

will describe the refuge purposes and desired conditions for the refuge and the long-term conservation goals, objectives and strategies for fulfilling the purposes and achieving those conditions. At this time we encourage input in the form of issues, concerns, ideas, and suggestions for the future management of Conboy Lake and Toppenish NWRs.

We will conduct the environmental review of this project and develop an EA in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*); NEPA regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500–1508); other appropriate Federal laws and regulations; and our policies and procedures for compliance with those laws and regulations.

### Refuge Overviews

#### Conboy Lake NWR

Conboy Lake NWR covers approximately 9,100 acres in the transition zone between arid eastern Washington and wet western Washington, near the southern base of Mt. Adams. The refuge is comprised of a wide variety of habitat types, from the lake itself to wet meadows to Ponderosa pine and oak forests. Because of its varied habitats and its location in the transition zone, the refuge supports an abundance of wildlife species.

Conboy Lake NWR was established “for use as an inviolate sanctuary, or for any other management purpose, for migratory birds” (Migratory Bird Conservation Act; 16 U.S.C. 715d) that is “suitable for— (1) Incidental fish and wildlife-oriented recreational development, (2) the protection of natural resources, [and/or] (3) the conservation of endangered species or threatened species” (Refuge Recreation Act; 16 U.S.C. 460k–1), in order “to conserve (A) fish or wildlife which are listed as endangered species or threatened species \* \* \* or (B) plants” (16 U.S.C. 1534, Endangered Species Act of 1973). The refuge also fills an important role in the management of mallards, northern pintails, and tundra swans during migration periods, and is both a migratory stopover area and breeding site for the Pacific Coast population of the greater Sandhill crane. It is located along the Pacific Flyway and has become a particularly important stopover and wintering ground for migratory birds and waterfowl.

#### Toppenish NWR

Toppenish NWR was also established “for use as an inviolate sanctuary, or for any other management purpose, for migratory birds” (Migratory Bird

Conservation Act; 16 U.S.C. 715d) that is “suitable for— (1) Incidental fish and wildlife-oriented recreational development, (2) the protection of natural resources, [and/or] (3) the conservation of endangered species or threatened species” (Refuge Recreation Act; 16 U.S.C. 460k–1), “for the development, advancement, management, conservation, and protection of fish and wildlife resources” (Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956; 16 U.S.C. 742f(a)(4)), in order “to conserve (A) fish or wildlife which are listed as endangered species or threatened species \* \* \* or (B) plants” (16 U.S.C. 1534; Endangered Species Act of 1973). Located in arid eastern Washington, approximately 40 miles north of the Oregon border, most of the refuge’s 2,000 acres are nonetheless focused around water. An extensive system of managed and unmanaged wetlands fills an important role in the management of mallards, northern pintails, and lesser Canada geese populations during migration and winter periods. It, too, is located along the Pacific Flyway and has become a particularly important stopover and wintering ground for migratory birds and waterfowl.

### Scoping: Preliminary Issues, Concerns, and Opportunities

We have identified preliminary issues, concerns, and opportunities that we may address in the CCP. We have briefly summarized these issues below. During public scoping, we may identify additional issues.

#### Conboy Lake NWR

Land acquisition/exchanges/conservation agreements; water rights; water management; wet meadow, riparian, and stream habitat management; short-grass management; upland meadow management; forest management; plant species management (*e.g.*, invasive and nonnative plants, rare plants); animal species management (*e.g.*, Oregon spotted frog, sandhill crane, elk); wildlife-dependent use; effective law enforcement; impacts of climate change; staffing.

#### Toppenish NWR

Wildlife and habitat management; water rights; wetland management; invasive and nonnative species; rare and listed species recovery; impacts of climate change; contaminants and water quality; wildlife-dependent issues; effective law enforcement; staffing.

### Public Comments

Opportunities for the public to provide further input will be announced

in press releases, planning updates, and on our websites at <http://www.fws.gov/mcriver>, <http://www.fws.gov/conboylake/management.html>, and <http://www.fws.gov/toppenish/management.html>. There will be additional opportunities to provide public input throughout the CCP process.

### Public Availability of Comments

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Dated: June 9, 2011.

**Robyn Thorson,**

*Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS–R4–ES–2011–N124; 40120–1112–0000–F2]

### Incidental Take Permits and Joint Environmental Assessment for Four Single Family Residences in Escambia County, FL

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Under the Endangered Species Act (Act), we, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, announce the receipt and availability of four proposed habitat conservation plans (HCPs) and accompanying documents for four independently proposed developments. The take would involve the Federally endangered Perdido Key beach mouse (*Peromyscus polionotus trissyllepsis*) on Perdido Key in Escambia County, Florida. Each HCP analyzes the take incidental to construction and occupation of four single-family residences (Projects). We invite public comments on these documents.

**DATES:** We must receive any written comments at our Regional Office (see **ADDRESSES**) on or before September 12, 2011.

