who had moved in recently. Most numbers are screened out on the first completed telephone call, which is brief. The few that are eligible are asked a longer series of questions, for a total elapsed time of about 4 minutes each. Information collection is voluntary.

Status of the proposed information collection: Pending OMB approval.

Authority: The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended; and Section 8(C)(1) of the United States Housing Act of 1937.

Dated: June 8, 1998.

Paul A. Leonard,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy Development.

[FR Doc. 98–15850 Filed 6–12–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210–62–M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Intent (Notice) To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the Development of a Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) Complex, Churchill and Storey Counties, Nevada, and a Boundary Revision for Stillwater NWR, Churchill County

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The Fish and Wildlife Service is preparing an EIS for a comprehensive conservation plan for Stillwater NWR Complex and an associated boundary revision for Stillwater NWR. Stillwater NWR Complex currently consists of Stillwater NWR, Fallon NWR, Stillwater Wildlife Management Area (WMA), and Anaho Island NWR.

DATES: To ensure that the Service has adequate time to evaluate and incorporate suggestions and other input into the planning process, comments must be received by July 17, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments, or requests to be added to the mailing list, to the following address: Stillwater NWR Complex CCP/Boundary Revision, c/o Refuge Manager, Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge Complex, P.O. Box 1236, Fallon, Nevada 89407, telephone (702) 423–5128.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The first notification of the intent to prepare an EIS on the development of a comprehensive conservation plan for Stillwater NWR Complex, including a boundary revision for Stillwater NWR, was published in the **Federal Register** on March 14, 1997 in a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS and hold public scoping workshops on water resources management proposals in the Truckee and Carson Rivers, Churchill, Douglas, Lyon, Storey, and Washoe Counties, Nevada (Pages 12245–12246, Volume 62, Number 50). Comprehensive conservation planning at the Stillwater NWR Complex, including the Stillwater NWR boundary revision, was one of four Federal actions covered in the March 14, 1997 Notice for this Department of the Interior EIS. Scoping meetings were held on March 10, 11, and 19, 1997 in Fallon, Fernley, and Reno, Nevada, respectively, to identify potential issues related to various water resource management proposals in the Truckee and Carson River drainages, including the development of a comprehensive conservation plan and boundary revision for Stillwater NWR Complex. During March, April, and July 1997, a total of six additional open-house workshops were conducted in Fallon and Reno specifically to address the comprehensive conservation plan and boundary revision. A number of other meetings have been held with the Nevada Division of Wildlife, Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, Churchill County, City of Fallon, and various organizations and individuals to gain additional information about issues relevant to the comprehensive conservation plan and boundary revision. Comments received from the public during these meetings constitute the bulk of the public scoping comments being used by the Fish and Wildlife Service to prepare a separate draft EIS on comprehensive conservation planning and boundary revisions for Stillwater NWR Complex, which will no longer be analyzed in a Department of the Interior EIS on water resources management proposals in the Truckee and Carson Rivers.

Wetlands on Stillwater NWR and Stillwater WMA are located at the terminus of the Carson River. They are major components of the Lahontan Valley wetland ecosystem. Stillwater NWR, Stillwater WMA, and Fallon NWR also encompass significant upland habitats, including parts of a 25-mile-long sand dune complex. Anaho Island NWR is located on Pyramid Lake within the Pyramid Lake Paiute Reservation, at the terminus of the Truckee River in Storey County, Nevada.

Comprehensive Conservation Plan

A comprehensive conservation plan is being developed for the Stillwater NWR Complex in accordance with the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 6688dd *et seq.*), as amended. This act requires the Fish and Wildlife Service to prepare comprehensive conservation plans for all refuges in the Refuge System. The comprehensive conservation plan for the Stillwater NWR Complex will cover a 15-year planning period and will identify goals, objectives, strategies, and a monitoring program for achieving refuge purposes and contributing to the mission of the Refuge System. Care will be taken to ensure consistency with the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act, as amended; other applicable laws and international treaties; Fish and Wildlife Service policy; and sound principles of biodiversity conservation and other aspects of natural resources management. The mission of the Refuge System ''is to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.''

Stillwater NWR and Stillwater WMA were originally established in 1948 as part of an agreement (Tripartite Agreement) between the Fish and Wildlife Service, Nevada Division of Wildlife, and the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District. Stillwater WMA, which was established for the co-equal purposes of conserving wildlife and public hunting, will cease to exist after November 26, 1998, when the 50-year Tripartite Agreement expires. The Tripartite Agreement also specified that livestock grazing and muskrat trapping were to be managed commensurate with wildlife conservation and hunting. Anaho Island was originally established in 1913 under Executive Order 1819 as a preserve and breeding ground for native birds. Fallon NWR was established in 1931 for the purpose of providing a refuge and breeding ground for birds and other wildlife.

The Truckee-Carson-Pyramid Lake Water Settlement Act of 1990 (Title II of Public Law 101–618) enlarged Stillwater NWR by reducing the size of Stillwater WMA and directed the Secretary of the Interior to manage Stillwater NWR for the following purposes:

(A) restoring and maintaining natural biological diversity within the refuge;

(B) conserving and managing fish, wildlife, and their habitat within the refuge;

(C) fulfilling international treaty obligations with respect to fish and wildlife; and

(D) providing opportunities for scientific research, environmental

education, and wildlife-oriented recreation.

