

Permit No. 022615

Applicant: Robert L. Calloway, Leonardtown, Maryland

The applicant requests a permit to purchase, in interstate commerce, two female and two male captive bred Hawaiian (=nene) geese (*Nesochen* [=Branta] *sandvicensis*) for the purpose of enhancing the species propagation and survival.

Permit No. TE-702631

Applicant: Assistant Regional Director-Ecological Services, Region 1, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland, Oregon

The permittee requests a permit amendment to remove and reduce to possession specimens of the following plant species: *Cirsium loncholepis* (La Graciosa thistle), *Eriodictyon capitatum* (Lompoc yerba santa), *Hemizonia increscens ssp. villosa* (Gaviota tarplant), and *Lupinus nipoensis* (Nipomo Mesa lupine). Collection activities will be conducted throughout each species range in conjunction with recovery efforts for the purpose of enhancing their propagation and survival.

Permit No. TE-025182

Applicant: Ecosphere Environmental Services, Durango, Colorado

The applicant requests a permit to take (harass by survey) the southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax eximius traillii*) in conjunction with presence or absence surveys throughout the species range in California for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

Permit No. TE-025197

Applicant: Lockheed Martin Environmental Service, Las Vegas, Nevada

The applicant requests a permit to take (harass by survey, capture and handle, collect tissue samples, and collect voucher specimens) the desert pupfish (*Cyprinodon macularius*), Gila topminnow (*Poeciliopsis occidentalis*), Gila trout (*Oncorhynchus gilae*), and Humpback chub (*Gila cypha*) in conjunction with presence or absence surveys and scientific research throughout each species range for the purpose of enhancing their survival.

Permit No. TE-776608

Applicant: Monk and Associates, Walnut Creek, California

The permittee requests a permit amendment to take (capture and handle) the California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*) in conjunction with presence or absence surveys in Santa Barbara County,

California for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

Permit No. TE-025204

Applicant: Linda Ann Vorobik, Lopez Island, Washington

The applicant requests a permit to remove and reduce to possession specimens of *Arabis macdonaldiana* in conjunction with genetic research and the collection of voucher specimens throughout the species range for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

Permit No. TE-685022

Applicant: Rudi Mattoni, University of California, Los Angeles, California

The permittee requests a permit amendment to take (survey by pursuit, harass, collect for captive propagation, handle, captive rear, and release) the Palos Verdes blue butterfly (*Glaucopsyche lygdamus palosverdesensis*) in conjunction with presence and absence surveys and scientific research throughout its range for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

Permit No. TE-025203

Applicant: David J. Griffin, Alpine, California

The applicant requests a permit to take (harass by survey, collect and sacrifice) the San Diego fairy shrimp (*Brachinecta sandiegonensis*) and the Riverside fairy shrimp (*Streptocephalus woottoni*) in conjunction with surveys in Riverside and San Diego Counties, California for the purpose of enhancing their survival.

Permit No. TE-025202

Applicant: Janette Holtz, San Diego, California

The applicant requests a permit to take (harass by survey, collect and sacrifice) the San Diego fairy shrimp (*Brachinecta sandiegonensis*) and the Riverside fairy shrimp (*Streptocephalus woottoni*) in conjunction with surveys and population monitoring in San Diego County, California for the purpose of enhancing their survival.

Permit No. TE-025201

Applicant: Bonnie Ripley, San Diego, California

The applicant requests a permit to take (harass by survey, collect and sacrifice) the San Diego fairy shrimp (*Brachinecta sandiegonensis*) and the Riverside fairy shrimp (*Streptocephalus woottoni*) in conjunction with surveys and population monitoring in San Diego County, California for the purpose of enhancing their survival.

DATES: Written comments on these permit applications must be received on or before May 17, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Written data or comments should be submitted to the Chief—Endangered Species, Ecological Services, Fish and Wildlife Service, 911 NE. 11th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97232-4181; Fax: (503) 231-6243. Please refer to the respective permit number for each application when submitting comments. All comments received, including names and addresses, will become part of the official administrative record and may be made available to the public.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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 within 20 days of the date of publication of this notice to the address above; telephone: (503) 231-2063. Please refer to the respective permit number for each application when requesting copies of documents.

Dated: April 6, 2000.

Thomas Dwyer,

Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.

[FR Doc. 00-9458 Filed 4-15-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-U

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service****Notice of Availability of a Draft Revised Recovery Plan for the Oregon Silverspot Butterfly for Review and Comment**

AGENCY: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability.

SUMMARY: We, the Fish and Wildlife Service, announce the availability of a draft revised recovery plan for the Oregon silverspot butterfly (*Speyeria zerene hippolyta*) for public review. This butterfly is distributed in six small areas along the Pacific coast from northern California to southern Washington. The Oregon silverspot butterfly depends upon coastal grasslands that contain the larval host plant (early blue violet), nectar sources, and adult courtship areas. This draft revised plan updates the original recovery plan that was completed in 1982.

