Dated: June 20, 1996.

L.M. Bynum,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

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Department of the Army

Revised Army-Wide Guidelines for the Management of the Red-Cockaded Woodpecker on Army Installations

AGENCY: Department of the Army, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Army has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) and a draft finding of no significant impact (FNSI) for assessing the impacts associated with its revision to Army-wide guidelines for the management of the red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW) on Army installations. The new guidelines will replace existing guidelines approved in 1994. The RCW is a federally listed endangered species found on seven Army installations in the southeastern United States: Fort Bragg and Sunny Point Military Ocean Terminal, North Carolina; Forts Stewart, Benning and Gordon Georgia; Fort Jackson, South Carolina; and Fort Polk, Louisiana. The following Army installations do not currently have RCWs but have sites indicating past RCW presence: Forts Rucker and McClellan, Alabama; Camp Shelby, Mississippi; and Louisiana Army Ammunition Plant, Louisiana. The purpose of the revision is to improve the effectiveness of Army-wide RCW management in compliance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) while maintaining the Army's ability to train and prepare soldiers for military conflict. The revised guidelines will be used by Army installations as baseline standards in preparing their RCW management plans. In the revised guidelines, the Army identified measures which should increase RCW populations on military installations while simultaneously enhancing the realism of military training conducted on military installations with RCW populations.

As part of the guidelines revision process, the Army has prepared an EA in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the regulations published by the Council on Environmental Quality, and the Army's NEPA implementing regulations—Army Regulation 200–2, Environmental Effects of Army Actions, dated December 23, 1988. Additionally, the Army has prepared a biological assessment under the ESA to assess the effects of the revised guidelines on endangered and threatened species. The Army announced commencement of the guidelines revision process in the Federal Register on March 13, 1996, and invited public participation (61 FR 10330). One comment was received from the public during the process and has been addressed in the EA. The data, analyses, and conclusions developed through the course of the revisions process, and incorporated and documented in the EA, provide the basis for the conclusion that the guidelines will not have a significant impact upon the environment. The Army has documented and explained this conclusion in a draft FNSI and will implement the revised Army RCW management guidelines, upon completion of consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in accordance with the ESA.

APPROVAL DATE: The Army shall publish the draft FNSI in its present form, as final, 30 days after publication of this notice unless the public identifies significant new issues of environmental concern. Upon publication of the final FNSI and completion of the ESA, Section 7 process, the Army shall immediately proceed with implementation of the revised guidelines.

ADDRESSES: Written comments or requests to obtain a copy of the EA and draft FNSI, with draft RCW management guidelines and biological assessment attached, may be forwarded to: Headquarters, Department of the Army, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans, ATTN: DAMO–TRS (Army Endangered Species Team), Washington, DC 20310–0400.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions regarding this action may be directed to: Major Mark R. Lindon, Army Endangered Species Team, (703) 695–2452; Mr. Phil Pierce, Army Endangered Species Team, (703) 693–0678; or Major Thomas E. Ayres, Army Endangered Species Team, (703) 696–1572.

Raymond J. Fatz,

Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Environment, Safety and Occupational Health) OASA (I, L&E).

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The Director, Information Resources Group, invites comments on the proposed information collection requests as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before August 26, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and requests for copies of the proposed information collection requests should be addressed to Patrick J. Sherrill, Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 5624, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202–4651.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patrick J. Sherrill (202) 708–8196. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. OMB may amend or waive the requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere with any agency's ability to perform its statutory obligations. The Director of the Information Resources Group publishes this notice containing proposed information collection requests prior to submission of these requests to OMB. Each proposed information collection, grouped by office, contains the following: (1) Type of review requested, e.g., new, revision, extension, existing or reinstatement; (2) Title; (3) Summary of the collection; (4) Description of the need for, and proposed use of, the information; (5) Respondents and frequency of collection; and (6) Reporting and/or Recordkeeping burden. OMB invites public comment at the address specified above. Copies of the requests are available from Patrick J. Sherrill at the address specified above.

The Department of Education is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) Is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department, (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner, (3) is the estimate of burden accurate, (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected, and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology.