

detail project locations, project resources, future benefits, and other characteristics, to meet the standards established by the Council and the requirements of NAWCA.

The Council Coordinator's office no longer publishes or distributes standard and small grants instructional booklets. Materials that describe the program and assist applicants in formulating project proposals for Council consideration are available on our Web site at <http://birdhabitat.fws.gov>. Persons who do not have access to the Web site may still obtain instructional materials by mail. There has been virtually no change in the scope and general nature of these instructions since the OMB first approved the information collection in 1999. Instructions assist applicants in formulating detailed project proposals for Council consideration. The instructional materials, including any hard or electronic copy and information or other instruments and **Federal Register** notices on requests for proposals, are the basis for this information collection request. Notices of funding availability are posted annually on the Grants.gov Web site (<http://www.grants.gov>) as well as in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance. We use information collected under this program to respond to such needs as audits, program planning and management, program evaluation, Government Performance and Results Act reporting, Standard Form 424 (Application For Federal Assistance), grant agreements, budget reports and justifications, public and private requests for information, data provided to other programs for databases on similar programs, congressional inquiries, and reports required by NAWCA.

If the information were not collected, we would have to eliminate the program because it would not be possible to determine eligibility and the relative worth of the proposed projects. Reducing the frequency of collection would only reduce the frequency of windows for grant opportunities as the information collected is unique to each project proposal. Discontinuation of the program is not a viable option.

*Title:* Grants Programs Authorized by the North American Wetlands Conservation Act.

*OMB Control Number:* 1018-0100.

*Form Number(s):* None.

*Frequency of Collection:* Occasional. The Small Grants program has one project proposal period per year and the Standard Grants program has two per year. Annual reports are due 90 days after the anniversary date of the grant agreement. Final reports are due 90 days

after the end of the project period. The project period is 2 years.

*Description of Respondents:* Households and/or individuals; businesses and/or other for-profits organizations; not-for-profit institutions; farms; Federal Government; and State, local and/or tribal governments.

*Total Annual Burden Hours:* 37,600. We estimate 80 hours for each Small Grant and 400 hours for each Standard Grant.

*Number of Respondents:* Approximately 150. We estimate 70 proposals for the Small Grants program and 80 for the Standard Grants program. Approximately half of the projects submitted are funded.

We interviewed five previous and current recipients of NAWCA grants with regard to three aspects of the grants programs; *i.e.*, the availability of the information requested, the clarity of the instructions, and the annual burden hours for preparing applications and other materials, such as annual and final reports for both the Small Grants and the Standard Grants programs. All respondents advised that the information regarding descriptions of both programs and application instructions are readily available and the clarity of the information/instructions for both programs is good, even considering the level of detail and technical information required in the Standard Grants program application. Two of the three respondents who have had experience with the Small Grants program estimate 7 days (56 hours) to prepare an application, while the third respondent estimates 3 to 4 weeks (120 to 160 hours). Of course, an important factor determining this estimate is the complexity of the project. However, none of these estimates included the time involved in documentation of progress (providing annual and final reports, deeds, letters of fair market value, etc.) required during the course of the project. Thus, pending possible further refinement from responses in this notice, our original estimate of 80 hours is considered reasonable. With regard to Standard Grants, three respondents estimated 200 to 250 hours, 320 hours and 400 hours for the processes leading up to and including writing the application. Again, these estimates do not include the writing of annual and final reports and providing documentation of activities. It is very likely that the additional burden hours would increase in a way that would allow the 400-hour figure to continue to be used as a reasonable estimate. Some of the respondents offered that any time estimates could not possibly take into consideration factors that vary from

project to project, such as technical competence, repetitive practice (applications), complexity of the project, and/or the level of grantsmanship that an applicant's grant writer may have invested in the application. Thus, it is very difficult to make meaningful estimates of annual burden hour estimates for application preparation, especially for Standard Grants. Some of the respondents indicated that the likelihood of success for funding is independent of the effort at any burden hour.

We invite your comments on: (1) Whether or not the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the NAWCA grants programs, including whether or not in the opinion of the respondent the information has practical utility; (2) the accuracy of our estimate of the annual hour burden of information requested; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents. The information collection in this program is part of a system of records covered by the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552(a)).

Dated: May 2, 2005.

