

Findings and Basis for Decision

Based upon review and careful consideration of—the impacts identified in the Final CCP/EIS; results of the various studies and surveys conducted in conjunction with the Draft and Final CCP/EIS; public comments received throughout the process including comments on the Draft and Final CCP/EIS; and other relevant factors including the purposes for which the Refuge was established by Executive Order and statutory and regulatory guidance—the Service finds that selecting Alternative E for implementation is appropriate for the following reasons.

Alternative E consists of the programs and facilities mentioned above;

Alternative E, as it is described in the Final CCP/EIS for the Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge, best accomplishes the establishing purposes of the Refuge and balances the statutory mission of the Service to provide long-term protection of the Refuge's resources, while allowing for appropriate levels of visitor use and appropriate means of visitor enjoyment. Alternative E also best accomplishes identified management goals and desired future conditions.

Alternative E represents the best balance between provision of habitat restoration, public access and recreation, and other programs, and public and agency concerns identified during the public participation process.

Based on an Intra-Service Section 7 evaluation, no state or federally listed endangered or threatened or endangered species or their critical habitats are known to be effected by the plan. Implementation of the decision would avoid any adverse impacts on wetlands and is not likely to adversely affect any endangered or threatened species, or result in destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat of such species. The determinations are: No effect to peregrine falcon; No effect to Utes ladies' tresses; and Not likely to adversely affect any of the following: bald eagle, gray wolf, grizzly bear, and Canada lynx.

No historic properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places are known to be affected by the plan.

The requirements of NEPA and the implementing regulations (40 CFR parts 1500–1508) have been satisfied.

Measures To Minimize Environmental Harm

Public concerns, potential impacts, and methods or stipulations to mitigate those impacts are addressed in the Final CCP/EIS. All practicable measures to

avoid or minimize environmental impacts that could result from implementation of the selected action have been identified and incorporated into the selected action. Implementation of the selected action would avoid any adverse impacts on wetlands and any endangered or threatened species, or that would result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat of such species. Mitigation measures called stipulations will be followed. They are documented in Appendix F, Compatibility Determinations for the Final CCP/EIS and are incorporated here by reference. These stipulations make public and other uses compatible with the purpose for which the Refuge was established. The referenced compatibility stipulations ensure that all practical means to avoid or minimize environmental harm from the Selected Alternative have been adopted.

The Service has considered the environmental and relevant concerns presented by agencies, organizations and individuals on the proposed action to develop and implement a Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge. I have decided to implement Alternative E, the Service's preferred alternative. The ROD serves as the written facts and conclusions relied upon in reaching this decision.

Dated: May 31, 2000.

Daniel H. Diggs,

Acting Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.

[FR Doc. 00–15466 Filed 6–19–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–55–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Endangered Species Permit Applications

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service.

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–026298

Applicant: Ana M. Gaisiner, San Diego, California.

The applicant requests a permit to take (harass by survey, collect and sacrifice) the San Diego fairy shrimp (*Brachinecta sandiegonensis*) and the

Riverside fairy shrimp (*Streptocephalus woottoni*) in conjunction with surveys in Riverside and San Diego Counties, California for the purpose of enhancing their survival.

Permit No. TE–796280

Applicant: Hydrozoology, Newcastle, California.

The permittee requests an amendment to take (harass by survey, collect and sacrifice) the San Diego fairy shrimp (*Brachinecta sandiegonensis*) and the Riverside fairy shrimp (*Streptocephalus woottoni*) in conjunction with surveys throughout each species' range in California for the purpose of enhancing their survival.

Permit No. TE–838742

Applicant: Michelle M. Dohrn, Glendale, California.

The permittee requests an amendment to take (survey by pursuit) the El Segundo blue butterfly (*Euphilotes battoides allyni*) in conjunction with surveys throughout the species' range in California for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

Permit No. TE–012136

Applicant: Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Portland, Oregon.

