

(1) Dedicate a combined total of approximately 23,480 acres to Conservation Areas. TNC, or a comparable third-party conservation organization, will manage in perpetuity the 22,600 acres of Conservation Areas dedicated by the Farm and protected under a permanent conservation easement with the intent of maintaining and improving the imperiled native shrub-steppe and grassland habitats for the Covered Species and other associated wildlife. The PGE Conservation Area, approximately 880 acres, would also be protected from development and managed by PGE for conservation purposes for the life of the MSCCAA.

(2) Provide a 250-foot buffer around all of the Farm Conservation Areas to further restrict land use activities that otherwise could affect the outer edges of the Farm Conservation Area.

(3) Provide funds for the preservation, management, and improvement of the Conservation Areas, including intensive noxious weed control.

(4) Provide funds for conducting extensive monitoring, surveying, notification, and reporting.

(5) Provide restrictions on grazing, ground-disturbing activities, hunting and shooting to avoid or minimize harmful impacts to the Covered Species.

(6) Develop and implement coordinated fire response plans and detailed conservation management plans for the Conservation Areas.

(7) Provide for adaptive management within the Conservation Areas to address changing habitat conditions.

A draft EA has been prepared to address the impacts of issuing ESA

assurances through the MSCCAA for the four covered species. The draft EA evaluates the environmental impacts that may result from implementation of the conservation measures described in the MSCCAA. The draft EA describes five alternatives to the proposed action including the "no action" alternative.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the Act, the Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances standard precluding the need to list, and NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1506.6). The Service will evaluate the permit applications, associated documents, and comments submitted thereon to determine whether the permit applications meet the requirements of section 10(a) of the Act and NEPA regulations. All comments received, including names and addresses, will become part of the administrative record and will be available for review pursuant to section 10(c) of the Act. If we determine that all requirements are met, we will sign the MSCCAA and issue separate permits to the Farm, PGE, TNC, and ODFW for the take of the Covered Species (should they be listed during the term of the permits), incidental to otherwise lawful activities in accordance with the terms of the MSCCAA. The final permit decisions will be made no sooner than 45 days after the date of this notice.

Dated: July 28, 2003.

Carolyn Bohan,

Acting Deputy Regional Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.

[FR Doc. 03-21867 Filed 8-26-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Issuance of Permits

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of issuance of permits for marine mammals.

SUMMARY: The following permits were issued.

ADDRESSES: Documents and other information submitted with these applications are available for review, subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act, by any party who submits a written request for a copy of such documents to: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203; fax 703/358-2281.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Division of Management Authority, telephone 703/358-2104.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given that on the dates below, as authorized by the provisions of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, *as amended* (16 U.S.C. 1531, *et seq.*), and/or the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, *as amended* (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the Fish and Wildlife Service issued the requested permit(s) subject to certain conditions set forth therein.

Marine Mammals

Permit No.	Applicant	Receipt of application Federal Register notice	Permit issuance date
070536	Robert E. Speegle	68 FR 22409; April 28, 2003	August 4, 2003.
070569	Marvin J. Winter	68 FR 22409; April 28, 2003	July 15, 2003.
071569	Leonard Bernstein	68 FR 33179; June 3, 2003	August 13, 2003.
072004	Alfred E. Delgreco	68 FR 33734; June 5, 2003	August 4, 2003.
072240	Michael B. Thomas	68 FR 33735; June 5, 2003	July 17, 2003.

Dated: August 15, 2003.

Charles S. Hamilton,

Senior Permit Biologist, Branch of Permits, Division of Management Authority.

[FR Doc. 03-21901 Filed 8-26-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Final Preassessment Screen for the Chino and Tyrone Mines, Grant County, New Mexico and the Morenci Mine, Graham County, Arizona

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Interior, through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, has conducted a preliminary screen of existing data and

literature pertaining to injuries to natural resources from releases of hazardous chemicals from three large open-pit copper mines in southwestern New Mexico and southeastern Arizona (the Phelps Dodge Chino, Tyrone, and Morenci mines). Information available to the Department has resulted in a determination that there is a reasonable probability of making a successful claim for natural resource injuries. This determination, pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, (42 U.S.C. 9607, and Departmental regulations found at 43 CFR part 11), is

memorialized in the document entitled "Final Preassessment Screen for the Chino, Tyrone, and Morenci Mine Sites, Grant County, New Mexico and Graham County, Arizona."

