

order of priority in which these individuals and businesses should be recruited and solicited for the employment and other economic opportunities generated from HUD-assisted activities. On June 30, 1994 (59 FR 33866), when the interim rule was published, the functions and responsibilities of the Secretary under Section 3 were delegated to the Assistant Secretary for FHEO. (See 24 CFR 135.7.) The Assistant Secretary for FHEO was further authorized to redelegate these functions and responsibilities to other employees of HUD, except for the authority to issue rules and regulations under 24 CFR part 135.

Accordingly, the Assistant Secretary for FHEO redelegates authority as follows:

Section A. Authority Redelegated

The Assistant Secretary for FHEO redelegates to the General Deputy Assistant Secretary for FHEO all authority under Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, except for the authority to issue or waive regulations.

Section B. Authority Revoked

All prior redelegations of authority made within the Office of the Assistant Secretary for FHEO under Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 are revoked.

Section C. Authority To Redelegate

The authority redelegated to the General Deputy Assistant Secretary may not be further redelegated.

Authority: Section 7(d) of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Act (42 U.S.C. 3535(d)).

Dated: July 25, 2003.

Carolyn Y. Peoples,

Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity.

Floyd O. May,

General Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity.

[FR Doc. 03-19789 Filed 8-1-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210-28-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment/Habitat Conservation Plan and Receipt of Application for Construction and Operation of a Residential Development on 78 Acres of the Greenshores Subdivision, Travis County, TX (PK-RE Development)

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

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: PK-RE Development Co., Inc. (Applicant) has 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). The Applicant has been assigned permit number TE-074582-0. The requested permit, which is for a period of 30 years, would authorize the incidental take of the endangered golden-cheeked warbler (*Dendroica chrysoparia*). The proposed take would occur as a result of the construction and operation of a residential development on portions of the 78-acre Greenshores Subdivision, Travis County, Texas.

The Service has prepared the Environmental Assessment/Habitat Conservation Plan (EA/HCP) for the incidental take application. A determination of jeopardy or non-jeopardy to the species and a decision pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) will not be made until at least 60 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 on or before October 3, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the application may obtain a copy by writing to the Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, PO Box 1306, Room 4102, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103. Persons wishing to review the EA/HCP may obtain a copy by written or telephone request to Sybil Vosler, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Office, 10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78758 (512/490-0057). Documents will be available for public inspection, by written request or by appointment only, during normal business hours (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office, Austin, Texas. Data or comments concerning the application and EA/HCP should be submitted in

writing to the Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office, Austin, Texas at 10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78758. Please refer to permit number TE-074582-0 when submitting comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Sybil Vosler at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Office, 10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78758 (512/490-0057).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 9 of the Act prohibits the "taking" of endangered species such as the golden-cheeked warbler. 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: Russell Eppright Custom Homes plans to construct a residential development on portions of the 78-acre Greenshores Subdivision, City of Austin, Travis County, Texas. This action would eliminate approximately 21.7 acres of habitat and adversely affect 25.8 acres, resulting in take of the golden-cheeked warbler. The Applicant proposes to compensate for this incidental take of the golden-cheeked warbler by preserving 63.6 acres of habitat which will be managed in perpetuity for the benefit of the golden-cheeked warbler.

Bryan Arroyo,

Acting Regional Director, Southwest Region, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

[FR Doc. 03-19683 Filed 8-1-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Availability of a Safe Harbor Agreement With Assurances and Receipt of Application for an Enhancement of Survival Permit for Activities on the Robert K. Long Ranch in Bastrop County, TX

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

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that Robert K. Long, Sr. (Applicant) has applied to the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for an enhancement of survival permit pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). The permit application includes a proposed Safe Harbor Agreement (SHA) for the endangered Houston toad (*Bufo houstonensis*) for a period of 10 years.

DATES: Written comments must be received within 30 days of the date of this publication.

