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Frequency of Submission:
Recordkeeping.

	Number of respondents	Annual responses	×	Hours per response	=	Burden hours
Reporting Burden	12,800	1		8		31,000

Total Estimated Burden Hours:
31,000.

Status: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Authority: Section 3507 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 35, as amended.

Dated: May 16, 2005.

Wayne Eddins,

*Departmental Paperwork Reduction Act
Officer, Office of the Chief Information
Officer.*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Intent To Prepare a Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment for Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, Located in Socorro County, NM

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

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the Fish and Wildlife Service, Southwest Region, intends to gather information necessary to prepare a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and Environmental Assessment for Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, 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.

DATES: Special mailings, newspaper articles, postings, and media announcements will inform people of opportunities for written input throughout the CCP planning process. Refuge fact sheets will be made available at local libraries in the surrounding communities. This notice of intent/public scoping process will continue until August 31, 2005. Written

comments submitted by mail or e-mail should be postmarked by that date to ensure consideration. Comments mailed after that date will be considered to the extent practicable. Inquire at the following address for future dates of planning activities and due dates for comments.

ADDRESSES: Address comments and requests for more information to: Jim Savery, Refuge Manager, Bosque del Apache NWR, CCP-Project, P.O. Box 1246, Socorro, NM 87801, phone (505) 835-1828, fax: (505) 835-0314. Information concerning this Refuge may also be found at the following Web site: <http://southwest.fws.gov>. Comments submitted via e-mail should be addressed to Yvette Truitt-Ortiz at Yvette_TruittOrtiz@fws.gov or Jim Savery at Jim_Savery@fws.gov. Additionally, you may hand-deliver comments to Mr. Savery at the Refuge, located approximately 8 miles south of San Antonio, New Mexico on State Highway 1. Our practice is to make comments, including names and addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the rulemaking record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Yvette Truitt-Ortiz, Natural Resource Planner, Division of Planning, P.O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103-1306; Telephone (505) 248-6452; Fax (505) 248-6874; e-mail Yvette_TruittOrtiz@fws.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 requires that all lands within the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS) are to be managed in accordance with an approved CCP. The CCP guides management decisions and identifies refuge goals, long-range objectives, and strategies for achieving refuge purposes. Each refuge in the NWRS has specific purposes for which it was established. Those purposes are used to develop and prioritize management goals and objectives within the NWRS mission and to guide which public uses will occur on a given refuge.

The planning process will consider many elements including wildlife and habitat management, habitat protection and acquisition, wilderness preservation, public recreational activities, and cultural resource protection. Public input into the planning process is essential. The planning process is a way for the Service and the public to evaluate refuge management goals and objectives for the best possible conservation efforts of this important wildlife habitat. Concurrently, this process is also providing for wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities that are compatible with each refuge's establishing purposes and the mission of the NWRS.

Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge is located in Socorro County, New Mexico, and encompasses 57,191 acres along the Rio Grande near Socorro, New Mexico. The heart of the Refuge is about 12,900 acres of moist bottomlands of which 3,800 acres are active floodplain of the Rio Grande and 9,100 acres are areas where water is diverted to create extensive wetlands, farmlands, and riparian forests. The rest of the Refuge is made up of arid foothills and mesas. Most of these desert lands are preserved as wilderness areas. The CCP will provide other agencies and the public with a clear understanding of the desired conditions for the Refuge and how the Service will implement management strategies for the conservation and development of these natural resources.

The Service, through this notice of intent, formally begins the comprehensive conservation planning process for Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge. The Service requests input on any and all issues concerning management or public recreation. Comments regarding the protection of threatened and/or endangered species, migratory birds, native species, and their habitats are encouraged. The Service is equally interested in receiving public input in the following areas:

- What makes this Refuge special for you?
- What Refuge projects or activities interest you most?
- What problems or issues do you see affecting management or public use of the Refuge?

- What improvements do you recommend for the Refuge?

The Service has provided the above questions for optional use only. Comments received will be used as part of the planning process. Individual comments will not be referenced in our reports or directly responded to. The Service will continue to solicit information from the public and other agencies via open houses, meetings, and written comments. Special mailings, newspaper releases, and announcements will continue to inform people of the time and place of opportunities for further input to the CCP.

