

healthy river ecosystem. Use the Rio Grande Initiative to form partnerships that address water management, habitat enhancement, and restoration, and impacts of non-native plants and animals on biological diversity and endangered species.

- Compile a database of the baseline natural conditions, processes, and species associated within refuge ecosystems.

- Attain baseline natural conditions, processes, and populations of species in 50 percent of each habitat type by 2010. If attainment is not possible, implement adaptive management strategies designed to attain desired conditions.

- Contribute to the integrity of the Upper/Middle Rio Grande Watershed using sound management tools and practices.

- Map and determine aquifer sources and characteristics of upland seeps, springs, and other water sources on the refuge.

- Quantify water needs to maintain 90 acres of existing refuge wetlands and to restore 500 acres of wetlands associated with the Rio Grande.

- Acquire in-stream flow rights for the perennial portion of the Rio Salado, Rio Puerco, and other tributary streams.

- Develop partnerships, relationships, and communications to improve implementation of refuge wildlife and habitat management goals.

- Minimize human impacts to refuge ecosystems.

- Encourage research that improves management and monitoring of species, communities, and processes on the refuge and the Upper/Middle Rio Grande.

- Permit and encourage research from a wide range of interested parties and institutions while protecting the plants and wildlife of the ecosystem from detrimental human intrusion and manipulative research protocols.

- Minimize impacts of formal research activities.

- Provide the research community a unique opportunity to conduct wildlife-related research, which in turn provides the refuge with management direction.

- Provide the general public with high quality, wildlife-dependent experiences on and off the refuge.

- Provide the general public with high quality environmental education and wildlife-dependent experiences on and off the refuge.

- Develop sound management practices to protect cultural resources, within the scope of Part 614 of the Service Manual and all applicable federal laws and regulations.

- Minimize obtrusive impacts to refuge lands or adjacent lands.

- Document the need for additional staffing.

- Obtain adequate staffing to implement management plans benefiting the Upper/Middle Rio Grande Ecosystem both on and off refuge lands.

- Improve facilities to enhance refuge capabilities and resources, including the construction of an 8,000- square foot visitor center/ administrative complex; two 1,500- square foot staff residences; and a multi-unit living facility for refuge volunteers.

- Relocate the law enforcement training shooting range to a new location to eliminate the current hazards.

The implementation of the above management approaches among others and employment of strategies associated with those approaches should assist in the achievement of the refuge's broad goals:

Based on a review and evaluation of the information contained in the CCP and EA for the Sevilleta NWR, the Regional Director, Southwest Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, has determined that the approval of the individual or cumulative approaches reflected in the Proposed Alternative and CCP Goals, Objectives and Strategies, is not deemed to constitute a major Federal action which would significantly affect the quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. However, it is the intent of the Service to revisit questions of potential significant environmental consequences in accordance with NEPA upon consideration of the implementation of site specific proposals called for and discussed in the final plan document.

ADDRESSES: A paper copy and/or a Compact Disk copy may be obtained by writing to: Mr. Tom Baca, Natural Resources Planner, Division of Refuges, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, NM 87103-1306.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: It is Service policy to have all lands within the National Wildlife Refuge System managed in accordance with an approved CCP. The CCP guides management decisions and identifies refuge goals, long-range objectives, and strategies for achieving refuge purposes. The planning process has considered many elements, including habitat and wildlife management, habitat protection and acquisition, public and recreational uses, and cultural resources. Public input into this planning process has assisted in the development of these

documents. The CCP will provide other agencies and the public with a clear understanding of the desired conditions for the Refuges and how the Service will implement management strategies.

The Service considered comments and advice generated in response to draft documents issued in November 1998. The Service is furnishing this notice in compliance with Service CCP policy to advise other agencies and the public of the availability of the final documents.

Dated: November 30, 2000.

Thomas C. Bauer,

Acting Regional Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment/Habitat Conservation Plan and Receipt of an Application for a Permit for the Incidental Take of the Bone Cave Harvestman (*Texella reyesi*) During Construction and Operation of Commercial Developments on Portions of 5.94 acres (Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5) at RR 620 and Great Oaks Drive, Round Rock, Williamson County, Texas (Sultan & Kahn).

SUMMARY: Sultan and Kahn Partnership, Ltd. (Applicant) has applied to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for an incidental take permit pursuant to Section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act (Act). The Applicant has been assigned permit number TE-035525-0. The requested permit, which is for a period of 30 years, would authorize the incidental take of the endangered Bone Cave Harvestman (*Texella reyesi*). The proposed take would occur as a result of the construction and occupation of two commercial developments on 5.94 acres (Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5) at RR 620 and Great Oaks Drive, Williamson County, Texas.