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 SHA may obtain a copy by contacting Paige Najvar, 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 to 4:30) at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Austin, Texas. Written data or comments concerning the application and SHA should be submitted to the Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78758 Austin, Texas. Please refer to permit number TE-074530-0 when submitting comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paige Najvar at 10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78758 (512-490-0057; Fax 512-490-0974).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: We (the Service) announce the opening of a 30-day comment period and request comments from the public on the Applicant's enhancement of survival permit application and the accompanying proposed SHA. All comments we receive, including names and addresses, will become part of the administrative record and may be released to the public.

Under a Safe Harbor Agreement, participating property owners voluntarily undertake management activities on their property to enhance, restore, or maintain habitat benefitting species listed under the Act. Safe Harbor Agreements encourage private and other non-Federal property owners to implement conservation efforts for listed species by assuring property owners they will not be subjected to increased property use restrictions due to their efforts to attract listed species to their property or increase the numbers or distribution of listed species already on their property. Application requirements and issuance criteria for enhancement of survival permits through Safe Harbor Agreements are found in 50 CFR 17.22 and 17.32.

The Service worked with the Applicant to design and implement conservation measures that are expected to provide a net conservation benefit to the Houston toad in Bastrop County, Texas. Conservation measures the Applicant will undertake according to

the Agreement are: (1) Fence an existing pond and an ephemeral wetland so as to exclude cattle during the breeding season, (2) install fencing in a manner that protects important habitat areas and facilitates herd rotation, (3) create a shallow ephemeral pond designed to facilitate and enhance toad breeding success, (4) install alternative water sources for the cattle, (5) thin understory vegetation in woodlands and forests, (6) link ponds and woodlands through strategic location of brush piles and (where feasible) establishment of woodland corridors, (7) develop and implement a prescribed fire plan for the entire Ranch, (8) plant and protect native bunchgrasses, and (9) treat imported red fire ant mounds.

The incidental take of toads may occur from (1) habitat management actions conducted in accordance with the conservation measures in the Agreement, (2) ongoing ranch activities that may have an increased chance of taking a toad if toad numbers increase, as expected, and (3) removal of the improvements, at some point in the future, if the Applicant exercises his authorization to do so under the permit.

We provide this notice pursuant to section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act and pursuant to implementing regulations for the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR 1506.6).

Dated: July 11, 2003.

Stuart C. Leon,

Acting Regional Director, Southwest Region, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

[FR Doc. 03-19684 Filed 8-1-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-55-P.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for Mount Diablo State Park, Contra Costa County, CA

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) advises the public that we intend to gather information necessary to prepare, in coordination with the California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks), a joint Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) on the impacts of the proposed Mount Diablo State Park Habitat Conservation Plan (Plan). The Plan is being prepared under section 10

(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act (Act). The Plan proposes an 18,000-acre planning area covering the administrative area, including a 1-mile buffer, of Mount Diablo State Park, Contra Costa County, California. The State Parks intends to request an incidental take permit under the Act for two species federally listed as threatened and seven non-listed species that may become listed during the term of the permit. The permit is needed to authorize incidental take of listed species that could occur as a result of implementation activities covered under the Plan.

The Service provides this notice to: (1) Describe the proposed action and possible alternatives; (2) advise other Federal and State agencies, affected Tribes, and the public of our intent to prepare an EIS/EIR; (3) announce the initiation of a public scoping period; and (4) invite public participating in offering suggestions and information on the scope of issues to be included in the EIS/EIR.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before September 3, 2003, and will be accepted at the public meeting. The meeting date is: Tuesday, August 19, 2003, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Walnut Creek, California.

ADDRESSES: Written comments or questions related to the preparation of the EIS/EIR and NEPA process should be submitted to Sheila Larsen, Conservation Planning, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office, 2800 Cottage Way, W-2605, Sacramento, California 95825; FAX (916) 414-6713. The meeting location is: Shadelands Art Center, 111 North Wiget Lane at Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek, California, 94596.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sheila Larsen, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, Conservation Planning, at the Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office at (916) 414-6600.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Reasonable Accommodation

Persons needing reasonable accommodations in order to attend and participate in the public meeting should contact Sheila Larsen as soon as possible (*see FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT*). To allow sufficient time to process requests, please call no later than one week before the public meeting. Information regarding this proposed action is available in alternative formats upon request.

Background

Section 9 of the Act and its implementing Federal regulations