tailed deer, squirrels, and rabbits. A waterfowl hunting program is totally dependent on the capability of being able to have dependable water sources to maintain optimum water levels for waterfowl hunting. Seasons and bag limits for resident game seasons hunting will be within the guidelines established by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, but will likely be more conservative. The hunting program will be reviewed on an annual basis and revisions will be made accordingly.

The sport hunting program will be monitored by refuge personnel. Currently, the refuge is operating at the "custodial level" with only one staff member—the refuge manager. Resources from other refuges (Tensas River, Catahoula, and Lake Ophelia) will be utilized to help administer the hunt programs.

To facilitate the distribution of news releases, the refuge will maintain a mailing list for newspapers, local radio and television stations. News releases will be developed announcing the hunting season dates, where regulations can be obtained, and other pertinent information.

Opening the refuge to upland game and big game hunting has been found to be compatible in a separate compatibility determination. This determination noted that time and zone restrictions would be implemented as land acquisition progressed to ensure continued compatibility. A Section 7 evaluation pursuant to the Endangered Species Act was conducted and it was determined that the hunt opening is not likely to adversely affect any Federally listed or proposed for listing threatened or endangered species or their critical habitats. Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), an environmental assessment was made and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was made regarding the hunt. Numerous contacts were made throughout the area of the refuge soliciting comments on the hunting plan. The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries concurs and fully supports the regulated recreational hunting program at the refuge.

The Service has determined that there would be sufficient funds to administer the hunt pursuant to the requirements of the Refuge Recreation Act. The cost of the hunt program is estimated to be approximately \$25,000 for the initial year and \$10,000 per year thereafter. Sufficient funds would be available within the refuge unit budget to operate such a hunt. It is estimated, further, that

10,000 hunter visits per year would take place.

Paperwork Reduction Act

The information collection requirements for part 32 are found in 50 CFR part 25 and have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget under 44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq. and assigned clearance number 1018–0014. The information is being collected to assist the Service in administering these programs in accordance with statutory authorities which require that recreational uses be compatible with the primary purposes for which the areas were established. The information requested in the application form is required to obtain a benefit.

The public reporting burden for the application form is estimated to average six (6) minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing the form. Direct comments on the burden estimate or any other aspect of this form to the Service Information Collection Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1849 C Street, NW, MS 224 ARLSQ, Washington, DC 20240; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (1018–0014), Washington, DC 20503.

Economic Effect

This rulemaking was not subject to Office of Management and Budget review under Executive Order 12866. In addition, a review under the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 (5 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) has revealed that the rulemaking would not have a significant effect on a substantial number of small entities, which include businesses, organizations or governmental jurisdictions. This rule would have minimal effect on such entities.

Federalism

This rule will not have substantial direct effects on the States, on the relationship between the national government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government. Therefore, in accordance with Executive Order 12612, it is determined that this rule does not have sufficient Federalism implications to warrant the preparation of a Federalism Assessment.

Environmental Considerations

Pursuant to the requirements of section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)), an environmental assessment has been prepared for this

opening. Based upon the Environmental Assessments, the Service issued a Finding of No Significant Impact with respect to the opening. A Section 7 evaluation was prepared pursuant to the Endangered Species Act with a finding that no adverse impact would occur to any identified threatened or endangered species.

Primary Author

Duncan L. Brown, Esq., Division of Refuges, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, DC, is the primary author of this rulemaking document.

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 32

Hunting, Fishing, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Wildlife, Wildlife refuges.

Accordingly, part 32 of chapter I of Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations is amended as set forth below:

PART 32—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for part 32 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 301; 16 U.S.C. 460k, 664, 668dd, and 715i.

- 2. Section 32.7 List of refuge units open to hunting and/or fishing is amended by adding alphabetically "Bayou Cocodrie National Wildlife Refuge" to the listing under the state of Louisiana.
- 3. Section 32.37 *Louisiana* is amended by adding alphabetically Bayou Cocodrie National Wildlife Refuge to the listing to read as follows:

§ 32.37 Louisiana.

* * * * *

Bayou Cocodrie National Wildlife Refuge

A. Hunting of Migratory Game Birds. [Reserved.]

B. Upland Game Hunting. Hunting of squirrel, rabbit, raccoon, opossum and coyote is permitted on designated areas of the refuge subject to the following condition: Permits are required.

C. Big Game Hunting. Hunting of white-tailed deer is permitted on designated areas of the refuge subject to the following condition: Permits are required.

D. Sport Fishing. [Reserved.]

Dated: December 16, 1994.

George T. Frampton, Jr.,

Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

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