The permittee requests an amendment to take (capture and handle) the Lost River sucker (*Deltistes luxatus*) and shortnose sucker (*Chasmistes brevirostris*) in conjunction with surveys throughout each species' range in Oregon for the purpose of enhancing their survival.

Permit No. TE–026656

Applicant: Barry A. Prigge, North Hollywood, California.

The applicant requests a permit to remove and reduce to possession specimens of *Astragalus jaegerianus* in conjunction with scientific research throughout the species' range for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

Permit No. TE–018180

Applicant: National Park Service, Point Reyes, California

The permittee requests an amendment to remove and reduce to possession specimens of *Alopecurus aequalis* var. *sonomensis* in conjunction with research and the collection of voucher specimens throughout the species' range for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

Permit No. TE–026659

Applicant: Ventana Wilderness Society, Carmel Valley, California.

The applicant requests a permit to take (capture, handle, mark, and release)

the California condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*) in conjunction with reintroduction actions throughout the species' range for the purpose of enhancing its survival. These activities were previously authorized under subpermit VENTWS-10.

Permit No. TE-026932

Applicant: Darlene B. Woodbury, Santa Maria, California.

The applicant requests a permit to take (locate and monitor nests) the California least tern in conjunction with monitoring activities in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties, California for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

Permit No. TE-027425

Applicant: Michael D. White, Encinitas, California.

The permittee requests an amendment to take (harass by survey, collect and sacrifice) the Conservancy fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta conservatio*), longhorn fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta longiantenna*), vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardii*), San Diego fairy shrimp (*Brachinecta sandiegonensis*), and the Riverside fairy shrimp (*Streptocephalus woottoni*) in conjunction with surveys throughout each species' range in California for the purpose of enhancing their survival.

Permit No. TE-028233

Applicant: Jonathan Stead, Oakland, California.

The applicant requests a permit to take (harass by survey, collect and sacrifice) the Conservancy fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta conservatio*), longhorn fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta longiantenna*), vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardii*), San Diego fairy shrimp (*Brachinecta sandiegonensis*), and the Riverside fairy shrimp (*Streptocephalus woottoni*) in conjunction with surveys throughout each species' range in California for the purpose of enhancing their survival.

Permit No. TE-028228

Applicant: Richard H. Rohrbeck, Romeo, Michigan

The applicant requests a permit to purchase, in interstate commerce, two female and two male captive bred Hawaiian (=nene) geese (*Nesochen* [= *Branta sandvicensis*]) for the purpose of enhancing the species propagation and survival.

Permit No. TE-843449

Applicant: Richard J. Eisenbart, San Diego, California.

The permittee requests an amendment to take (harass by survey, collect and

sacrifice) the Conservancy fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta conservatio*), longhorn fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta longiantenna*), vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardii*), San Diego fairy shrimp (*Brachinecta sandiegonensis*), and the Riverside fairy shrimp (*Streptocephalus woottoni*) in conjunction with surveys throughout each species' range in California for the purpose of enhancing their survival.

Permit No. TE-702631

Applicant: Assistant Regional Director-Ecological Services, Region 1, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland, Oregon.

The permittee requests an amendment to take the O'ahu 'elepaio (*Chasiempis sandwichensis ibidis*) throughout the species' range in conjunction with recovery efforts for the purpose of enhancing its propagation and survival.

Permit No. TE-027422

Applicant: Brian T. Pittman, Oakland, California.

The applicant requests a permit to take (harass by survey, collect and sacrifice) the Conservancy fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta conservatio*), longhorn fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta longiantenna*), and the vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardii*) in conjunction with surveys in northern California for the purpose of enhancing their survival.

Permit No. TE-829250

Applicant: Hawaii Wildlife Fund, Laie, Hawaii.

The permittee requests an amendment to take (capture, mark, collect eggs, and relocate eggs) of the hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) in conjunction with scientific research on the islands of Molokai and Hawaii, for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

Permit No. TE-807078

Applicant: Point Reyes Bird Observatory, Stinson Beach, California.

