

93.846-93.878, 93.892, 93.893, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: February 18, 1999.

Anna Snouffer,

Acting Committee Management Officer, NIH.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Intent To Prepare a Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Associated Environmental Impact Statement for the Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge Complex

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) intends to gather information necessary to prepare a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and its implementing regulations, for those Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge Complex refuges located in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. These refuges include Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Mashpee NWR, Massasoit NWR, Monomoy NWR, Nantucket NWR, Nomans Land Island NWR, and Oxbow NWR. Also included in the CCP is Assabet NWR, a parcel of land formerly known as Sudbury Annex, that is to transfer to the Service in 1999. The Refuges are in Middlesex, Plymouth, Barnstable, Nantucket, Dukes, and Worcester Counties, Massachusetts.

The Service is furnishing this notice in compliance with the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 668dd *et seq.*): (1) to advise other agencies and the public of our intentions, and (2) to obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues to include in the environmental documents.

DATES: Inquire at the address below for dates of planning activity and due dates for comments.

ADDRESSES: Address comments and requests for more information to the following: Refuge Manager, Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, Weir Hill Road, Sudbury, Massachusetts 01776, (978) 443-4661.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: By Federal law, all lands within the National Wildlife Refuge System are to be managed in accordance with an approved CCP. The CCP guides

management decisions and identifies refuge goals, long-range objectives, and strategies for achieving refuge purposes. The planning process will consider many elements, including habitat and wildlife management, habitat protection and acquisition, public use, and cultural resources. Public input into this planning process is essential. The CCP will provide other agencies and the public with a clear understanding of the desired conditions for the Refuges and how the Service will implement management strategies.

The Service will solicit information from the public via open houses, meetings, and written comments. Special mailings, newspaper articles, and announcements will inform people in the general area near each refuge of the time and place of opportunities for public input to the CCP.

The Great Meadows NWR Complex is a diverse group of coastal and inland refuges. Habitats include forest, field, riparian, barrier island beach, freshwater marsh, and pond. Assabet NWR will contain 2,300 acres; Great Meadows NWR contains 3,400 acres; Mashpee 281 acres; Massasoit 184 acres; Monomoy 2,700 acres, a portion of which is Federal Wilderness Area; Nantucket 40 acres; Nomans Land Island 628 acres; and Oxbow 1,547 acres. Two refuges in the Complex are in New Hampshire, John Hay NWR and Wapack NWR. They are not included in the CCP. Seven of the refuges are open to wildlife-dependent public use.

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 1500-1508), other appropriate Federal laws and regulations, and Service policies and procedures for compliance with those regulations.

We estimate that the draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available in late spring 2000 for public review and comment.

Dated: February 16, 1999.

Ronald E. Lambertson,

Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Hadley, Massachusetts.

[FR Doc. 99-4511 Filed 2-23-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Availability of a Draft Recovery Plan for the Plant Holy Ghost Ipomopsis for Review and Comment

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability and public comment period.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announces the draft Holy Ghost Ipomopsis (*Ipomopsis sancti-spiritus*) Recovery Plan is available for public review. This plant is known from only one site in the southern Sangre de Cristo Mountains on the Santa Fe National Forest in San Miguel County, New Mexico. We are soliciting review and comment from the public on this draft plan.

DATES: We must receive comments on the draft plan on or before April 26, 1999 to ensure their consideration.

ADDRESSES: Anyone wanting a copy of the plan should contact the Field Supervisor, New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2105 Osuna, NE, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87113 (Telephone 505/346-2525). Written comments on the plan and other materials should be sent to the Field Supervisor at the above address.

Comments and materials received are available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Charles B. McDonald, Botanist, at the address and telephone number (Ext. 112) given above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

A primary goal of the endangered species program is to restore endangered or threatened animals and plants to the point where they are again secure, self-sustaining members of their ecosystems. To help guide recovery, we prepare recovery plans for most endangered or threatened species native to the United States. Recovery plans describe needed conservation actions for the species, time and cost estimates for the actions, and recovery goals for downlisting or delisting.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended, (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) requires that each endangered or threatened species be included in a recovery plan unless a plan would not promote a species' conservation. Section 4(f) of the Act as amended in 1988 requires the public be notified and given