Estimated Annual Burden Hours: An estimated 11,400 hours annually.

Issued in Arlington, Virginia, on June 17, 2009.

#### Ginger LeMay,

Paperwork Reduction Act Officer, Business Improvements and Communications, Office of Information Technology.

[FR Doc. E9–14647 Filed 6–22–09; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 9110–05–P

# DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

# U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

[CIS No. 2477-09; DHS Docket No. USCIS-2009-0019]

RIN 1615-ZA88

## Request for Public Comment on the E-Verify Program Designated Agent Process

**AGENCY:** U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, DHS.

**ACTION:** Notice.

SUMMARY: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) seeks public comment on the E-Verify Program Designated Agent Process under which a participating employer may choose to outsource submission of employment eligibility verification queries for newly hired employees to a Designated Agent.

**DATES:** This Notice is effective June 23, 2009. Please submit your comments or suggestions for improving the Designated Agent process by August 24, 2009.

ADDRESSES: Please submit your written comments and suggestions by e-mail to DAsupport@dhs.gov and include "DA Re-Engineering Comment" in the subject line of your e-mail. When submitting your comments or suggestions, please let us know whether you access the E-Verify Program directly, or whether you developed and use a web services interface to access the E-Verify Program.

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Cassandra Stekly, Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), Verification Division, 470–490 East L'Enfant Plaza, SW., Suite 8001, Washington, DC 20529–2630; Telephone: (888) 464–4218.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The E-Verify Program is a free employment eligibility confirmation system operated jointly by USCIS and the Social Security Administration (SSA). It is designed to

determine the employment eligibility of new hires. The E-Verify Program allows participating employers to electronically confirm the employment eligibility of newly hired employees to help maintain a stable and legal workforce.

An E-Verify Designated Agent is a liaison between E-Verify and employers who choose to outsource submission of employment eligibility verification queries for newly hired employees. E-Verify Designated Agents conduct the verification process for other employers or clients. An E-Verify Designated Agent must register online and sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with SSA and DHS. Once the MOU is approved, the E-Verify Designated Agent can then begin registering employers and clients who have designated it to perform their verification services.

The program design for Designated Agents has changed very little over the past several years. Accordingly, USCIS plans to review the Designated Agent process to assess how Designated Agents provide this service to their clients. The purpose of this notice is to request that Designated Agents, their clients, or others with Designated Agent experience provide their comments or suggestions for improving the Designated Agent process.

#### **Paperwork Reduction Act**

The E-Verify Program has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget under the Paperwork Reduction Act. The approved OMB Control Number is 1615–0092.

#### Michael Aytes,

Acting Deputy Director, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

[FR Doc. E9–14641 Filed 6–22–09; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 9111–97–P

# NATIONAL INDIAN GAMING COMMISSION

## Notice of Approved Class II and III Tribal Gaming Ordinances

**AGENCY:** National Indian Gaming Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The purpose of this notice is to inform the public of class II and III gaming ordinances approved by the Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission.

**DATES:** *Effective Date:* This notice is effective upon date of publication in the **Federal Register**.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Frances Fragua, Office of General

Counsel at the National Indian Gaming Commission, 202–632–7003, or by facsimile at 202–632–7066 (not toll-free numbers).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) 25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq., established the National Indian Gaming Commission (Commission). Section 2710 of the IGRA authorizes the Chairman of the Commission to approve class II and class III tribal gaming ordinances. Section 2710(d)(2)(B) of the IGRA, as implemented by 25 CFR 522.8, requires the Commission to publish, in the Federal Register, approved class III gaming ordinances and the approvals thereof.

The Commission believes that publishing a periodic notice of approved class II or III gaming ordinances in the Federal Register, along with publishing on the Commission's Web site the full text of each ordinance and any approved amendments, is sufficient to meet the requirements of 25 U.S.C. Section 2710(d)(2)(B) and provide the public with adequate notice of all gaming ordinance approvals. Every approved gaming ordinance, every approved ordinance amendment, and the approvals thereof, are posted on the Commission's Web site (http:// www.nigc.gov) under Reading Room, Gaming Ordinances. Also, the Commission will make copies of approved ordinances available to the public upon request. Requests can be made in writing to the Office of General Counsel, National Indian Gaming Commission, Attn: Frances Fragua, 1441 L Street, NW., Suite 9100, Washington, DC 20005.

