downgrade of the vacant and unapplied for Channel 248C at Wallace, Idaho, to Channel 248C2. See Supplemental Information, infra.

DATES: Comments must be filed on June 10, 1991, and reply comments on or before June 25, 1991.

ADDRESSES: Federal Communications Commission, Washington, DC 20554. In addition to filing comments with the FCC, interested parties should serve the following: Duane J. Polich, President, P–N–P Broadcasting, Inc., P.O. Box 2869, Othello, Washington, 99944–2869 (Petitioner); and Edward B. Cohen, Esq., 1752 N Street, NW., #600, Washington, DC 20036 (Counsel to Station KSYN).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sharon P. McDonald, Mass Media Bureau (202) 634–6530.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a synopsis of the Commission’s notice of proposed rule making, MM Docket No. 91–91, adopted April 5, 1991, and released April 19, 1991. The full text of this Commission decision is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the FCC Dockets Branch (room 230), 1919 M Street, NW., Washington, DC. The completeness of this decision may also be purchased from the Commission’s copy contractor, Dównowsky Copy Center (202) 452–1422, 1714 21st Street, NW., Washington, DC 20036.

Channel 248C1 can be allotted to Othello in compliance with the Commission’s minimum distance separation requirements with a site restriction of 14.0 kilometers (8.7 miles) southwest to avoid a short-spacing to the proposed allotment at Davenport, Washington, at coordinates North Latitude 46–45–28 and West Longitude 119–19–10. Channel 248A can be allotted to East Wenatchee in compliance with the Commission’s minimum distance separation requirements with a site restriction of 4.1 kilometers (2.6 miles) south to avoid a short-spacing to Station KEYP(FM), Channel 266C, Cheney, Washington, at coordinates North Latitude 47–22–52 and West Longitude 120–17–16. Channel 294A can be allotted to Cashmere in compliance with the Commission’s minimum distance requirements with a site restriction of 4.2 kilometers (2.6 miles) west to avoid a short-spacing to Station KKNW, Channel 295C1, Bremerton, Washington, at coordinates North Latitude 47–30–35 and West Longitude 120–31–24. Channel 248C can be downgraded to Channel 248C2 at Wallace in compliance with the Commission’s minimum distance separation requirements with a site restriction of 1.3 kilometers (0.8 miles) northeast to avoid a short-spacing to Station KISC, Channel 251C, Spokane, Washington, at coordinates North Latitude 47–28–40 and West Longitude 115–54–30. Canadian concurrence is required since Othello, East Wenatchee, Cashmere and Wallace are located within 320 kilometers (200 miles) of the U.S.-Canadian border. In accordance with § 1.420(g) of the Commission’s Rules, we will not accept competing expressions of interest in the use of Channel 248C1 at Othello or require the petitioner to demonstrate the availability of an additional equivalent class channel.

Provisions of the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 do not apply to this proceeding.

Members of the public should note that from the time a notice of proposed rule making is issued until the matter is no longer subject to Commission consideration or court review, all ex parte contacts are prohibited in Commission proceedings, as such as this one, which involve channel allotments. See 47 CFR 1.1200(b) for rules governing permissible ex parte contacts.

For information regarding proper filing procedures for comments, see 47 CFR 1.415 and 1.420.

List of Subjects in 47 CFR Part 73

Radio broadcasting.

Federal Communications Commission.

Andrew J. Rhodes,
Chief, Allocations Branch, Policy and Rules Division, Mass Media Bureau.

[FR Doc. 91–9993 Filed 4–24–91; 8:43 am]

BILLING CODE 6712–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 17

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; 90–Day Findings and Commencement of Status Reviews for a Petition to List the Steller’s and Spectacled Eiders as Endangered

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of petition findings.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces 90–day findings for a petition to add the Steller’s eider (Polysticta stelleri) and the spectacled eider (Somateria fischeri) to the List of Threatened and Endangered Wildlife. The Service finds that the petition presents substantial information indicating that the requested action may be warranted. Through issuance of this notice, the Service is commencing a formal review of the status of these species.

DATES: The finding announced in this notice was made March 6, 1991.

Comments and materials related to this petition finding may be submitted to the Field Supervisor at the address listed below until further notice.

ADDRESSES: Information, comments, and questions concerning the Steller’s and spectacled eider petition may be submitted to the Field Supervisor, Ecological Services Anchorage Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 605 W. 4th Avenue, room G–62, Anchorage, Alaska, 99501. The petition, finding, supporting data, and comments are available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David E. McGillivary (907/271–2886 or FTS 886–2886) at the above address.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Background

Section 4(b)(9)(A) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) (16 U.S.C. 1531–1544), requires that the Service make a finding on whether a petition to list, delist, or reclassify a species presents substantial scientific or commercial information to indicate that the petitioned action may be warranted. To the maximum extent practicable, this finding is to be made within 90 days of the receipt of the petition, and the finding is to be published promptly in the Federal Register.

On December 10, 1990, the Fish and Wildlife Service received a petition from Mr. James G. King to list the Steller’s eider (Polysticta stelleri) and spectacled eider (Somateria fischeri) as endangered species. Mr. King submitted biological, distributional, and historical information, and cited several scientific articles in support of the petition. The petition describes these species as imperiled because of potential significant reductions in population over the past several decades and potential threats throughout their ranges.

