

management measures are met prior to the effective suspension date. Since these notifications have been made, this final rule may take effect within less than 30 days.

National Environmental Policy Act

This rule is categorically excluded from the requirements of 44 CFR Part 10, Environmental Considerations. No environmental impact assessment has been prepared.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Associate Director has determined that this rule is exempt from the requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act because the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 4022, prohibits flood insurance coverage unless an appropriate public body adopts adequate floodplain management measures with effective enforcement measures. The communities listed no

longer comply with the statutory requirements, and after the effective date, flood insurance will no longer be available in the communities unless they take remedial action.

Regulatory Classification

This final rule is not a significant regulatory action under the criteria of section 3(f) of Executive Order 12866 of September 30, 1993, Regulatory Planning and Review, 58 FR 51735.

Paperwork Reduction Act

This rule does not involve any collection of information for purposes of the Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*

Executive Order 12612, Federalism

This rule involves no policies that have federalism implications under Executive Order 12612, Federalism, October 26, 1987, 3 CFR, 1987 Comp., p. 252.

Executive Order 12778, Civil Justice Reform

This rule meets the applicable standards of section 2(b)(2) of Executive Order 12778, October 25, 1991, 56 FR 55195, 3 CFR, 1991 Comp., p. 309.

List of Subjects in 44 CFR Part 64

Flood insurance, Floodplains.
Accordingly, 44 CFR part 64 is amended as follows:

PART 64—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for Part 64 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 4001 *et seq.*; Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1978, 3 CFR, 1978 Comp., p. 329; E.O. 12127, 44 FR 19367, 3 CFR, 1979 Comp., p. 376.

§ 64.6 [Amended]

2. The tables published under the authority of § 64.6 are amended as follows:

| State/location | Community No. | Effective date of eligibility | Current effective map date | Date certain Federal assistance no longer available in special flood hazard areas |
|---|---------------|--|----------------------------|---|
| Region I | | | | |
| Maine: Trescott, township of, Washington County. | 230473 | March 19, 1975, Emerg; Aug. 5, 1985, Reg; Feb. 8, 1999, Susp. | Feb. 8, 1999 | Feb. 8, 1999. |
| Region II | | | | |
| Delaware: Milford, city of, Kent and Sussex Counties. | 100042 | June 5, 1974, Emerg; June 1, 1977, Reg; Feb. 8, 1999, Susp. |do | Do. |
| Sussex County, unincorporated areas | 100029 | April 16, 1971, Emerg; Oct. 6, 1976, Reg; Feb. 8, 1999, Susp. |do | Do. |
| Region IV | | | | |
| South Carolina: Sumter County, unincorporated areas. | 450182 | Sept. 17, 1979; Emerg; Jan. 5, 1989; Reg; Feb. 8, 1999, Susp. |do | Do. |
| Region IX | | | | |
| Arizona: Pima County, unincorporated areas | 040073 | Oct. 2, 1974, Emerg; Feb. 15, 1983, Reg; Feb. 8, 1999, Susp. |do | Do. |
| California: Humboldt County, unincorporated areas. | 060060 | Sept. 11, 1974, Emerg; July 19, 1982, Reg; Feb. 8, 1999, Susp. |do | Do. |

Code for reading third column: Emerg.—Emergency; Reg.—Regular; Rein.—Reinstatement; Susp.—Suspension.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance No. 83.100, "Flood Insurance")

Issued: February 5, 1999.

Michael J. Armstrong,

Associate Director for Mitigation.

[FR Doc. 99-3645 Filed 2-12-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6718-05-P

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

44 CFR Part 65

Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations

AGENCY: Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: Modified base (1% annual chance) flood elevations are finalized for the communities listed below. These modified elevations will be used to calculate flood insurance premium rates for new buildings and their contents.

EFFECTIVE DATES: The effective dates for these modified base flood elevations are indicated on the following table and revise the Flood Insurance Rate Map(s) (FIRMs) in effect for each listed community prior to this date.

ADDRESSES: The modified base flood elevations for each community are available for inspection at the office of the Chief Executive Officer of each community. The respective addresses are listed in the following table.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Matthew B. Miller, P.E., Chief, Hazards Study Branch, Mitigation Directorate, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 500 C Street SW., Washington, DC 20472, (202) 646-3461, or (email) matt.miller@fema.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Federal Emergency Management Agency makes the final determinations listed below of modified base flood elevations for each community listed. These modified elevations have been published in newspapers of local circulation and ninety (90) days have elapsed since that publication. The Associate Director has resolved any appeals resulting from this notification.

The modified base flood elevations are not listed for each community in this notice. However, this rule includes the address of the Chief Executive Officer of the community where the modified base flood elevation determinations are available for inspection.