The following constitutes a consolidated list of all Tribes for which the Chairman has approved tribal gaming ordinances authorizing class II or III gaming.

- 1. Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
- 2. Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
  - 3. Ak-Chin Indian Community
  - 4. Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town
  - 5. Alturas Indian Rancheria
  - 6. Apache Tribe of Oklahoma
- 7. Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes of Fort Peck
  - 8. Augustine Band of Mission Indians
- 9. Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa
  - 10. Barona Band of Mission Indians
  - 11. Bay Mills Indian Community
- 12. Bear River Band of Rohnerville Rancheria
- 13. Berry Creek Rancheria of Tyme Maidu Indians

- 14. Big Lagoon Rancheria
- 15. Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley
- 16. Big Sandy Rancheria Band of Western Mono Indians
  - 17. Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians
  - 18. Blackfeet Tribe
  - 19. Blue Lake Rancheria of California
- 20. Bois Forte Band of Minnesota Chippewa
- 21. Bridgeport Paiute Indian Community of California
- 22. Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians
  - 23. Burns Paiute Tribe
  - 24. Cabazon Band of Mission Indians
- 25. Cachil Dehe Band of Wintun Indians of the Colusa Indian Community
  - 26. Caddo Indians Tribe of Oklahoma
- 27. Cahto Tribe of the Laytonville Rancheria
  - 28. Cahuilla Band of Mission Indians
- 29. California Valley Me-Wuk Tribe
- 30. Campo Band of Diegueno Mission Indians
  - 31. Cayuga Nation of of New York
  - 32. Chemehuevi Indian Tribe
  - 33. Cher-Ae Heights Indian
- Community of the Trinidad Rancheria
  - 34. Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma
- 35. Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma
  - 36. Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe
  - 37. Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma
- 38. Chicken Ranch Band of Me-wuk Indians
- 39. Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy's Reservation
  - 40. Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana
  - 41. Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
- 42. Citizen Band Potawatomi Indians of Oklahoma
- 43. Cloverdale Rancheria of Pomo Indians
  - 44. Cocopah Indian Tribe
  - 45. Coeur d'Alene Tribe
  - 46. Colorado River Indian Tribes
- 47. Comanche Indian Tribe of Oklahoma
- 48. Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation
- 49. Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama
- 50. Confederated Tribes of Coos,
- Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw
- 51. Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
- 52. Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
- 53. Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community
- 54. Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians of Oregon
- 55. Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
- 56. Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation
  - 57. Coquille Indian Tribe of Oregon

- 58. Coushatta Indian Tribe of Louisiana
- 59. Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians
  - 60. Cowlitz Indian Tribe
- 61. Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians
  - 62. Crow Creek Sioux Tribe
  - 63. Crow Indian Tribe of Montana
- 64. Delaware Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
- 65. Delaware Nation of Western Oklahoma
- 66. Dry Creek Rancheria of Pomo Indians
- 67. Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians of North Carolina
- 68. Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
- 69. Eastern Shoshone Tribe of the Wind River Indian Reservation
- 70. Elem Indian Colony of Pomo Indians
  - 71. Elk Valley Rancheria
  - 72. Ely Shoshone Tribe
- 73. Enterprise Rancheria of the Maidu Indians
- 74. Ewiiaapaayp Band of Kumeyaay Indians
- 75. Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribes
- 76. Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria
  - 77. Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe
  - 78. Fond du Lac Reservation
- 79. Forest County Potawatomi Community
  - 80. Fort Belknap Indian Community
- 81. Fort Independence Indian Reservation
- 82. Fort McDermitt Paiute-Shoshone Indian Tribe
- 83. Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation of
- 84. Fort Mojave Indian Tribe
- 85. Fort Sill Apache Tribe of Oklahoma
  - 86. Gila River Indian Community
- 87. Grand Portage Band of Minnesota Indians
- 88. Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa
- 89. Greenville Rancheria of Maidu Indians
- 90. Grindstone Indian Rancheria of Wintun
  - 91. Guidiville Indian Reservation
  - 92. Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake
  - 93. Hannahville Indian Community
  - 94. Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin
  - 95. Hoopa Valley Tribe
  - 96. Hopland Band of Pomo Indians
  - 97. Hualapai Indian Tribe
- 98. Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska
  - 99. Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma
- 100. Jackson Rancheria Band of Mewuk Indians
  - 101. Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
  - 102. Jamul Indian Village of California

