

Dated: November 19, 2001.

Rowan W. Gould,

Acting Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.

[FR Doc. 01-30042 Filed 12-4-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Endangered and Threatened Species Permit Applications

ACTION: Notice of receipt of 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-814933

Applicant: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Austin, Texas.

Applicant requests a permit to collect plant materials for research and recovery purposes from the following plant species within Texas: Ashy dogweed (*Thymophylla tephroleuca*), Black lace cactus (*Echinocereus reichenbachii* var. *albertii*), Bunched cory cactus (*Coryphantha ramillosa*), American chaffseed (*Schwalbea americana*), Chisos Mountains hedgehog cactus (*Echinocereus chisoensis* var. *chisoensis*), Davis' green pitaya (*Echinocereus viridiflorus* var. *davisii*), Hinkley Oak (*Quercus hinckleyi*), Johnston's frankenia (*Frankenia johnstonii*), Large-fruited sand-verbena (*Abronia macrocarpa*), Little Aguja pondweed (*Potamogeton clystocarpus*), Navasota ladies' tresses (*Spiranthes parksii*), Nellie cory cactus (*Coryphantha minima*), Pima pineapple cactus (*Coryphantha scheeri* var. *robustispina*), Slender rush-pea (*Hoffmannseggia tenella*), Sneed pincushion cactus (*Coryphantha sneedii* var. *sneedii*), South Texas ambrosia (*Ambrosia cheiranthifolia*), Star cactus (*Astrophytum asterias*), Terlingua Creek cat's eye (*Cryptantha crassipes*), Texas trailing phlox (*Phlox nivalis* ssp. *Texensis*), Texas ayenia (*Ayenia limitaris*), Texas poppy-mallow (*Callirhoe scabruscula*), Texas prairie dawn-flower (*Hymenoxys texana*), Texas snowbells (*Styrax texana*), Tobusch fishhook cactus (*Ancistrocactus tobuschii*), Walker's manioc (*Manihot walkerae*), White bladderpod (*Lesquerella pallida*), and Zapata bladderpod (*Lesquerella thamnophila*). Applicant also requests

authorization to conduct presence/absence surveys for the Ocelot (*Felis pardalis*), Southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*), Red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*), Northern aplomado falcon (*Falco femoralis septentrionalis*), Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*) and Interior least tern (*Sterna antillarum*) within Texas.

Permit No. TE-049001

Applicant: Plateau Integrated Land and Wildlife Management, Dripping Springs, Texas.

Applicant requests a permit to conduct presence/absence surveys and nest monitoring for the Golden-cheeked warbler (*Dendroica chrysoparia*) and Black-capped vireo (*Vireo atricapillus*) within Texas.

Permit No. TE-050021

Applicant: Greg Clark, Chandler, Arizona.

Applicant requests a permit for recovery purposes to conduct presence/absence surveys for the Cactus Ferruginous Pygmy Owl (*Glaucidium brasilianum*) in Pima County, Arizona.

Permit No. TE-050241

Applicant: Carothers Environmental, LLC, Sedona, Arizona.

Applicant requests a permit for recovery purposes to conduct presence/absence surveys for the following species: Cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl (*Glaucidium brasilianum cactorum*), Southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*), Hualapai Mexican Vole (*Microtus mexicanus hualpaiensis*), Humpback chub (*Gila cypha*), Razorback sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*), and Kanab ambersnail (*Oxyloma haydeni kanabensis*) within Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.

DATES: Written comments on these permit applications must be received on or before January 4, 2002.

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; (505) 248-6649; 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.

Susan MacMullin,

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

[FR Doc. 01-30053 Filed 12-4-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Availability of the Karner Blue Butterfly (*Lycaeides melissa samuelis*) Technical/Agency Draft Recovery Plan for Review and Comment

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces availability for public review of a technical/agency draft recovery plan for the endangered Karner blue butterfly (*Lycaeides melissa samuelis*). The Karner blue butterfly is known to presently occur in seven states: Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, New Hampshire, New York, and Ohio, where it was recently reintroduced. The Service solicits review and comments from the public on this draft plan.

DATES: Comments on the draft recovery plan must be received on or before April 4, 2002 to receive consideration by the Service.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the draft recovery plan may obtain a copy by contacting the Field Supervisor of the Green Bay Ecological Services Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1015 Challenger Court, Green Bay, Wisconsin 54311 or by accessing the website: <http://midwest.fws.gov/endangered>. Written comments and materials regarding the plan should be addressed to the Field Supervisor at the above address. Comments and materials received will be available, by appointment, for public inspection during normal business hours, at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Catherine Carnes, (at the above address) Telephone: (920) 465-7415. TTY users may contact Ms. Carnes through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

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 the Service's endangered species program. To help guide the recovery effort, the Service is working to prepare recovery plans for most of the listed species native to the United States. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for conservation of the species, establish criteria for the recovery levels for reclassification and delisting, and an estimate of time and cost for implementing the recovery measures needed.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et. seq.*), requires the development of recovery plans for listed species unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of a particular species. Section 4(f) of the Act, as amended in 1988, requires that public notice and opportunity for public review and comment to be provided during recovery plan development. The Service will consider all information presented during a public comment period prior to approval of each new or revised recovery plan. The Service and other Federal agencies will also take these comments into account in the course of implementing approved recovery plans.

