

States of the proposed information collection: Pending OMB approval.

Authority: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended.

Dated: January 2, 2004.

Darlene F. Williams,
General Deputy, Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research.

[FR Doc. 04-606 Filed 1-12-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210-62-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Issuance of Permit for Incidental Take of Threatened Species for the Struthers Ranch Property, El Paso County, Colorado

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of issuance of permit for incidental take of threatened species.

SUMMARY: On July 3, 2003, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (68 FR 39962) that an application had been filed with the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) by the Struthers Ranch Development, LLC, for a permit to incidentally take Preble's meadow jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius preblei*), pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act) (16 U.S.C. 1539), as amended. The "Environmental Assessment/Habitat Conservation Plan for Issuance of an Endangered Species Section 10(a)(1)(B) Permit for the Incidental Take of the Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse (*Zapus hudsonius preblei*) for the Struthers Ranch Property in El Paso County, Colorado" accompanied the permit application.

Notice is hereby given that on December 12, 2003, as authorized by the provisions of the Act, the Service issued a permit (TE-073390-0) to the above named party subject to certain conditions set forth therein. The permit was granted only after the Service determined that it was applied for in good faith, that granting the permit will not be to the disadvantage of the threatened species, and that it will be consistent with the purposes and policy set forth in the Act.

Additional information on this permit action may be requested by contacting the Colorado Field Office, 755 Parfet Street, Suite 361, Lakewood, Colorado 80215, telephone (303) 275-2370, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

Dated: December 29, 2003.

Ralph O. Morgenweck,

Regional Director, Region 6.

[FR Doc. 04-630 Filed 1-12-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Draft Environmental Assessment and Habitat Conservation Plan and Receipt of Application for an Incidental Take Permit for Livermore Area in Larimer County, CO

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability and receipt of application.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the Livermore Area Landowners Group, The Nature Conservancy and the State of Colorado (Applicants) have applied to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for an incidental take permit pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended. The proposed permit would authorize the incidental take of the Preble's meadow jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius preblei*) (Preble's), federally listed as threatened, through loss and modification of its habitat associated with development of new agricultural and residential structures and ongoing agricultural activities in the Livermore Area of northern Larimer County, Colorado. The duration of the permit would be 30 years from the date of issuance.

We announce the receipt of the Applicant's incidental take permit application, which includes an Environmental Assessment (EA) and the Livermore Area Habitat Conservation Plan (LAHCP) for the Preble's in the Livermore Area of Larimer County, Colorado. The proposed EA and LAHCP are available for public review and comment. They fully describe the proposed project and the measures the Applicants would undertake to minimize and mitigate project impacts to the Preble's.

The Service requests comments on the EA and LAHCP and associated documents for the proposed issuance of the incidental take permit. All comments on the EA and permit application will become part of the administrative record and will be available to the public. We provide this notice pursuant to section 10(a) of the Act and National Environmental Policy Act regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

DATES: Written comments on the permit application, EA and LAHCP should be received on or before March 15, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Comments regarding the permit application, EA, and LAHCP should be addressed to Mary Henry, Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 25486, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225-0486. (Street location is 134 Union Boulevard, Lakewood, Colorado 80228-1807). Comments also may be submitted by facsimile to (303) 236-0027.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bob McCue, Ecological Services Program Supervisor (South), telephone (303) 236-7400, extension 252.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Document Availability

Individuals wishing copies of the EA and LAHCP and associated documents for review should immediately contact the above office. Documents also will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

Background

Section 9 of the Act and Federal regulations prohibit the "take" of a species listed as endangered or threatened. Take is defined under the Act, in part, as to kill, harm, or harass a federally listed species. However, the Service may issue permits to authorize "incidental take" of listed species under limited circumstances. Incidental take is defined under the Act as take of a listed species that is incidental to, and not the purpose of, the carrying out of an otherwise lawful activity under limited circumstances. Regulations governing permits for threatened species are promulgated in 50 CFR 17.32.

The Livermore Planning Area encompasses 114,634 hectares (283,266 acres) of land utilized primarily for agricultural purposes with a limited amount proposed for development. The applicants are making participation in the LAHCP available to all landowners within the Livermore Planning Area who voluntarily agree to participate. Within the planning area, the LAHCP proposes a 8,626.3-hectare (21,316-acre) conservation zone (CZ) consisting of corridors along 323.5 kilometers (201 miles) of streams.

The applicants have determined that the activities covered by the LAHCP could impact 1,358.4 hectares (3,356.7 acres) of Preble's habitat along 46.3 stream kilometers (28.8 stream miles), if all lands containing potential Preble's habitat within the CZ of the planning area are enrolled in the LAHCP. The