The modifications are made pursuant to section 206 of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973, 42 U.S.C. 4105, and are in accordance with the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, 42 U.S.C. 4001 *et seq.*, and with 44 CFR part 65.

For rating purposes, the currently effective community number is shown and must be used for all new policies and renewals.

The modified base flood elevations are the basis for the floodplain management measures that the community is required to either adopt or to show evidence of being already in effect in order to qualify or to remain

qualified for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program.

These modified elevations, together with the floodplain management criteria required by 44 CFR 60.3, are the minimum that are required. They should not be construed to mean that the community must change any existing ordinances that are more stringent in their floodplain management requirements. The community may at any time enact stricter requirements of its own, or pursuant to policies established by other Federal, state or regional entities.

These modified elevations are used to meet the floodplain management requirements of the NFIP and are also used to calculate the appropriate flood insurance premium rates for new buildings built after these elevations are made final, and for the contents in these buildings.

The changes in base flood elevations are in accordance with 44 CFR 65.4.

National Environmental Policy Act

This rule is categorically excluded from the requirements of 44 CFR Part 10, Environmental Consideration. No environmental impact assessment has been prepared.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Associate Director, Mitigation Directorate, certifies that this rule is exempt from the requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act because modified base flood elevations are required by the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973, 42 U.S.C. 4105, and are required to maintain community eligibility in the National Flood

Insurance Program. No regulatory flexibility analysis has been prepared.

Regulatory Classification

This final rule is not a significant regulatory action under the criteria of section 3(f) of Executive Order 12866 of September 30, 1993, Regulatory Planning and Review, 58 FR 51735.

Executive Order 12612, Federalism

This rule involves no policies that have federalism implications under Executive Order 12612, Federalism, dated October 26, 1987.

Executive Order 12778, Civil Justice Reform

This rule meets the applicable standards of section 2(b)(2) of Executive Order 12778.

List of Subjects in 44 CFR Part 65

Flood insurance, Floodplains, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Accordingly, 44 CFR part 65 is amended to read as follows.

PART 65—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for part 65 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 4001 *et seq.*; Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1978, 3 CFR, 1978 Comp., p. 329; E.O. 12127, 44 FR 19367, 3 CFR, 1979 Comp., p. 376.

§ 65.4 [Amended]

2. The tables published under the authority of § 65.4 are amended as follows:

| State and county | Location | Dates and name of newspaper where notice was published | Chief executive officer of community | Effective date of modification | Community number |
|---|------------------------------|---|--|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Maine: Hancock (FEMA Docket No. 7265). | Town of Gouldsboro. | June 25, 1998, July 2, 1998, <i>Ellsworth American</i> . | Mr. Larry Barnes, Town Manager, P.O. Box 68, Prospect Harbor, Maine 04669. | June 16, 1998 | 230283 B |
| Massachusetts: Middlesex (FEMA Docket No. 7265). | City of Lowell | July 20, 1998, July 27, 1998, <i>The Sun</i> . | Mr. Brian J. Martin, Manager of the City of Lowell, 375 Merrimack Street, Lowell, Massachusetts 01852. | October 25, 1998 | 250201 D |
| New Jersey: Middlesex (FEMA Docket No. 7269). | Township of South Brunswick. | August 6, 1998, August 13, 1998, <i>Central Post</i> . | The Honorable Edmund A. Luciano, Jr., Mayor of the Township of South Brunswick, P.O. Box 190, Monmouth Junction, New Jersey 08852. | November 11, 1998. | 340278 |
| South Carolina: Spartanburg (FEMA Docket No. 7265). | Unincorporated Areas. | July 2, 1998, July 9, 1998, <i>Herald-Journal</i> . | Mr. Roland Windham, Spartanburg County Administrator, P.O. Box 5666, Spartanburg, South Carolina 29304. | June 18, 1998 | 450176 B |
| Virginia: Loudoun (FEMA Docket No. 7269). | Unincorporated Areas. | August 19, 1998, August 26, 1998, <i>Loudoun Times-Mirror</i> . | Mr. Kirby Bowers, County Administrator, County of Loudoun, P.O. Box 7000, Leesburg, Virginia 20177-7000. | November 24, 1998. | 510090 |

| State and county | Location | Dates and name of newspaper where notice was published | Chief executive officer of community | Effective date of modification | Community number |
|--|-----------------------|--|---|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Virginia: Prince William (FEMA Docket No. 7265). | Unincorporated Areas. | June 24, 1998, July 1, 1998, <i>Potomac News</i> . | Mr. H. B. Ewert, Prince William County Executive, 1 County Complex Court, Prince William, Virginia 22192. | June 18, 1998 | 510119 D |

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance No. 83.100, "Flood Insurance")

Dated: February 8, 1999.