- 103. Jena Band of Choctaw Indians
- 104. Jicarilla Apache Nation
- 105. Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians
- 106. Kalispel Tribe of Indians
- 107. Karuk Tribe of California
- 108. Kaw Nation of Oklahoma
- 109. Keweenaw Bay Indian Community
- 110. Kialegee Tribal Town of Oklahoma
- 111. Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas
- 112. Kickapoo Nation of Kansas
- 113. Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma
- 114. Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma
- 115. Klamath Tribes of Oregon
- 116. Klawock Cooperative Association
- 117. Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
- 118. LaJolla Band of Luiseno Mission Indians
- 119. La Posta Band of Diegueno Mission Indians
- 120. Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
- 121. Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
- 122. Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
  - 123. Las Vegas Paiute Tribe
- 124. Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Indians
- 125. Little River Band of Ottawa Chippewa
- 126. Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians
  - 127. Lower Brule Sioux Tribe
  - 128. Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe
  - 129. Lower Sioux Indian Community
- 130. Lummi Tribe of the Lummi Reservation
  - 131. Lytton Band of Pomo Indians
- 132. Makah Indian Tribe of the Makah Indian Reservation
- 133. Manchester Band of Pomo Indians
- 134. Manzanita Band of Diegueno Mission Indians
- 135. Mashantucket Pequot Tribe of Connecticut
- 136. Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Potawatomi Indians of Michigan
- 137. Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria
- 138. Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin
  - 139. Mescalero Apache Tribe
- 140. Metlakatla Indian Community of Annette Island of Alaska
  - 141. Miami Tribe of Oklahoma
- 142. Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida
- 143. Middletown Rancheria of Pomo Indians
- 144. Mille Lacs Band of Minnesota Chippewa
- 145. Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
  - 146. Moapa Band of Pauites
  - 147. Modoc Tribe of Oklahoma

148. Mohegan Indian Tribe of Connecticut

149. Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians

150. Morongo Band of Cahuilla Mission Indians

151. Muckleshoot Indian Tribe

152. Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma

153. Narragansett Indian Tribe

154. Navajo Nation

155. Nez Perce Tribe of Idaho

156. Nisqually Indian Tribe

157. Nooksack Indian Tribe of Washington

158. Northern Arapaho Tribe of the Wind River Indians

159. Northern Cheyenne Tribe

160. Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi

161. Oglala Sioux Tribe of Pine Ridge

162. Ohkay Owingeh

163. Omaha Tribe of Nebraska

164. Oneida Nation of New York

165. Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin

166. Organized Village of Kake

167. Osage Tribe of Oklahoma

168. Otoe-Missouria Tribe of Oklahoma

169. Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma

170. Paiute-Shoshone Indians of the Bishop Community of the Bishop Colony

171. Pala Band of Luiseno Mission Indians

172. Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona

173. Paskenta Band of Nomlaki

174. Passamaguoddy Tribe

175. Pauma-Yuima Band of Luiseno Mission Indians

176. Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma

177. Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians

178. Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma

179. Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians

180. Pinoleville Indian Reservation

181. Pit River Tribe

182. Poarch Band of Creek Indians

183. Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians

184. Ponca Nation of Oklahoma

185. Ponca Tribe of Nebraska

186. Port Gamble S'Klallam Indian Community

187. Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation in Kansas

188. Prairie Island Indian Community

189. Pueblo of Acoma

190. Pueblo of Isleta

191. Pueblo of Jemez 192. Pueblo of Laguna

193. Pueblo of Nambe

194. Pueblo of Picuris

195. Pueblo of Pojoaque

196. Pueblo of San Felipe

197. Pueblo of San Ildefonso

198. Pueblo of Sandia

199. Pueblo of Santa Ana 200. Pueblo of Santa Clara

201. Pueblo of Santo Domingo

202. Pueblo of Taos

203. Pueblo of Tesuque

204. Puyallup Tribe of Indians

205. Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe 206. Quapaw Tribe of Indians of