Review of this project will be conducted in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1968, as amended (42 U.S.C 4321 *et seq.*), NEPA Regulations (40 CFR parts 1500–1508) found at <http://www.legal.gsa.gov>, other appropriate Federal laws, and Service policies and procedures for compliance with those regulations.

The Service will prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with procedures for implementing NEPA found in the Department of the Interior Manual (DM Part 516, Chap 6). The decision to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement instead of an EA is contingent upon the complexity of issues following the scoping phase of the CCP process.

We estimate that the draft environmental documents will be available in fall 2007 for public review and comment.

Authority: This notice is published under the authority of the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, Public Law 105–57.

Dated: May 9, 2005.

Geoffery L. Haskett,

Acting Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Albuquerque, New Mexico.
[FR Doc. 05–10291 Filed 5–20–05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Receipt of an Application for an Incidental Take Permit for the Key Deer, Lower Keys Marsh Rabbit, and Eastern Indigo Snake Resulting from Limited Additional Development Activities on Big Pine Key and No Name Key, Monroe County, FL

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), Monroe County, Florida, and the Florida Department of Community Affairs (DCA) (Applicants) request an incidental take permit (ITP) pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), as amended (Act). The Applicants anticipate taking no more than 168 acres of occupied Key deer (*Odocoileus virginianus clavium*), breeding, foraging, and sheltering habitat. This same area is potential habitat for the eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon corais couperi*). Proposed activities on this acreage may also indirectly affect adjacent habitat occupied by the Lower Keys marsh rabbit (*Sylvilagus palustris hefneri*). Take of these species would be incidental to development activities on Big Pine Key and No Name Key (Project Area) in Monroe County, Florida.

The Applicants' Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) describes the mitigation and minimization measures proposed to address the effects of the Project on the affected species. These measures are outlined in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section below. The Service announces the availability of the HCP and the Environmental Assessment for the incidental take application. Copies of the HCP and Environmental Assessment may be obtained by making a request to the Regional Office (see **ADDRESSES**). Requests must be in writing to be processed. This notice is provided pursuant to section 10 of the Endangered Species Act and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

DATES: Written comments on the ITP application and HCP should be sent to the Service's Regional Office (see **ADDRESSES**) and should be received on or before July 22, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the application, HCP, and EA may obtain copies by writing the Service's Southeast Regional Office, Atlanta, Georgia. Documents will also be available for public inspection by appointment during normal business hours at the Regional Office, 1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 200, Atlanta, Georgia 30345 (Attn: Endangered Species Permits), or Field Supervisor, South Florida Ecological Services Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1339 20th Street, Vero Beach, Florida, 32960–3559. Written data or comments concerning the application, supporting documentation, EA, or HCP should be submitted to the Regional Office. Requests for the documentation must be in writing to be processed. Comments must be submitted in writing to be

adequately considered in the Service's decision-making process. Please reference permit number TE083411–0 in such comments, or in requests for the documents discussed herein.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. David Dell, Regional HCP Coordinator, (see **ADDRESSES** above), telephone: 404/679–7313, facsimile: 404/679–7081; or Mr. George Dennis, Fish and Wildlife Ecologist, South Florida Ecological Services Office, Vero Beach, Florida (see **ADDRESSES** above), telephone: 772/562–3909, ext. 309.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: If you wish to comment, you may submit comments by any one of several methods. Please reference permit number TE083411–0 in such comments. You may mail comments to the Service's Regional Office (see **ADDRESSES**). You may also comment via the internet to "david_dell@fws.gov". Please submit comments over the internet 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 internet message. If you do not receive a confirmation from the Service that we have received your internet message, contact us directly at either of the telephone numbers listed below (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**). Finally, you may hand deliver comments to either of the Service offices listed above (see **ADDRESSES**). 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. We will not, however, 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.

The Florida Key deer is the smallest race of North American white-tailed deer. Key deer are found only in the lower Florida Keys from Sugarloaf to Big Pine Key. More than two-thirds of the population is supported on Big Pine Key and No Name Key. The Key deer population was estimated to be 25 to 80