DATES: We must receive your comments on the draft revised recovery plan on or

before June 16, 2000 for us to consider them in developing the final plan.

ADDRESSES: You may obtain a copy of the draft revised recovery plan by contacting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Oregon State Office, 2600 S.E. 98th Avenue, Suite 100, Portland, Oregon, 97266; phone (503) 231-6179. Send written comments or other materials on the plan to the State Supervisor at the above address. Comments and materials received are available on request for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rich Szlemp, Supervisory Fish and Wildlife Biologist, at the above address.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Restoring an endangered or threatened animal or plant to the point where it is again a secure, self-sustaining member of its ecosystem is a primary goal of our endangered species program. To help guide the recovery effort, we are working to prepare recovery plans for most of the listed species native to the United States. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary to conserve the species, establish criteria for recognizing the recovery levels for downlisting or delisting them, and estimate time and cost for implementing the recovery measures needed.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act) (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) requires that recovery plans be developed for listed species unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of a particular species. Section 4(f) of the Act requires that during recovery plan development, we provide public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment. We will consider all information presented during a comment period before we approve a new or revised recovery plan. We and other Federal agencies will also take these comments into account in the course of implementing approved recovery plans.

The Oregon silverspot butterfly, which was listed as threatened with critical habitat in 1980, is a small, darkly marked coastal subspecies of the Zerene fritillary butterfly. This subspecies occurs in six small pockets of remaining habitat at: Del Norte/Lake Earl in California; Clatsop Plains, Mt. Hebo, Cascade Head, and Rock Creek-Big Creek in Oregon; and Long Beach in Washington. The Long Beach population may be extirpated and the

population on the Clatsop Plains is extremely low and at risk of extirpation. A recovery plan was completed in 1982. At the time of listing, the only known viable population occurred in the Rock Creek-Big Creek area. The original recovery plan included recovery actions for the Rock Creek-Big Creek area as well as the rediscovered population of butterflies at Mt. Hebo. Since that time, additional Oregon silverspot populations have been discovered or rediscovered at Cascade Head, Bray Point, Clatsop Plains, and Del Norte.

The open vegetation preferred by the butterfly has always had a patchy distribution that was maintained through wildfire, salt-laden winds, grazing, and controlled burning. Habitat has declined due to residential and commercial development, invasion of exotic plant species, overgrazing, and lack of fire. Current threats to Oregon silverspot butterflies include continued habitat alteration, continued invasion of non-native plants, off-road vehicle use, and vegetation change due to fire suppression.

The draft revised recovery plan calls for restoring and protecting habitat for the Oregon silverspot butterfly to establish or maintain viable populations in six habitat conservation areas. Because Oregon silverspot butterfly populations have been extirpated and existing ones are still declining, the revised recovery plan also calls for augmenting existing populations with captive-reared individuals and reintroducing butterflies in areas where they have been extirpated. When the revised plan is completed, it will guide all Federal and State agencies whose actions affect the conservation of the Oregon silverspot butterfly.

Public Comments Solicited

We solicit written comments on this draft revised recovery plan. We are particularly interested in receiving any recent information regarding the occurrence, distribution, or number of butterflies that is not included in the draft revised plan. We are also particularly interested in information pertaining to specific criteria to be considered when proposing to augment or reintroduce Oregon silverspot butterflies. We will consider all comments received by the date specified above before approving the plan.

Authority

The authority for this action is section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1533(f).

Dated: April 11, 2000.

Thomas Dwyer,

Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 1.

[FR Doc. 00-9459 Filed 4-14-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Proposal To Register an Operation Breeding an Appendix-I Species in Captivity for Commercial Purposes according to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, announce that we intend to submit to the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) a proposal to register Rapid Creek Ranch, a breeding facility for gyrfalcons (*Falco rusticolus*) owned and operated by Robert B. Berry, Sheridan, Wyoming, as a commercial breeding operation for an Appendix-I species. The registration of this facility will allow specimens to be designated as bred in captivity for commercial purposes and deemed to be specimens of species included in Appendix II, as provided for in Article VII, paragraph 4, of CITES. Public comments are solicited.

DATES: Comments will be accepted until May 17, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Please send correspondence concerning this notice to the Office of Scientific Authority, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Mail stop ARLSQ 750, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22203 (fax, 703-358-2276; E-mail, r9osa@fws.gov). Copies of the full text of the registration proposal are available from the Office of Scientific Authority and will be mailed upon request. Comments and other information received are available for public inspection by appointment from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, at the Arlington, Virginia, address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Robert R. Gabel at the address given above (telephone: 703-358-1708).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild