlife Service (hereinafter Service) will conduct an open meeting on January 26, 2000, to identify and discuss preliminary issues concerning the 2000–01 migratory bird hunting regulations.

DATES: January 26, 2000.

ADDRESSES: The Service Regulations Committee will meet at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Building, 4301 Wilson Boulevard, Room CC2, Arlington, Virginia.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jonathan Andrew, Chief, Office of

Migratory Bird Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, MS 634-ARLSQ, 1849 C Street, NW., Washington, DC 20240, (703) 358-1714.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Representatives from the Service, the Service's Migratory Bird Regulations Committee, and Flyway Council Consultants will meet on January 26, 2000, at 8:30 a.m. to identify preliminary issues concerning the 2000-01 migratory bird hunting regulations for discussion and review by the Flyway Councils at their March meetings.

In accordance with Departmental policy regarding meetings of the Service Regulations Committee attended by any person outside the Department, these meetings are open to public observation. Members of the public may submit written comments on the matters discussed to the Director.

Dated: December 9, 1999.

John G. Rogers,

Deputy Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 99-32683 Filed 12-16-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Information Collection for Part 13, Tribal Reassumption of Jurisdiction Over Child Custody Proceedings

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of submission to OMB.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*) this notice announces that the Bureau of Indian Affairs is submitting an information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs for clearance and extension. The information collection, Tribal Reassumption of Jurisdiction over Child Custody Proceedings, is cleared under OMB Control Number 1076-0112 through December 31, 1999.

DATES: Submit comments on or before January 18, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent directly to the Office of Management and Budget, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Desk Officer for the Department of Interior, Room 10102, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503. Send a copy of your comments to Larry Blair, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Division of Social Services, 1849 C

Street NW, MS RM 4660-MIB, Washington, DC 20240.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Interested persons may obtain copies of the information collection requests without charge by contacting Mr. Larry Blair, (202) 208-2479, Facsimile number (202) 208-5113.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The Department has issued regulations prescribing procedures by which an Indian tribe may reassume jurisdiction over Indian child proceedings when a state asserts any jurisdiction. Tribes have the right to pursue this alternative because this action is authorized by the Indian Child Welfare Act, Pub. L. 95-608, 92 Stat. 3069, 25 U.S.C. 1918. We sought comments from interested parties to renew the clearance, but did not receive any.

II. Request for Comments

The Department invited comments on:

(1) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Bureau, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(2) The accuracy of the Bureau's estimate of the burden of the information collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(3) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and,

(4) Ways to minimize the burden of the information collection on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated electronic, mechanical, or other collection techniques or forms of information technology.

Please note, any comments, names and addresses concerning this submission will be available for public review during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.). If you wish your name and address withheld, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will honor your request to the extent allowable by law. An agency 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.

III. Data

Title of the Information Collection: Tribal Reassumption of Jurisdiction Over Child Custody Proceedings.

Summary of Collection of Information: The collection of

information will ensure that the provisions of Public Law 95-608 are met.

Affected Entities: Federally recognized tribes who submit tribal reassumption petitions for review and approval by the Secretary of the Interior.

Frequency of Response: Annually.

Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 2.

Estimated Time Per Application: 8 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 16 hours.

BIA Information Collection Clearance Officer: Ruth Bajema, 202-208-2574.

Dated: December 3, 1999.

Kevin Gover,

Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

[FR Doc. 99-32713 Filed 12-16-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[OR-030-00-1220-AB: GPO-0053]

Notice of Public Meeting and Comment Period for Vegetation Environmental Assessment for the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center

AGENCY: National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, Vale District, Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Public meeting, January 18, 2000, and Public Comment Period, January 3-February 2, 2000, for Vegetation Environmental Assessment for the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center.

SUMMARY: A public comment period for the Vegetation Environmental Assessment for the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center (NHOTIC) will begin January 3, 2000 and end February 2, 2000. A public meeting to discuss the plan with BLM officials will be held on January 18, 2000 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the BLM—U.S. Forest Service Office, 3165 10th Street, Baker City, Oregon. Copies of the Vegetation Environmental Assessment for NHOTIC can be obtained by contacting Shirley Baxter, Interpretive Specialist, at (541) 523-1845 or by writing P.O. Box 987, Baker City, OR 97814, or at www.or.blm.gov/Vale.

DATES: The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. and run to 9 p.m. January 18, 2000. The public comment period will begin January 2, 2000 and will end February 3, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Shirley Baxter, Bureau of Land Management, National Historic Oregon