**Hope Grey,**

*Information Collection Clearance Officer,  
Fish and Wildlife Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Receipt of Applications for Endangered Species Permits

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The public is invited to comment on the following applications to conduct certain activities with endangered species. We provide this notice pursuant to section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

**DATES:** We must receive written data or comments on these applications at the address given below, by June 20, 2005.

**ADDRESSES:** Documents and other information submitted with these applications are available for review, subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act, by any party who submits a written request for a copy of such documents to the following office within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 200, Atlanta, Georgia 30345 (Attn: Victoria Davis, Permit Biologist).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Victoria Davis, telephone 404/679-4176; facsimile 404/679-7081.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The public is invited to comment on the following applications for permits to conduct certain activities with endangered and threatened species. If you wish to comment, you may submit comments by any one of the following methods. You may mail comments to the Service's Regional Office (see **ADDRESSES** section) or via electronic mail (e-mail) to

"victoria\_davis@fws.gov". Please submit electronic comments as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Please also include your name and return address in your e-mail message. If you do not receive a confirmation from the Service that we have received your e-mail message, contact us directly at the telephone number listed above (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section). Finally, you may hand deliver comments to the Service office listed above (see **ADDRESSES** section).

Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the administrative record. We will honor such requests to the extent allowable by law. There may also be other circumstances in which we would withhold from the administrative record a respondent's identity, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. However, we will not consider anonymous comments. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

*Applicant:* Round Mountain Biological & Environmental Studies, Inc., Peggy A. Measel, TE102292-0.

The applicant requests authorization to take (capture, identify, release) the following species: gray bat (*Myotis grisescens*) and Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*). The proposed activities would take place while conducting presence/absence surveys in proposed mining areas throughout the state of Tennessee.

Dated: April 25, 2005.

**Cynthia K. Dohner,**

*Acting Regional Director.*

[FR Doc. 05-9985 Filed 5-18-05; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Fish and Wildlife Service**

**Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the Driftless Area National Wildlife Refuge: Allamakee, Clayton, Delaware, Dubuque and Jackson Counties, IA; Grant and Richland Counties, WI; and Jo Daviess County, IL**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announces that the Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP), Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Land Protection Plan is available for Driftless Area National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in Illinois, Iowa, and Wisconsin.

The CCP was prepared pursuant to the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Goals and objectives in the CCP describe how the agency intends to manage the refuge over the next 15 years.

**DATES:** Comments on the Draft CCP/EIS must be received on or before July 22, 2005.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the Draft CCP/EIS are available on compact disk or hard copy. You may access and download a copy via the planning Web site (<http://fws.gov/midwest/planning/DriftlessArea/index.html>) or you may obtain a copy by writing to the following address: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Conservation Planning, Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Building, 1 Federal Drive, Fort Snelling, Minnesota 55111.

All comments should be addressed to Driftless Area National Wildlife Refuge, Attention: CCP Comment, P.O. Box 460, McGregor, Iowa 55987 or direct e-mail to [r3planning@fws.gov](mailto:r3planning@fws.gov). Comments may also be submitted through the Service's regional Web site at <http://fws.gov/midwest/planning/>

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John Lindell or Cathy Henry at (563) 873-3423.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Driftless Area National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1989 to protect habitat for the threatened northern monkshood plant and endangered Iowa Pleistocene snail. The Refuge was authorized to acquire land in eight counties of northeast Iowa, northwest Illinois, and southwest Wisconsin. The Refuge is situated within the driftless geologic land form, an area never glaciated or missed by the most recent glacial advance.

Refuge land conservation focuses on conservation of algific (cold producing) talus slope systems, a landform/habitat feature unique to karst terrain that provides cold microclimate required by northern monkshood, Pleistocene snails, and other glacial relict species. Refuge land conservation consists of acquisition and management easements. Driftless Area NWR now consists of 781 acres within nine units in four northeastern Iowa counties. The Draft CCP/EIS preferred alternative, and integrated Draft Land Protection Plan, proposes conservation of additional lands (through fee title purchase from willing sellers, or other means, such as management easements) in the counties initially authorized, and proposes conservation of suitable habitat in five additional counties in Iowa, four additional counties in Wisconsin, and five counties in Minnesota. Additional information about the target species gained since listing, and the listing of Leedy's roseroot, which occupies similar habitat in southeast Minnesota, indicate the need to increase the geographic area of conservation.

The plan addresses four primary issues identified by the public and Refuge: (1) Habitat management; (2) visitor services; (3) refuge expansion; and (4) species assessments. The EIS evaluates three alternatives for future management of the Driftless Area NWR. The preferred alternative calls for ultimately acquiring 6,000 additional acres. Over the next 15 years we would permanently conserve 2,275 of these acres within 22 counties in Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Under the preferred alternative we would achieve endangered species recovery and conservation of other species of concern, multiple recovery goals for delisting of the Iowa Pleistocene snail through increased habitat management, and a carefully monitored increase in environmental education and wildlife observation programs.

The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C.