

determined individually on a case-by-case basis. For information on eligibility and how to apply, visit the BCIS web site at <http://uscis.gov> or call the BCIS National Customer Service Center at 1-800-375-5283.

In addition, nationals of Montserrat are eligible to apply for British citizenship based upon their status as British Overseas Territory Citizens (BOTCs). As such, nationals of Montserrat have a claim to British citizenship, as do all Overseas Territory inhabitants. However, unlike all other BOTCs, as of August 28, 1996, the British government waived the requirement that nationals of Montserrat wait three years after establishing residence in the United Kingdom before becoming eligible for social benefits or treatment by the National Health Service. This provision is scheduled to remain in place through 2005, at which time it is slated for review.

How Does the Termination of TPS Affect Nationals of Montserrat who Currently Receive TPS Benefits?

After the termination of the TPS designation of Montserrat becomes effective on February 27, 2005, these TPS beneficiaries will maintain the same immigration status they held prior to TPS (unless that status has since expired or been terminated) or any other status they may have acquired while registered for TPS. Accordingly, if an alien held no lawful immigration status prior to being granted TPS and did not obtain any other status during the TPS period, he or she will revert to unlawful status upon the termination of the TPS designation.

Former TPS beneficiaries will no longer be eligible for a stay of removal or an EAD pursuant to TPS. TPS-related EADs will expire on February 27, 2005, and will not be renewed.

Termination of the TPS designation for Montserrat does not necessarily affect pending applications for other forms of immigration relief or protection, though former TPS beneficiaries will begin to accrue unlawful presence as of February 27, 2005 if they have not been granted any other immigration status or protection or if they have no pending application for certain benefits.

Notice of Termination of Designation of Montserrat Under the TPS Program

By the authority vested DHS under section 244(b)(3) of the Act, DHS has consulted with the appropriate Government agencies concerning conditions in Montserrat. 8 U.S.C. 1254a(b)(3)(A). Based on these consultations, DHS has determined that

Montserrat no longer meets the conditions for designation of TPS under section 244(b)(1)(B) and 244(b)(1)(C) of the Act. 8 U.S.C. 1254a(b)(1)(B) and 8 U.S.C. 1254a(b)(1)(C).

Accordingly, DHS orders as follows:

(1) Pursuant to sections 244(b)(1)(B) and 244(b)(1)(C) of the Act, the TPS designation of Montserrat will terminate effective February 27, 2005, six months after the end of the current extension.

(2) DHS estimates that there are approximately 292 nationals of Montserrat (and aliens having no nationality who last habitually resided in Montserrat) who currently receive TPS benefits.

(3) To provide for an orderly transition, nationals of Montserrat (and aliens having no nationality who last habitually resided in Montserrat) who have been granted TPS under the Montserrat designation will automatically retain TPS until the February 27, 2005 termination date. However, an individual's TPS shall be withdrawn pursuant to section 244(c)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act and 8 CFR 244.14 because of ineligibility for TPS, prior failure to timely re-register if there was not good cause for such failure, or failure to maintain continuous physical presence in the United States.

(4) TPS-related Employment Authorization Documents that expire on August 27, 2004, are extended automatically until February 27, 2005 for qualified nationals of Montserrat (and aliens having no nationality who last habitually resided in Montserrat).

(5) Information concerning the termination of TPS for nationals of Montserrat (and aliens having no nationality who last habitually resided in Montserrat) will be available at local BCIS offices upon publication of this notice and through the BCIS National Customer Service Center at 1-800-375-5283. This information will also be published on the BCIS Web site at <http://uscis.gov>.

Dated: June 25, 2004.

Tom Ridge,

Secretary of Homeland Security.

[FR Doc. 04-15243 Filed 7-2-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4410-10-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Choctaw National Wildlife Refuge

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare a Comprehensive Conservation Plan and

Environmental Assessment for Choctaw National Wildlife Refuge located in Monroe, Sumter, and Conecuh Counties, Alabama

SUMMARY: The Fish and Wildlife Service, Southeast Region, intends to gather information necessary to prepare a comprehensive conservation plan and environmental assessment pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and its implementing regulations. 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.*), to achieve the following:

(1) Advise other agencies and the public of our intentions, and
(2) Obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues to include in the environmental document.

Special mailings, newspaper articles, and other media announcements will be used to inform the public and State and local government agencies of the opportunities for input throughout the planning process. An open house style meeting will be held during the scoping phase of the comprehensive conservation plan development process.

DATES: To ensure consideration, we must receive written comments on or before August 20, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Address comments, questions, and requests for more information to Mike Dawson, Refuge Planner, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 6578 Dogwood View Parkway, Suite B, Jackson, Mississippi 39213.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: By Federal law, all lands within the National Wildlife Refuge System are to be managed in accordance with an approved comprehensive conservation plan. This plan guides management decisions and identifies the goals, long-range objectives, and strategies for achieving refuge purposes. The planning process will consider many elements, including wildlife and habitat management, public recreational activities, and cultural resource protection. Public input into this planning process is essential.