Public Law 101–618 also directed the Secretary to manage Anaho Island for the benefit and protection of colonial nesting species and other migratory birds.

The comprehensive conservation plan will include strategies for managing water and water rights that the Fish and Wildlife Service is acquiring through its water-rights acquisition program that was authorized and directed by Public Law 101–618. In November 1996, an EIS was completed and a Record of Decision was signed for cooperative efforts to acquire water rights to sustain, on a long-term average, approximately 25,000 acres of primary wetlands habitat in Lahontan Valley, including wetlands on Stillwater NWR and Stillwater WMA. To date, about 27,000 acre-feet of water rights have been acquired by Fish and Wildlife Service, State of Nevada, and Nevada Waterfowl Association to supplement agricultural drainwater and intermittent controlled releases from Lahontan Reservoir. Given the mandate to restore natural biological diversity within the refuge, natural hydrologic patterns and their applications to management are being explored.

The comprehensive conservation plan will guide the management of public use on the Stillwater NWR Complex in accordance with existing laws. These laws require that refuge planning efforts explore opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education and interpretation, to the extent these activities do not interfere with or detract from (i.e., are compatible with) achieving the purposes of individual refuge units and the mission of the Refuge System. Compatibility of public uses will be evaluated as part of the comprehensive planning process, in accordance with the requirement that such determinations must be consistent with sound principles of fish and wildlife management, available scientific information, and applicable laws.

The comprehensive conservation plan comprises the following programs: wildlife and habitat management, including management of acquired water, control of undesirable species, prescribed burning, and livestock grazing; public use management, including the management of areas open to different types of public uses, and the management of hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental interpretation and education; cultural resource management; law enforcement; facilities management; and administration.

Several alternative management scenarios are being developed and evaluated. The following draft goals for the Stillwater NWR Complex were developed based primarily on establishing authorities, the Refuge System mission, and other provisions of applicable laws, international treaties, and principles of natural resource conservation.

Stillwater NWR

(1) Conserve and manage fish, wildlife, and their habitats to restore and maintain natural biological diversity.

(2) Fulfill obligations of international treaties and other international agreements with respect to fish and wildlife.

(3) Provide opportunities for scientific research, environmental education, and wildlife-dependent recreation that are compatible with refuge purposes.

Fallon NWR

(1) Provide high-quality sanctuary and nesting habitat for migratory birds.

(2) Restore and maintain natural biological diversity.

(3) Provide opportunities for scientific research, environmental education, and wildlife-dependent recreation that are compatible with refuge purposes.

Anaho Island NWR

(1) Protect and perpetuate colonial nesting birds and other migratory birds.

(2) Restore and maintain natural biological diversity.

Major categories of issues identified to date include wildlife and habitat protection and enhancement, including concerns with respect to emphasizing natural biological diversity; opportunities for wildlife-dependent recreational uses; continued protection of cultural resources; and potential effects on local agriculture, irrigation project, and economy. Major, on-refuge environmental problems to be addressed in the comprehensive conservation plan include inadequate water supplies and timing of water inflows, dominance and spread of invasive nonnative plants, contaminants, and the effects of livestock grazing on biological communities. Major public use issues to be addressed include the balancing of compatible wildlife-dependent recreational uses (including concerns with respect to a legally-required shift from managing the hunting program as a co-equal top priority with wildlife conservation to managing hunting as one of several recreational uses that are secondary to wildlife conservation), inadequate facilities to provide a broad spectrum of high-quality experiences for refuge visitors and for environmental education activities, and the compatibility and appropriateness of camping and other nonwildlife-dependent recreational uses.

Stillwater NWR Boundary Revision

Public Law 101–618 authorized the Secretary of the Interior to recommend to Congress boundary revisions to Stillwater NWR that may be appropriate to carry out the purposes of the refuge and to facilitate the protection and enhancement of Lahontan Valley wetland habitat. It also authorized the Secretary to recommend the transfer of any Bureau of Reclamation withdrawn public lands within existing wildlife use areas in Lahontan Valley (e.g., Stillwater WMA) to the Fish and Wildlife Service for addition to the National Wildlife Refuge System. Furthermore, it authorized the identification of lands in Lahontan Valley currently under the jurisdiction of the Fish and Wildlife Service that no longer warrant continued status as units of the Refuge System. Several alternative boundary revisions are being analyzed.

Tentative Schedule

Estimated dates for completing an EIS that evaluates the potential impacts of implementing a comprehensive conservation plan for Stillwater NWR Complex and revising the boundary of Stillwater NWR are as follows:

Supplemental Scoping Period—July 17, 1998
Draft EIS Distributed to Public—November 1998
Public Review/Comment Period November 1998—February 1999
Final EIS filed with EPA—August 1999
Implementation of the Decision—September 1999

Date: June 8, 1998.

Thomas J. Dwyer,

Acting Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.

[FR Doc. 98–15802 Filed 6–12–98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Advisory Panel, Aquatic Nuisance Species Dispersal Barrier for the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a meeting of the Advisory Panel for the