

20857 on March 7, 2001. These persons will be allocated time as time permits.

Anyone requiring information regarding the Commission should contact Ms. Cheryl Lee, Principal Staff Liaison, Division of Vaccine Injury Compensation, Bureau of Health Professions, Health Resources and Services Administration, Room 8A-46, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20857, Telephone (301) 443-2124.

Agenda items are subject to change as priorities dictate.

Dated: February 22, 2001.

Jane M. Harrison,

Director, Division of Policy Review and Coordination.

[FR Doc. 01-4854 Filed 2-27-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Endangered and Threatened Species Permit Applications

ACTION: Notice of receipt of permit applications.

SUMMARY: The following applicants have applied for a scientific research permit to conduct certain activities with endangered species pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531, et seq.).

Permit No. TE-038608

Applicant: USGS-BRD Sonoran Desert Field Office, Tucson, Arizona.

Applicant requests authorization to conduct surveys for the cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl (*Glaucidium brasilianum cactorum*), Mexican spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis lucida*), southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*), Yuma clapper rail (*Rallus longirostris yumanensis*), lesser long-nosed bat (*Leptonycteris curasoae yerbabuenae*), Mexican gray wolf (*Canis lupus baileyi*), ocelot (*Felis pardalis*), and jaguar (*Panthera onca*) within Arizona and New Mexico.

Permit No. TE-009926

Applicant: Gulf South Research Corporation, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Applicant requests renewal of existing permit to continue to conduct presence/absence surveys for the interior least tern (*Sterna antillarum athalassos*) along the Red River within Texas and Oklahoma.

Permit No. TE-039144

Applicant: USDA—Natural Resources Conservation Service, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Applicant requests authorization to conduct presence/absence surveys for the southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) within New Mexico.

Permit No. TE-827369

Applicant: John Russell "Rusty" Mase, Austin, Texas.

Applicant requests re-issuance of an expired permit for authorization to conduct presence/absence surveys for the golden-cheeked warbler (*Dendroica chrysoparis*) and Houston toad (*Bufo houstonensis*).

Permit No. TE-038694

Applicant: Jack Childs, Tucson Arizona.

Applicant requests authorization to conduct surveys for the jaguar (*Panthera onca*) using scented hair snares in southern Arizona.

Permit No. TE-037155

Applicant: Bio/West, Inc., Logan, Utah.

Applicant requests authorization to conduct surveys for the fountain darter (*Etheostoma fonticola*), San Marcos gambusia (*Gambusia georgei*), San Marcos salamander (*Eurycea nana*), Comal Springs riffle beetle (*Heterelmis comalensis*), Comal Springs dryopid beetle (*Stygoparnus comalensis*), Peck's Cave amphipod (*Sygobromus pecki*), and Texas wild-rice (*Zizania texana*).

Permit No. TE-819491

Applicant: Ecosphere Environmental Services, Durango, Colorado.

Applicant requests authorization to conduct presence/absence surveys for the southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) within New Mexico.

Permit No. TE-010927

Applicant: Bat Conservation International.

Applicant requests authorization to capture and radio-track Mexican long-nosed bats (*Leptonycteris nivalis*) in Texas.

Permit No. TE-676811

Applicant: Regional Director, Region 2, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Applicant requests an amendment to an existing permit to add the following nine karst invertebrates located in Bexar County, Texas: Helotes mould beetle (*Batrissodes venyivi*), Robber Baron Cave harvestman (*Texella cokendolpheri*),

Robber Baron Cave spider (*Cicurina baronia*), Madla's cave spider (*Cicurina madla*), vesper cave spider (*Cincurina vespera*), Government Canyon cave spider (*Neoleptoneta microps*), as well as another cave spider (*Cicurina venii*) and two cave beetles (*Rhadine exilis* and *Rhadine infernalis*) that do not have common names.

DATES: Written comments on these permit applications must be received on or before March 30, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Written data or comments should be submitted to the Chief, Endangered Species Division, Ecological Services, P.O. Box 1306, Room 4102, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103; Fax (505) 248-6788. Documents will be available for public inspection by written request, by appointment only, during normal business hours (8 to 4:30) at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Albuquerque, New Mexico. 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: Chief, Endangered Species Division, Albuquerque, New Mexico, at the above address. 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 30 days of the date of publication of this notice, to the address above.

Stephen C. Helfert,

Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, Region 2, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

[FR Doc. 01-4829 Filed 2-27-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

U.S. Geological Survey

Request for Public Comments on Information Collection To Be Submitted to OMB for Review Under the Paperwork Reduction Act

The proposal for the information collection described below will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for approval under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). Copies of the proposed collection of information may be obtained by contacting the Bureau's clearance officer at the phone number listed below. Comments and suggestions

on the proposal should be made within 60 days directly to the Bureau clearance officer, U.S. Geological Survey, 807 National Center, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, Virginia 20192, telephone (703) 648-7313.