Oklahoma

207. Quartz Valley Indian Comminity

208. Quechan Tribe of Fort Yuma

209. Quileute Tribe

210. Quinault Indian Tribe

211. Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior

Chippewa Indians

212. Red Cliff, Sokaogon Chippewa

and Lac Courte Oreilles Band

213. Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians

214. Redding Rancheria

215. Redwood Valley Rancheria of Pomo Indians

216. Reno-Sparks Indian Colony

217. Resighini Rancheria of Coast **Indian Community** 

218. Rincon San Luiseno Band of Mission Indians

219. Robinson Rancheria of Pomo Indians

220. Rosebud Sioux Tribe

221. Round Valley Indian Tribes

222. Rumsey Indian Rancheria of

Wintun Indians

223. Sac & Fox Nation of Oklahoma 224. Sac & Fox Tribe of Mississippi in

Iowa

225. Sac & Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska

226. Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan

227. Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community

228. Samish Indian Tribe of Washington

229. San Carlos Apache Tribe of Arizona

230. San Manuel Band of Serrano

Mission Indians 231. San Pasqual Band of Diegueno

Mission Indians 232. Santa Rosa Band of Tachi Indians 233. Santa Ynez Band of Chumash

Mission Indians

234. Santa Ysabel Band of Diegueno Mission Indians

235. Santee Sioux Nation

236. Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe

237. Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of

Chippewa Indians

238. Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians

239. Seminole Tribe of Florida

240. Seminole Tribe of Oklahoma

241. Seneca Nation of Indians of New York

242. Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma

243. Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community

244. Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma

245. Sherwood Valley Rancheria of Pomo Indians

246. Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians

247. Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe

248. Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of Fort Hall

249. Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux Tribe of Lake Traverse Reservation

250. Skokomish Indian Tribe

251. Smith River Rancheria

252. Snoqualmie Tribe of Washington

253. Soboba Band of Mission Indians

254. Sokaogon Chippewa Community 255. Southern Ute Indian Tribe

256. Spirit Lake Sioux Tribe

257. Spokane Tribe of Indians

258. Squaxin Island Tribe

259. St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin

260. St. Regis Mohawk Tribe of New

261. Standing Rock Sioux Tribe

262. Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians

263. Stockbridge-Munsee Community

264. Suquamish Indian Tribe

265. Susanville Indian Rancheria

266. Swinomish Indian Tribal

Community

267. Sycuan Band of Mission Indians

268. Table Mountain Rancheria

269. Te-Moak Tribe of Western

Shoshone

270. Thlopthlocco Tribal Town 271. Three Affiliated Tribes of the

Fort Berthold Reservation

272. Timbisha Shoshone Tribe

273. Tohono O'odham Nation 274. Tonkawa Tribe of Indians of

Oklahoma

275. Tonto Apache Tribe 276. Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla

Indians 277. Tulalip Tribes of Washington

278. Tule River Tribe 279. Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana

280. Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk

Indians 281. Turtle Mountain Band of

Chippewa Indians 282. Twenty Nine Palms Band of

Mission Indians 283. United Auburn Indian

Community 284. United Keetoowah Band of

Cherokee Indians 285. Upper Sioux Community

286. Upper Skagit Indian Tribe of

Washington 287. Ute Mountain Ute Tribe

288. U-tu Utu Gwaitu Paiute Tribe of Benton Paiute Reservation

289. Viejas Band of Mission Indians

290. Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California

291. White Earth Band of Minnesota Chippewa Indians

292. White Mountain Apache Tribe 293. Wichita and Affiliated Tribes of Oklahoma

294. Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska 295. Wiyot Tribe of Table Bluff Reservation

296. Wyandotte Nation of Oklahoma

297. Yankton Sioux Tribe

298. Yavapai Apache Nation of Camp Verde Indians

299. Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe 300. Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo of Texas 301. Yurok Tribe of Yurok

Reservation

#### Philip N. Hogen,

Chairman, National Indian Gaming Commission.