Choctaw National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1964 on lands acquired by the Corps of Engineers in conjunction with the Coffeeville Lock and Dam project. The refuge is located 10 miles northwest of Coffeeville, Alabama, across the Tombigbee River, and north of Highway 84 in southwest Alabama, approximately 80 miles north of Mobile. The 4,218-acre refuge encompasses approximately 1,802 acres of lakes, sloughs, and creeks; 2,265 acres of bottomland hardwoods; and 151 acres

of croplands and moist-soil units. Access to this bottomland hardwood refuge is sometimes only possible by boat in the spring. Road access is limited due to frequent flooding and storms.

The primary purpose of the refuge is to provide wood duck brood habitat and serve as a protected wintering area for waterfowl. Up to 200 broods of wood ducks are produced annually in the refuge's artificial nest boxes, and wintering waterfowl numbers can exceed 10,000. Following a successful bald eagle hacking program in the early 1990s, the refuge has played host to a nesting pair of eagles each winter.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Refuge Planner, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Jackson, Mississippi Field Office, telephone: (601) 965-4903; fax: (601) 965-4010; e-mail mike_dawson@fws.gov; or mail (write to Refuge Planner at address in ADDRESSES section).

Authority: This notice is published under the authority of the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1977, Public Law 105-57.

Dated: May 18, 2004.

J. Mitch King,

Acting Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 04-15222 Filed 7-2-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Indian Gaming

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of extension to Class III Gaming Compact.

SUMMARY: This notice publishes the extension to an approved Class III Gaming Compact between the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation and the State of Montana. Under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988, the Secretary of the Interior is required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** approved Tribal-State compacts for the purpose of engaging in Class III gaming activities on Indian lands.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 6, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: George T. Skibine, Director, Office of Indian Gaming Management, Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary—Policy and Economic Development, Washington, DC 20240, (202) 219-4066.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under Section 11 of the Indian Gaming

Regulatory Act of 1988 (IGRA) Public Law 100-497, 25 U.S.C. 2710, the Secretary of the Interior shall publish in the **Federal Register** notice of approved Tribal-State compacts for the purpose of engaging in Class III gaming activities on Indian lands.

The Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation and the State of Montana have agreed to an extension of the existing agreement and will extend the compact until July 1, 2005. The Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, through her delegated authority, is publishing notice that the Extension of Agreement for Class III gaming between the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation and the State of Montana is in effect.

Dated: June 22, 2004.

Aurene M. Martin,

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

[FR Doc. 04-15194 Filed 7-2-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-4N-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

[WO-310-1310-02-PB 24 1A]

Extension of Approved Information Collection; OMB Control No. 1004-0162

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior and Forest Service Agriculture.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) requests the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to extend an existing approval to collect information from entities who conduct geophysical operations on public lands.

DATES: You must submit your comments to BLM at the address below on or before September 7, 2004. BLM will not necessarily consider any comments received after the above date.

ADDRESSES: You may mail comments to: Bureau of Land Management, (WO-630), Eastern States Office, 7450 Boston Blvd., Springfield, Virginia 22153.

You may send comments via Internet to: WOCComments@blm.gov. Please include (attn: 1004-0162) and your name and address with your comments.

You may deliver comments to the Bureau of Land Management, Administrative Record, Room 401, 1620 L Street, NW., Washington, DC.

Comments will be available for public review at the L Street address during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.) Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: You may contact Barbara Gamble, Fluid Minerals Group, at (202) 452-0338 (Commercial or FTS). Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) on 1-800-877-8330, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to contact Ms. Gamble.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: 5 CFR 1320.12(a), requires that we provide a 60-day notice in the **FEDERAL REGISTER** concerning a collection of information to solicit comments on:

(a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper functioning of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(b) The accuracy of our estimates of the information collection burden, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions we use;

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

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

The Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (MLA) (30 U.S.C. 181 *et seq.*), gives the Secretary of the Interior responsibility for oil and gas leasing on approximately 570 million acres of Federal mineral estate. The MLA authorizes the Secretary and the Secretary of Agriculture to permit lessees, exploration companies, and independent exploration operators to conduct geophysical exploration on or off leases. The Act of August 7, 1947 (Mineral Leasing Act of Acquired Lands), authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to lease lands acquired by the United States (30 U.S.C. 341-359); and the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act of December 22, 1987, authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to lease National Forest System (NFS) lands with Forest Service (FS) consent. On NFS lands, the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to regulate all surface-disturbing activities which take place on a lease.

43 CFR Group 3150 establishes procedures for BLM to issue