

(C) Consult with all stakeholders and assess the user involvement and buy-in regarding system functionality and the system's ability to meet program needs.

(D) Conduct an analysis of past project performance sufficient to identify and make recommendations for improvement.

(E) Provide a risk management assessment and capacity planning services.

(F) Develop performance metrics which allow tracking project completion against milestones set by the State.

(iii) The RFP and contract for selecting the IV&V provider (or similar documents if IV&V services are provided by other State agencies) must include the experience and skills of the key personnel proposed for the IV&V analysis and specify by name the key personnel who actually will work on the project and must be submitted to OCSE for prior approval.

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§ 307.25 [Amended]

9. Section 307.25 is amended by replacing the citation “§ 307.10” with the citations “§§ 307.10, or 307.11” in the introductory text.

10. Section 307.30 is amended by revising paragraph (a) introductory text and paragraph (b) to read as follows:

* * * * *

(a) *Conditions that must be met for FFP.* During Federal fiscal years 1996, and 1997, Federal financial participation is available at the 90 percent rate in expenditures for the planning, design, development, installation or enhancement of a computerized support enforcement system as described in §§ 307.5 and 307.10 of this chapter limited to the amount in an advance planning document, or APDU submitted on or before September 30, 1995, and approved by OCSE if:

* * * * *

(b) *Federal financial participation in the costs of hardware and proprietary software.* (1) Until September 30, 1997, FFP at the 90 percent rate is available in expenditures for the rental or purchase of hardware for the planning, design, development, installation or enhancement of a computerized support enforcement system as described in § 307.10 in accordance with the limitation in paragraph (a) of this section.

(2) Until September 30, 1997, FFP at the 90 percent rate is available for expenditures for the rental or purchase of proprietary operating/vendor software necessary for the operation of hardware during the planning, design,

development, installation or enhancement of a computerized support enforcement system in accordance with the limitation in paragraph (a) of this section, and the OCSE guideline entitled “Automated Systems for Child Support Enforcement: A Guide for States.” FFP at the 90 percent rate is not available for proprietary application software developed specifically for a computerized support enforcement system. (See § 307.35 of this part regarding reimbursement at the applicable matching rate.)

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§ 307.35 [Amended]

11. Section 307.35 is amended by replacing the citation “§ 307.10” with the citations “§§ 307.10, or 307.11” in paragraph (a).

§ 307.40 [Amended]

12. Section 307.40 is amended by replacing the citation “§ 307.10” with the citations “§§ 307.10, or 307.11” in paragraph (a).

[FR Doc. 98-7714 Filed 3-24-98; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4150-04-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 17

RIN 1018-AE38

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Notice of Public Hearings and Reopening of Comment Period on Proposed Rule to List the Flatwoods Salamander as Threatened

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Proposed rule; notice of public hearings and reopening of comment period.

SUMMARY: The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended, gives notice that two public hearings will be held on its proposal to list the flatwoods salamander (*Ambystoma cingulatum*) as a threatened species. The Service also announces the reopening of the comment period for this action. The public hearings and the reopening of the comment period will allow additional comments on this proposal to be submitted from all interested parties.

DATES: The first public hearing will be held from 7 to 10 p.m. on April 14, 1998, in Savannah, Georgia. The second public hearing will be held on the evening of April 15, 1998, from 7 to 10

p.m. in Tallahassee, Florida. The comment period on the proposal, which originally closed on February 17, 1998, is now reopened until June 1, 1998. Any comments received by the closing date will be considered in the final decision on this proposal.

ADDRESSES: The April 14 public hearing will be held in the Auditorium at the Savannah Technical Institute, 5717 White Bluff Road, Savannah, Georgia. The April 15 public hearing will be at the Hermitage Centre, Hermitage Room, 1801 Hermitage Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida. Written comments and materials concerning the proposal may be submitted at the hearing or sent directly to the Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 6578 Dogwood View Parkway, Jackson, Mississippi 39213. Comments and materials received will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cary Norquist at the above address (601/965-4900, ext. 28; facsimile 601/965-4340).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The flatwoods salamander occurs in isolated populations in open, moist, longleaf/slash pine flatwoods across the lower southeastern Coastal Plain in Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina. Habitat loss and degradation from agriculture, urbanization, and certain silvicultural practices are the primary threats to the species. On December 16, 1997, the Service published a rule proposing threatened status for the flatwoods salamander in the **Federal Register** (62 FR 65787-65794). Section 4(b)(5)(E) of the Act requires that a public hearing be held if it is requested within 45 days of the publication of the proposed rule. Public hearing requests were received within the allotted time period from Rayonier (Southeast Forest Resources) and the Florida Forestry Association in Florida; Georgia-Pacific and Gilman Paper Company in Georgia; and the American Forest & Paper Association in Washington, DC.

The Service has scheduled these hearings for 7 to 10 p.m. on April 14, 1998, in Savannah, Georgia, and 7 to 10 p.m. on April 15, 1998, in Tallahassee, Florida. Anyone expecting to make an oral presentation at these hearings is encouraged to provide a written copy of their statement to the hearing officer prior to the start of the hearing. In the event there is a large attendance, the time allotted for oral statements may have to be limited. Oral and written statements receive equal consideration.