[FR Doc. E9–14655 Filed 6–22–09; 8:45 am] **BILLING CODE 7565–02–P** 

### **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

### Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R2-R-2008-N0257; 20131-1265-2CCP-S3]

## Texas Mid-Coast Refuge Complex, Brazoria and Matagorda Counties, TX

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

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare a comprehensive conservation plan and environmental assessment; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), intend to prepare a comprehensive conservation plan (CCP) and environmental assessment (EA) for the Texas Mid-Coast Refuge Complex (Complex). The Complex consists of the following refuges: Brazoria and San Bernard, located in Brazoria County, and Big Boggy in Matagorda County, Texas. Discontinuous refuge parcels and conservation easements, located primarily within the forested bottomlands of the Brazos River, San Bernard River, and Colorado River basins, in Brazoria, Wharton, and Fort Bend counties, are also part of the Complex. We provide this notice in compliance with our CCP policy to advise other Federal and State agencies, Tribes, and the public of our intentions, and to obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues to consider in the planning process.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, we must receive your written comments by September 21, 2009. We will hold open house meetings during the scoping phase of the Draft CCP development process. We will announce the dates, times, and places for all meetings in the local media.

ADDRESSES: Comments, questions, and requests for more information regarding the planning process should be sent to: Carol Torrez, Biologist/Natural Resource Planner, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Planning, P.O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, NM 87103–1306. Comments may also be submitted via electronic mail to: carol\_torrez@fws.gov.

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jennifer Sanchez, Project Leader, Telephone: 979–964–4011; Fax: 979– 964–4021, or Carol Torrez, Biologist/ Natural Resource Planner, Telephone: 505–248–6821, Fax: 505–248–6874.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Introduction

With this notice, we initiate our process for developing a CCP for the Texas Mid-Coast Refuge Complex, which includes the following refuges: Brazoria and San Bernard, located in Brazoria County, and Big Boggy in Matagorda County, Texas. Discontinuous refuge parcels and conservation easements, located primarily within the forested bottomlands of the Brazos, San Bernard, and Colorado Rivers basins, are also part of the Complex.

This notice complies with our CCP policy to (1) advise other Federal and State agencies, Tribes, and the public of our intention to conduct detailed planning on these Refuges, and (2) obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues to consider in the environmental document and during development of the CCP.

### **Background**

The CCP Process

The National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 668dd-668ee) (Improvement Act), which amended the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, requires us to develop a CCP for each National Wildlife Refuge. The purpose for developing a CCP is to provide Refuge Managers with a 15-year strategy for achieving refuge purposes and contributing toward the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System, consistent with sound principles of fish and wildlife management, conservation, legal mandates, and our policies. In addition to outlining broad management direction on conserving wildlife and their habitats, CCPs identify wildlifedependent recreational opportunities available to the public, including opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, wildlife photography, and environmental education and interpretation. We will review and update the CCP at least

every 15 years in accordance with the Improvement Act.

Each unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System was established for specific purposes. We use these purposes as the foundation for developing and prioritizing the management goals and objectives for each refuge within the National Wildlife Refuge System mission, and to determine how the public can use each refuge. The planning process is a way for us and the public to evaluate management goals and objectives for the best possible conservation approach to this important wildlife habitat, while providing for wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities that are compatible with each refuge's establishing purposes and the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Our CCP process provides participation opportunities for Tribal, State, and local governments; agencies; organizations; and the public. At this time we encourage input in the form of issues, concerns, ideas, and suggestions for the future management of the Complex. Special mailings, newspaper articles, and other media outlets will be used to announce opportunities for input throughout the planning process.

We will conduct the 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.

Texas Mid-Coast Refuge Complex

The Complex is located along the upper Texas Gulf Coast and consists of three refuges (Brazoria, San Bernard, and Big Boggy NWRs), and parcels and conservation easements located throughout the Columbia Bottomlands region. All three of the Refuges are comprised largely of coastal marsh with tidal interchange along the Gulf of Mexico and were originally established for use as an inviolate sanctuary, or for any other management purpose, for migratory birds. These coastal marsh communities grade inland into coastal prairie, which gives way to bottomland forests along the rivers and bayous. The CCP will provide other agencies and the public with a clear understanding of the desired conditions for the Complex, and how the Service will implement management strategies for the conservation and development of these natural resources.

We estimate that the draft environmental documents will be