As required by OMB regulations at 5 CFR 1320.8(d)(1), the U.S. Geological Survey solicits specific public comments as to:

1. Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions on the bureaus, including whether the information will have practical utility;
2. The accuracy of the bureau's estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
3. The quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
4. How to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other forms of information technology.

Title: Visitor knowledge and economic impact at Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge, Walden, Colorado.

OMB Approval No.: New collection.

Abstract: The National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 requires that all refuges will be managed in accordance with an approved Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) which, when implemented, will achieve refuge purposes; help fulfill the Refuge System mission; maintain and, where appropriate, restore the ecological integrity of each refuge and the Refuge System; help achieve the goals of the Wilderness Preservation System; and meet other mandates. An underlying component of these plans is a strong scientific foundation for establishment for refuge objectives, implementation of management actions, and quantitative monitoring of progress towards these objectives. Few studies have been conducted that evaluate public knowledge, perception, or economic value associated with National Wildlife Refuges. Information about the existing community, economic, and public relations status is a precursor to many of the habitat and visitor management decisions. The primary objective of this study is to gain sufficient knowledge about refuge visitors. Our second objective is to develop and test a set of tools that can be used/repeated at other refuges around the country. Understanding public knowledge, perception, and values is a vital component of natural resource management. Improved understanding will guide future management practices.

Bureau Form No.: None.

Frequency: One time.

Description of Respondents: Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge visitor or group of visitors.

Estimated Completion Time: 10 minutes per respondent (approximate).

Number of Respondents: 400 (575 surveys).

Burden hours: 67 hours (The burden estimates are based on 10 minutes to complete each questionnaire and a 70% return rate).

All comments concerning this notice should be addressed to Phadrea Ponds, Wildlife Biologist, 970-226-9445; or Lynne Caughlan, Economist, 970-226-9384; or Ayeisha Brinson, Wildlife Ecologist, 970-226-9330. U.S. Geological Survey, Biological Resources Division, Social, Economic and Institutional Analysis Section, 4512 McMurtry Avenue, Fort Collins, CO 80525-3400.

For Additional Information Please Contact: Phadrea Ponds (970) 226-9445. phadreaponds@usgs.gov.

Dated: February 16, 2001.

Susan Haseltine,

Chief Scientist for Biology.

[FR Doc. 01-4830 Filed 2-27-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-Y7-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NV-060-3809]

Notice of Availability; Draft Environmental Impact Statement; Phoenix Project; Proposed Expansion of Existing Gold, Silver, and Copper Mining/Processing Operations; Lander County, NV

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

Cooperating Agencies: Nevada Division of Wildlife.

ACTION: Notice of availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Phoenix Project, Lander County, Nevada.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and 40 Code of Federal Regulations parts 1500-1508 Council on Environmental Quality Regulations, notice is hereby given of the availability for comment of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, prepared by the Battle Mountain BLM, which analyzes the environmental effects of the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternatives.

DATES: Written comments must be post-marked or otherwise delivered by 4:30

p.m. (Pacific time zone) on May 4, 2001. Comments may also be presented at public meetings to be held: April 4, 2001, (7-9 pm) BLM office, Battle Mountain, NV. A limited number of copies of the Draft EIS may be obtained at the Battle Mountain BLM Field Office.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to the Bureau of Land Management, Battle Mountain Field Office, 50 Bastian Road, Battle Mountain, Nevada 89820.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Pam Jarnecke, Battle Mountain BLM at (775) 635-4144.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Battle Mountain Gold Company (BMG), a wholly owned subsidiary of Newmont Mining Corporation, proposes to expand its current operations near Battle Mountain, Nevada, to include mining and beneficiation of gold, silver, and copper ores. The proposed Phoenix Project would require up to an additional 4,295 acres of disturbance. BMG would develop the Phoenix and Reona pits and expand the Midas and Iron Canyon pits. Mining these ore deposits would be coupled with excavating and beneficiating low-grade gold ore stockpiles associated with the previous Tomboy, Northeast Extension, and Fortitude mining operations. Beneficiation operations would include heap leach facility expansion and new milling facilities. The projected mine life is up to 28 years, followed by five years of reclamation.

Dated: February 13, 2001.

Gerald M. Smith,

Field Manager, Battle Mountain Field Office.

[FR Doc. 01-4824 Filed 2-27-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-HC-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NM-910-01-1020-PB]

New Mexico Resource Advisory Council Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of council meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), 5 U.S.C. Appendix 1, the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), announces a meeting of the New Mexico Resource Advisory Council (RAC). The meeting will be held on April 5 and 6, 2001, at the Best Western