**ADDRESSES:** Documents are available for public inspection by appointment during normal business hours at the

Fish and Wildlife Service's Regional Office, 1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 200, Atlanta, GA 30345; or Field Supervisor, Fish and Wildlife Service, 1601 Balboa Avenue, Panama City, FL 32405.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. David Dell, Regional HCP Coordinator, (see **ADDRESSES**), telephone: 404/679-7313; or Mr. Ben Frater, Field Office Project Manager, at the Panama City Field Office (see **ADDRESSES**), telephone: 850/769-0552, ext. 248.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** We announce the availability of four proposed HCPs, accompanying incidental take permit (ITP) applications, and a joint environmental assessment (EA), which analyze the take of the Perdido Key beach mouse incidental to each of the four planned Projects. Patrick and Cheryl Whalen, Larry K. and Dianna Evans, Christopher Carbone, and Scott Stern (Applicants) each request a 30-year ITP under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), as amended. The Applicants' HCPs describe the mitigation and minimization measures proposed to address the effects on the species.

We specifically request information, views, and opinions from the public via this notice on our proposed Federal action, including identification of any other aspects of the human environment not already identified in the EA pursuant to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 40 CFR 1506.6. Further, we specifically solicit information regarding the adequacy of the HCPs per 50 CFR Parts 13 and 17.

An assessment of the likely environmental impacts associated with the implementation of the Applicants' HCPs, the EA considers the environmental consequences of the no-action alternative and the proposed action. The proposed action alternative is issuance of the ITPs and implementation of the HCPs as submitted by the Applicants. Each of the four HCPs covers activities associated with the construction and occupancy of a single-family residence. Avoidance, minimization and mitigation measures include a reduced design footprint, on-site land management to maintain use of the site by Perdido Key beach mice, and funding off-site habitat acquisition and management.

#### Public Comments

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your

comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

If you wish to comment, you may submit comments by any one of several methods. Please reference TE17700A-0, TE17698A-0, TE43105A-0, or TE17697A-0 in such comments. You may mail comments to the Fish and Wildlife Service's Regional Office (see **ADDRESSES**). You may also comment via the internet to [david\\_dell@fws.gov](mailto:david_dell@fws.gov). Please include your name and return address in your internet message. If you do not receive a confirmation from us that we have received your internet message, contact us directly at either telephone number listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Finally, you may hand-deliver comments to either of our offices listed under **ADDRESSES**.

#### Covered Area

Perdido Key, a barrier island 16.9 miles long, constitutes the entire historic range of the Perdido Key beach mouse. The areas encompassed by the HCPs and ITP applications are 1.26-acre (Whalen) and 1.29-acre (Evans) parcels located on the Gulf of Mexico on the central portion of Perdido Key, a 0.13-acre landlocked parcel (Stern) on the eastern portion of Perdido Key, and a 0.16-acre landlocked parcel (Carbone) on the central portion of Perdido Key.

#### Next Steps

We will evaluate each of these ITP applications, including the HCPs and any comments we receive, to determine whether these applications meet the requirements of section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Act. We will also evaluate whether issuance of each section 10(a)(1)(B) ITP complies with section 7 of the Act by conducting an intra-Service section 7 consultation on each action. We will consider the results of each consultation, in combination with the above findings, in our final analysis to determine whether or not to issue each ITP. If we determine that the requirements are met, we will issue the ITPs for the incidental take of the Perdido Key beach mouse.

**Authority:** We provide this notice under section 10 of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

Dated: June 15, 2011.

**Mark J. Musaus,**

*Acting Regional Director.*

[FR Doc. 2011-17578 Filed 7-12-11; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R3-ES-2011-N109; 30120-1122-0000-F2]

#### Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan; Receipt of Application for Incidental Take Permit; NiSource, Inc.

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, have received an application from NiSource, Inc. (Applicant), for an incidental take permit under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA). If approved, the permit would be for a 50-year period and would authorize incidental take of 10 species, 9 of which are federally listed and 1 of which is proposed.

The applicant has prepared a multispecies habitat conservation plan (MSHCP) to cover a suite of activities associated with operation of a natural gas pipeline system; the MSHCP also analyzes 33 additional species and provides for measures to avoid take of those species. The Applicant has requested concurrence with their determination that activities will not take these 33 species if implemented in accordance with their MSHCP. We request public comment on the application and associated documents.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, please send your written comments on or before October 11, 2011.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments via U.S. mail to the Regional Director, Midwest Region, Attn: Lisa Mandell, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services, 5600 American Blvd. West, Suite 990, Bloomington, MN 55437-1458, or by electronic mail to [permitsR3ES@fws.gov](mailto:permitsR3ES@fws.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Lisa Mandell, (612) 713-5343.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** We have received an application from NiSource, Inc., for an incidental take permit (ITP) (TE02636A) under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*; ESA). If approved, the permit would be for a 50-year period and