The document submitted for review is the Karner Blue Butterfly (*Lycaeides melissa samuelis*) Technical/Agency Draft Recovery Plan. Historically, the butterfly occurred in 12 states and the Province of Ontario. Its current range has been reduced to seven states: Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, New Hampshire, New York, and Ohio, where it was recently reintroduced. Three of these states (Ohio, New Hampshire, and Minnesota) have only one extant Karner blue butterfly population. Wisconsin and Michigan support the majority of populations throughout the range.

The Karner blue butterfly was listed as endangered on January 21, 1992. The butterfly depends on savanna and barrens habitats that support wild lupine (*Lupinus perennis*), the only plant Karner blue larvae (or caterpillars) are known to feed on. Threats to the butterfly include continued loss and alteration of habitat due to commercial, residential, and agricultural

development, fragmentation, and degradation through succession. Today, the butterfly inhabits remnant savanna and barrens habitats, as well as other more disturbed habitat sites including younger forest stands, military bases, utility and roadway rights-of-way, and airports.

The primary objective of the draft recovery plan is to restore and protect an adequate number of Karner blue butterfly populations throughout its range to ensure long-term viability of the species in the wild. The plan proposes a total of 13 recovery units throughout a six state recovery area (Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, New York, and New Hampshire). In order to reclassify the butterfly from endangered to threatened status, the plan proposes the establishment of at least 28 metapopulations within the recovery units. In order to remove the butterfly from the Federal list of "Threatened and Endangered Species," the plan recommends a minimum of 29 metapopulations be established throughout the recovery units.

The draft recovery plan presents a blueprint for action by Federal and state agencies, as well as other organizations, and private landowners interested in helping in the recovery of this endangered species. Recovery actions include restoration and protection of Karner blue butterfly habitat, population monitoring, continued refinement of habitat management guidelines, research to guide habitat management and captive propagation efforts, and education and outreach efforts. Working with Federal, state and private landowners on a voluntary basis will be necessary to reduce the threats, and conserve, protect, and manage key habitat areas for the Karner blue butterfly.

Public Comments Solicited

The Service solicits written comments on the recovery plan described. All comments received by the date specified will be considered prior to approval of the plan. Comments should be sent to the Field Supervisor, Ecological Services Field Office, at the above address.

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

Dated: November 9, 2001

T.J. Miller,

Acting Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services.

[FR Doc. 01-30079 Filed 12-4-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[OR-027-1220-DG; G 2-0019]

Steens Mountain Advisory Council; Meetings

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Burns District, Interior.

ACTION: Meetings notice for the Steens Mountain Advisory Council.

SUMMARY: The Steens Mountain Advisory Council (SMAC) will meet at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Burns District Office, 28910 Hwy 20 West, Hines, Oregon 97738, on December 17 and 18, 2001; January 24 and 25, 2002; February 28 and March 1, 2002; April 4 and 5, 2002; June 13 and 14, 2002; October 21 and 22, 2002; and December 2 and 3, 2002; and will meet in Frenchglen, Oregon 97736 on August 15 and 16, 2002. All meeting sessions will begin the first day at 8 a.m., local time, and will end at 5 p.m., local time. The second day of each session will begin at 8 a.m., local time, and will end at approximately 3 p.m., local time. The April 4 and 5, 2002; June 13 and 14, 2002; and August 15 and 16, 2002, meeting sessions will consist of meetings on April 4, June 13, and August 15, followed by tours of the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area (CMPA) on April 5, June 14, and August 16, 2002, weather dependent. Topics to be discussed by the SMAC at the December 17 and 18, 2001, meeting include selection of a chairperson; facilitation needs; Subbasins, Analysis of the Management Situation, Interim Management Policy, and Special Recreation Permit Policy review; Federal Advisory Committee Act; cooperative agreements/incentives; winter recreation; signs; and other matters as may reasonably come before the SMAC. Future meetings will cover categories such as education; transportation; recreation/public use; special designated areas; cultural resources; watersheds; projects; wildlife; partnerships/programs; volunteer-based information; adaptive management; planning process; science committee/consultants; and socioeconomics. All meetings and tours are open to the public in their entirety. Information to be distributed to the SMAC is requested 10 days prior to the start of each SMAC meeting. Public comment is scheduled for 11 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., local time, the first day of each meeting session. The amount of time scheduled for public presentations and meeting times may be extended when the authorized