The Service has prepared the Environmental Assessment/Habitat Conservation Plan (EA/HCP) for the incidental take application. A determination of jeopardy to the species or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will not be made until at least 30 days from the date of publication of this notice. This notice is provided pursuant to Section 10(c) of the Act and National Environmental Policy Act regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

DATES: Written comments on the application should be received before January 16, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the application may obtain a copy by writing to the Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 1306, Room 4102, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103. Persons wishing to review the EA/HCP may obtain a copy by contacting Sybil Vosler, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78758 (512/490-0057). Documents will be available for public inspection by written request, by appointment only, during normal business hours (8:00 to 4:30) at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Austin, Texas. Written data or comments concerning the application and EA/HCP should be submitted to the Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Austin, Texas, at the above address. Please refer to permit number TE-035525-0 when submitting comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sybil Vosler at the above U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Austin Office.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 9 of the Act prohibits the "taking" of endangered species such as the Bone Cave Harvestman. However, the Service, under limited circumstances, may issue permits to take endangered wildlife species incidental to, and not the purpose of, otherwise lawful activities. Regulations governing permits for endangered species are at 50 CFR 17.22.

APPLICANT: Sultan and Kahn Partnership, Ltd. plans to construct two commercial developments on 5.94 acres (Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5) at RR 620 and Great Oaks Drive, Williamson County, Texas. This action will occur on less than 2.41 acres (Lots 1, 4, and portions of Lots 2 and 5) and will indirectly impact the ecosystem of Back Bat/Beck Crevice Cave and Beck Pride Cave, which contain the endangered Bone Cave Harvestman. The development will eliminate less than 1.6 acres of cave cricket habitat, upon which the Bone Cave Harvestman depends, and may cause deterioration of the cave ecosystem by encouraging fire ants, altering the surface and subsurface moisture and temperature regimes, and increasing human impacts. The applicant proposes to compensate for this incidental take of Bone Cave Harvestman habitat by planting a 30-foot-wide native plant landscape buffer between the development and the cave conservation area; monitoring and treating for introduced fire ants on the undeveloped portions of Lots 2, 3, and 5; restricting the use of pesticides and herbicides; and prohibiting the use of the premises for businesses that have the potential to contaminate sub-surface

karst and/or groundwater, such as gas stations and dry cleaners.

Jeffrey L. Haskett,

*Acting Regional Director, Region 2,
Albuquerque, New Mexico.*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Colville Indian Reservation Integrated Resource Management Plan, Colville Confederated Tribes, Colville Reservation, Washington

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) intends to file a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for an Integrated Resource Management Plan (IRMP) for the Colville Indian Reservation, Washington, with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and that the FEIS is now available for public review. The proposed action is BIA approval for the Colville Confederated Tribes to implement the IRMP for the period 2000-2014. Brief descriptions of the proposed action and seven alternatives are provided in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section.

DATES: Written comments must arrive by January 15, 2001.

ADDRESSES: You may mail or hand carry written comments to Jim Orwin, Acting Superintendent, Colville Agency, Bureau of Indian Affairs, P.O. Box 111, Nespelem, Washington 99155-0111.

Persons wishing copies of this FEIS may contact the Colville Confederated Tribes, P.O. Box 150, Nespelem, Washington 99155-0150, Attention: William Nicholson, Acting Executive Director, telephone (509) 634-2238. Copies of the FEIS have been sent to all agencies and individuals that participated in the scoping process and to all others who have already requested copies.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jim Orwin, (509) 634-2308, or William Nicholson, (509) 634-2238.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The BIA is proposing to approve an IRMP for the management of natural resources on the Colville Indian Reservation for the period 2000-2014. This FEIS analyzes the impacts of seven alternatives, as follows:

Alternative 1, no action, would continue the existing management plan.

About 1,071.2 million board feet (MMBF) of timber would be harvested across 157,573 acres, and the range management units and allotments on the reservation would be managed as they are now.

Alternative 2 calls for the harvesting of about 953.1 MMBF of timber across 156,989 acres and for a 15 percent general reduction in range use.

Alternative 3 calls for the harvesting of about 818.7 MMBF of timber across 119,683 acres and for the withdrawal of about 269,000 acres of range allotments.

Alternative 4 emphasizes intermediate harvesting to move the structural stage class of stands on the Reservation towards the desired future conditions. About 757.9 MMBF of timber would be harvested across 157,573 acres and allowable animal unit months (AUMs) would be doubled to 121,800.

Alternative 5 emphasizes regenerative harvesting in order to reduce the existing impacts of insects and disease. About 1,421.4 MMBF of timber would be harvested across 157,573 acres and AUMs would increase by 50 percent to 91,350.

Alternative 6 emphasizes forest and watershed health as well as fish and wildlife habitat. About 1,105.1 MMBF of timber would be harvested across 123,556 acres and AUMs would be reduced by 50 percent.

Alternative 7, the preferred alternative, is the IRMP. This emphasizes desired future conditions for all resources, including forest health, watershed health, range management, fish and wildlife management and land revenue goals. About 1,164.5 MMBF of timber would be harvested across 125,680 acres and AUMs would increase by 50 percent to 91,350.

Public Comment Solicitation

As an alternative to submitting written comments regarding the FEIS to the location identified in the **ADDRESSES** section, interested persons may instead comment via the Internet to jim.orwin@colvilletribes.com. Please submit Internet comments as an ASCII file, avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. If you do not receive confirmation from the system that your Internet message was successfully received, contact us directly at (509) 634-2308.

Comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the mailing address shown in the **ADDRESSES** section during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Individual respondents may