Compared to more heavily hunted and widespread species of North American waterfowl, relatively little emphasis has been placed on tracking the population status of Steller’s and spectacled eiders. Their distributions generally do not coincide with standardized surveys directed toward other species. With the exception of data collected for spectacled eiders on the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge (Yukon Delta) and winter surveys for Steller’s eiders on the Alaska Peninsula, information regarding the populations and
distribution of these species is chiefly from historical and incidental observations.

The center of nesting for Steller's eider is the Siberian arctic. In Alaska, the Steller's eider primarily nested along the coast of the Yukon Delta and near Barrow, Alaska. An historical account from 1924 indicates that Steller's eiders were locally "common" on the Yukon Delta, although relatively few nesting records have been documented there. In recent years, three nests were found during waterfowl investigations in 1969, and the last recorded nesting on the Yukon Delta was of a single nest in 1975.

No population estimate is available for Steller's eiders nesting near Barrow, Alaska. Historical accounts beginning over 100 years ago suggest that the species was a rare, but regular, nester in the Barrow area. A total of 17 nests were recorded between 1975 and 1980, but no nests have been reported over the last decade.

The majority of the world's population of Steller's eider winters along the north side of the Alaska Peninsula. Banding data collected since 1961 shows that the majority of Steller's eiders wintering in Alaska are from Siberia, and winter survey data collected over the past 16 years show a decline of over 50 percent in the number of wintering birds. This coincides with nesting population declines reported in Siberia, where the species is now considered rare (Solomonov, N.G. 1987. Red Book of the Yakutsk Autonomous Republic. Nauka Publ., Novisibirsk, USSR. Transl. A. Crow, 1990, Anchorage).

The Yukon Delta coast is the world's primary breeding location for the spectacled eider, and it apparently nests in low numbers across the arctic coastal plain. In the remainder of coastal Alaska, north and east of the Yukon Delta, the species is considered a rare nester. Nesting concentrations also occur along the northern coast of Siberia.

It is estimated that the Yukon Delta supported between 50,000 and 70,000 pairs of nesting spectacled eiders during the early 1970's. Since then, an estimated yearly decline of 13 percent has been reported, resulting in a total decline of approximately 54 percent. Although based on relatively few study plots on the Yukon Delta, these estimates correspond to the results of greater than 30 years of aerial breeding-pair surveys in western Alaska.

The wintering locations of the spectacled eider are unknown, although it is suspected that the population winters off shore in the Bering Sea along the edge of the pack ice. Lacking this essential knowledge, no survey of wintering spectacled eiders has been accomplished.

Although the causes of these population declines are not known, potential threats to both eider species include: Increased predation, habitat loss, oil pollution, subsistence hunting, industrial pollution, fish-net mortalities, and changes in marine ecology.

Based on the best scientific and commercial information currently available, the Service finds that the petition to list the Steller's and spectacled eiders presents substantial information indicating that the requested action may be warranted.

Author

The primary author of this notice is Brian Anderson (see ADDRESSES section).

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 17

Endangered and threatened species, Export, Imports, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, and Transportation.


Bruce Blanchard,
Acting Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
[FR Doc. 91-6785 Filed 4-24-91; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

50 CFR Part 36

Regulations for the Management of Cabins on National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: This proposed rule clarifies, updates and modifies existing regulations on the management of cabins on National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska. These regulations are necessary in order to comply with the National Wildlife Refuge Administration Act of 1966 and the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 concerning the administration of cabins on Alaskan refuges. This proposal is being made to ensure proper and uniform management of all cabins on National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska.

DATES: Comments on these proposed regulations should be received by June 24, 1991.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to Daryle Lons at the address below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Daryle Lons, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1011 E. Tudor Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99503; telephone (907) 786-3361.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Sections 1303 and 1315 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) (16 U.S.C. 3193; 3203-3204) allow the Secretary of the Interior to permit cabins in National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska under certain conditions. Section 304 of ANILCA reemphasizes the authority of the Secretary to prescribe such regulations as necessary to ensure the compatibility of uses with refuge purposes.

The original cabin policy for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) was developed in 1981 and revised in 1984. This policy was in effect for regulations printed in the Code of Federal Regulations title 50. In September 1987, the Service, believing revisions of the existing cabin policy and regulations were needed, published a Draft Cabin Management Policy for cabins on National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska. Comments and suggestions on the draft policy were solicited during a 60-day public review period.

Because of the number and nature of comments received during the public review of the draft policy, the Service made such extensive revisions that a revised draft of the cabin management policy was published in December 1988, to give the public another opportunity to comment before the policy was made final.

The revised draft was completely reorganized, more clearly describing the objectives of the policy, and setting forth the guidelines needed to comply with the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 and the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966. The comment period for the revised draft was also 60 days. The final cabin policy was issued in August, 1989.

The purpose of the cabin policy is to provide uniform guidance to both the public and refuge managers on human use and occupancy of cabins located on National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska. The policy further serves to define under what conditions use and occupancy of a cabin may be compatible with the purposes for which the refuge was established. Compatibility with refuge purposes is implicit in all cabin management decisions.

The next step in the process is to publish proposed rules on which to solicit public comment. This document