DATES: Documents and other information submitted with the determinations are available for review, subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act, by any party who submits a written request for a copy of such documents by October 14, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the preassessment screen are available on the Internet at <http://ifw2es.fws.gov/library>, or may be requested from the Service at U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2105 Osuna, NE, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87113, (505) 346-2525 or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 1306, Room 4102, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103, (505) 248-6648.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karen Cathey, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services, Division of Habitat Conservation/Environmental Contaminants, P.O. Box 1306, Room 4102, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103, (505) 248-6648.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Among the mines within a 500 mi² region of Southwestern New Mexico and Southeastern Arizona (Gila Region), the Phelps Dodge Corporation Chino, Tyrone, and Morenci open-pit copper mines are among the largest. Several ephemeral streams have been impacted by downstream releases, and portions of the Gila and San Francisco Rivers and their tributaries (bordered by the Gila and Apache National Forests) have been affected by high concentration metal pulses. Four species listed under the Endangered Species Act (spikedace, loach minnow, southwestern willow flycatcher, and Chiricahua leopard frog) frequent the affected areas, and resources under the management of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Bureau of Land Management may have been impacted.

In September and October 2000, numerous dead birds were discovered at the Phelps Dodge Chino and Tyrone Mines in New Mexico, and the Morenci Mine in Arizona. The discovery of these dead birds (with a strong causal link to death by acid and metal poisoning), and the completion of an ecological risk assessment at an area impacted by historical copper smelter emissions (with direct evidence of injury to Department of the Interior trust resources), requires that the Department move forward with assessment of

further injuries immediately. The Department has contacted the parties potentially responsible for releases of hazardous materials and invited them to participate in the assessment of injuries. Should evaluation of data indicate further extensive assessment studies are necessary, an assessment plan will be published and public comments solicited.

The preassessment screen indicates there are multiple methods that could be used in the of valuation of damages, including one method called "contingent valuation." While this method is evaluated in the document, it is not likely that the Department would use the contingent valuation method because it depends heavily on subjective opinions in its analysis. More likely, once extent of injuries are determined, the Department would use one of the other methods of damage determination: Examples of such restoration project(s) would be where the responsible party conducts the implementation of the restoration project with Trustee oversight and no determination of specific monetary damages are made, or where the Trustees perform restoration projects funded by responsible parties.

Bryan Arroyo,

Acting Regional Director, Southwest Region, Albuquerque, New Mexico, Authorized Official, Department of the Interior.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

Notice of Proposed Information Collection for 1029-0051 and 1029-0120

AGENCY: Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Interior.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) is announcing its intention to request approval to continue the collections of information under 30 CFR part 840, Permanent Program Inspection and Enforcement Procedures, and two Technical Training Program forms for nominations and payment of travel and per diem expenses. These information collection activities were previously approved by the Office of Management and Budget

(OMB), and assigned clearance numbers 1029-0051 and -0120, respectively.

DATES: Comments on the proposed information collection activities must be received by October 27, 2003, to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to John A. Trelease, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, 1951 Constitution Ave., NW., Room 210—SIB, Washington, DC 20240. Comments may also be submitted electronically to jtreleas@osmre.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request a copy of the information collection request, explanatory information and related forms, contact John A. Trelease, at (202) 208-2783 or by e-mail.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: OMB regulations at 5 CFR 1320, which implement provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13), require that interested members of the public and affected agencies have an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping activities [see 5 CFR 1320.8 (d)]. This notice identifies information collections that OSM will be submitting to OMB for renewed approval. These collections are contained in (1) 30 CFR part 840, Permanent Program Inspection and Enforcement Procedures (1029-0051); and (2) OSM's Technical Training Program Non-Federal Nomination Form, and Request for Payment of Travel and Per Diem Form (1029-0120). OSM will request a 3-year term of approval for each information collection activity.

Comments are invited on: (1) The need for the collection of information for the performance of the functions of the agency; (2) the accuracy of the agency's burden estimates; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collection; and (4) ways to minimize the information collection burden on respondents, such as use of automated means of collection of the information. A summary of the public comments will accompany OSM's submission of the information collection request to OMB.

The following information is provided for each information collection: (1) Title of the information collection; (2) OMB control number; (3) summary of the information collection activity; and (4) frequency of collection, description of the respondents, estimated total annual responses, and the total annual reporting and recordkeeping burden for the collection of information.

Title: Permanent Program Inspection and Enforcement Procedures, 30 CFR part 840.

OMB Control Number: 1029-0051.