Michael J. Armstrong,

Associate Director for Mitigation.

[FR Doc. 99-3695 Filed 2-12-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6718-04-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 20

RIN 1018-AF25

Migratory Bird Hunting; Regulations To Increase Harvest of Mid-Continent Light Geese.

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: Mid-continent light goose populations (lesser snow and Ross' goose combined) has nearly quadrupled within the last 30 years, and have become seriously injurious to their habitat and habitat important to other migratory birds. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service or "we") believes that these populations exceed the long-term carrying capacity of their breeding habitats and must be reduced. This rule authorizes the use of additional hunting methods (electronic callers and unplugged shotguns) during a normal open light-geese hunting season when all other waterfowl and crane hunting seasons, excluding falconry, are closed.

DATES: This rule takes effect immediately upon publication on February 16, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the EA are available by writing to the Chief, Office of Migratory Bird Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Interior, ms 634—ARLSQ, 1849 C Street NW., Washington, D.C. 20240. The public may inspect comments during normal business hours in room 634—Arlington Square Building, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Virginia.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert J. Blohm, Acting Chief, Office of Migratory Bird Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, (703) 358-1714.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Lesser snow and Ross' geese that primarily migrate through North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa, and Missouri, and winter in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and eastern, central, and southern Texas and other Gulf Coast States are referred to as the Mid-continent population of light geese (MCP). Lesser snow and Ross' geese that primarily migrate through Montana, Wyoming, and Colorado and winter in New Mexico, northwestern Texas, and Chihuahua, Mexico are referred to as the Western Central Flyway population of light geese (WCFP). Ross' geese are often mistaken for lesser snow geese due to their similar appearance. Ross' geese occur in both the MCP and the WCFP and mix extensively with lesser snow geese on both the breeding and wintering grounds. MCP and WCFP lesser snow and Ross' geese are collectively referred to as Mid-continent light geese (MCLG) because they breed, migrate, and winter in the "Mid-continent" or central portions of North America primarily in the Central and Mississippi Flyways. They are referred to as "light" geese due to the light coloration of the white-phase plumage morph, as opposed to true "dark" geese such as the white-fronted or Canada goose. We include both plumage morphs of lesser snow geese (white, or "snow" and dark, or "blue") under the designation light geese.

MCLG breed in the central and eastern arctic and subarctic regions of northern Canada. MCLG populations are experiencing high population growth rates and have substantially increased in numbers within the last 30 years. Operational surveys conducted annually on wintering grounds are used to derive a December index to light goose populations. December indices of light goose populations represent a certain proportion of the total wintering population, and thus are smaller than the true population size. By assuming that the same proportion of the population is counted each December, we can monitor trends in the true population size.

The December index of MCP light geese has more than tripled within 30

years from an estimated 800,000 birds in 1969 to approximately three million birds in 1998 and has increased an average of 5% per year for the last ten years (Abraham et al. 1996, USFWS 1998b). The December index of WCFP light geese has quadrupled in 23 years from 52,000 in 1974 to 216,000 in 1997 (USFWS 1997b), and has increased an average of 9% per year for the last ten years (USFWS 1998b). The lesser snow goose portion of the 1998 MCP December index mentioned above is estimated to be 2.8 million birds. In 1991, the Central and Mississippi Flyway Councils jointly agreed to set lower and upper management thresholds for the MCP of snow geese at 1.0 million and 1.5 million, respectively, based on the December index. Therefore, the current December index of MCP lesser snow geese far exceeds the upper management threshold established by the Flyway Councils.

MCLG populations have also exceeded North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) population objectives, which are also based on December indices. The MCP lesser snow goose December index of 2.8 million birds far exceeds the NAWMP population objective of 1 million birds (USDO I et al. 1998d). The lesser snow goose portion of the WCFP light goose December index is estimated to be 200,000 birds, which exceeds the NAWMP population objective of 110,000 birds (USDO I et al. 1998d). The estimate of the Ross' goose component of the MCLG population December index (WCFP and MCP combined) currently exceeds 200,000 birds. This far exceeds the NAWMP Ross' goose population objective of 100,000 birds (USDO I et al. 1998d). We compare current population levels to NAWMP population objectives to demonstrate that MCLG populations have increased substantially over what is considered to be a healthy population level. We are not suggesting that MCLG be reduced for the sole purpose of meeting NAWMP population objective levels.

By multiply the current MCLG December index of 3.2 million birds by an adjustment factor of 1.6 (Boyd et al. 1982), we derive an estimate of 5.12 million breeding birds in spring. This is