There are no limits to the length of written comments presented at these hearings or mailed to the Service. Legal notices announcing the date, time, and location of the hearings are being published in newspapers concurrently with this **Federal Register** notice.

The comment period on the proposal initially closed on February 17, 1998. To accommodate the hearing, the public comment period is now reopened. Written comments may be submitted until June 1, 1998, to the Field Supervisor (see **ADDRESSES** section).

Author: The primary author of this document is Cary Norquist (see **ADDRESSES** section).

Authority: The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Dated: March 18, 1998.

Judy L. Jones,

Acting Regional Director, Region 4, Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 98-7695 Filed 3-24-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-0

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 20

RIN 1018-AD74

Migratory Bird Hunting: Regulations Regarding Baiting and Baited Areas

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Service proposes to clarify and simplify the migratory game bird hunting regulations regarding baiting. The Service is proposing these changes after an extensive review of the current regulations and in response to public concern about interpretation and clarity of the current regulations, especially with respect to current migratory bird habitat conservation practices (i.e., moist-soil management).

The Service proposes new regulatory language for: Accidental scattering of agricultural crops or natural vegetation incidental to hunting, normal agricultural and soil stabilization practices, baited areas, baiting, manipulation, natural vegetation, and top-sowing of seeds. Proposed changes include new guidance with respect to hunting over natural vegetation that has been manipulated.

The Service invites public comment on this proposed rulemaking and will carefully review and consider all comments received prior to any final rulemaking.

DATES: Comments on this proposed rulemaking must be received by May 26, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Comments regarding this proposed rulemaking should be addressed to: Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Post Office Box 3247, Arlington, Virginia 22203-3247. Comments may be hand delivered to 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 500, Arlington, Virginia 22203. The public may inspect comments during normal business hours at 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 500, Arlington, Virginia 22203.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kevin Adams, Chief, Division of Law Enforcement, telephone 703/358-1949, or Paul Schmidt, Chief, Office of Migratory Bird Management, telephone 703/358-1714.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has authority (16 U.S.C. 703-712 and 16 U.S.C. 742a-j) to regulate activities involving the hunting and other taking of migratory game birds. The Service has promulgated regulations (50 CFR part 20) for the hunting of migratory game birds that includes sections for *Methods of Take* and *Definitions of Terms*.

First established in 1935, the migratory game bird hunting regulations have been substantially modified over the last 60 years to allow more effective management of migratory game bird populations and to respond to public concerns. The Service last modified the portion of the regulations specific to baiting and hunting over baited areas [50 CFR 20.21(i)] in 1973.

The Service has recently received comments from various State wildlife management agencies, the general public, hunters, and conservation organizations to the effect that the baiting regulations are outdated, unclear, and difficult for the general public to interpret and understand. While the Service is attempting to simplify and clarify the regulations in this proposed rulemaking, the Service must also ensure that any proposed changes will both provide continued control over unlawful baiting activities and encourage habitat conservation and management for the benefit of migratory birds.

In 1991, the Service published its intent to review multiple wildlife regulations, including the regulations covering migratory birds, in a **Federal Register** notice dated November 14, 1991 (56 FR 57872). Subsequently, in a **Federal Register** notice dated December 1, 1993 (58 FR 63488), the Service published its intent to further review

the migratory bird regulations in 50 CFR parts 20 and 21, subpart D. On March 22, 1996, the Service announced its intent in the **Federal Register** (61 FR 11805) to review the migratory bird hunting regulations specific to waterfowl baiting separately from review of other portions of the regulations pending Service assessment of the moist-soil management aspect (manipulation of natural vegetation). However, the Service has recently decided that in order to achieve the necessary clarity and simplicity in the current regulations, it should review the baiting regulations for all migratory game birds, not just waterfowl. All of the public comments received by the Service in response to the prior **Federal Register** notices have been carefully considered during development of this proposed rule.

In addition to the **Federal Register** notices detailed above inviting public comments, on March 22, 1996, the Service requested the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (International) to review waterfowl baiting issues involving moist-soil management and make recommendations to the Service. In developing its recommendations, the Service suggested that the International would likely need a working group that represented a broad range of use interests. In May 1997, the International submitted comments to the Service that have been reviewed and considered during development of this proposed rule.

Overview of Proposed Changes

The Service proposes to add new definitions to 50 CFR 20.11, *Meaning of Terms*, for the following terms: *baited area*, *baiting*, *manipulation*, *natural vegetation*, and *normal agricultural and soil stabilization practice*. The purpose of these additions to section 20.11 is to provide a base of reference for terminology used in the regulation and to remove perceived ambiguity about what the Service means when using a particular term. For simplification of the regulations, the Service also proposes to add new language to section 20.21(i), *Methods of Take*, regarding baited areas and baiting.

The Service is proposing new regulatory language to address situations involving the accidental scattering of grains or seeds from agricultural crops or natural vegetation incidental to a migratory game bird hunter's activities. Specific concerns include entering or exiting hunting areas, placing decoys, retrieving downed birds, and using natural vegetation to camouflage blinds.