The permittee requests an amendment to take (harass, capture and band) the California least tern (*Sterna antillarum browni*) in conjunction with monitoring in Alameda County, California for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

Permit No. TE-795934

Applicant: Jones and Stokes Associates, Sacramento, California.

The permittee requests an amendment to take (capture) the Fresno kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys nitratoideis exilis*) in conjunction with population studies throughout the species' range in California for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

Permit No. TE-797267

Applicant: H.T. Harvey and Associates, San Jose, California.

The permittee requests an amendment to take (harass, locate nests) the California clapper rail (*Rallus longirostris obsoletus*) in conjunction with ecological research throughout the species' range in California for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

Permit No. TE-802107

Applicant: Patricia Baird, Long Beach, California.

The permittee requests an amendment to take (collect blood) the least tern (*Sterna antillarum*) throughout the species' range in Mississippi, Texas, and Nebraska and take (collect blood) the California least tern (*Sterna antillarum browni*) throughout the species' range in California in conjunction with genetic research for the purpose of enhancing their survival.

Permit No. 027730

Applicant: National Fisheries Service, SWFSC, Tiburon Lab, Tiburon, California.

The applicant requests a permit to take (harass by survey, capture and release) the tidewater goby (*Eucyclogobius newberryi*) throughout the species' range in California in conjunction with presence or absence surveys for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

DATES: Written comments on these permit applications must be received on or before July 20, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Written data or comments should be submitted to the Chief—Endangered Species, Ecological Services, Fish and Wildlife Service, 911 NE. 11th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97232-4181; Fax: (503) 231-6243. 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: 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 20 days of the date of publication of this notice to the address above; telephone: (503) 231-2063. Please refer to the respective permit number for each application when requesting copies of documents.

Dated: June 13, 2000.

Don Weathers,

Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.

[FR Doc. 00-15467 Filed 6-19-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[MT010-1220-AA]

Amendment to Notice of Closure of Public Land to Certain Uses in Yellowstone County, MT

ACTION: Notice; amendment.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management published a document in the *Federal Register* of October 14, 1999, closing 765 acres of public land to the use of motorized vehicles and mechanized vehicles, the discharge of firearms, horseback riding, hang gliding, and rock climbing. This notice will amend the closure to the area known as Four Dances Natural Area (formerly known as the Sacrifice Cliff or the Larsen property) to include closure to the use of Blowguns or Bow & Arrow. This area is also closed to killing or any attempt to kill animals without a special permit.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

David Jaynes, 406-896-5013.

Dated: June 14, 2000.

David Jaynes,

Assistant Field Manager.

[FR Doc. 00-15464 Filed 6-19-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NMMN 94897]

Public Land Order No. 7457; Partial Modification of Two Executive Orders and Transfer of Jurisdiction; New Mexico

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Public Land Order.

SUMMARY: This order modifies two Executive orders insofar as they affect approximately 4,526 acres of land by changing the reservation of the land for military purposes to a reservation of the land for Bureau of Indian Affairs programs and establishing a 20-year term. The Army Corps of Engineers has filed a partial relinquishment of their reservation under these executive orders. Jurisdiction of the land is

transferred from the Secretary of the Army to the Secretary of the Interior for management by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The land will remain closed to surface entry and mining to protect an area having cultural, historical, religious, geological, and archeological significance to the Navajo Nation and the Pueblo of Zuni.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 20, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Debby Lucero, BLM Albuquerque Field Office, 435 Montano Road NE, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107, 505-761-8787.

By virtue of the authority vested in the Secretary of the Interior by Section 204 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C. 1714 (1994), it is ordered as follows:

1. The Executive Orders dated February 18, 1870 and March 26, 1881, which withdrew public land and reserved the land for use by the Department of the Army, are hereby modified to establish a 20-year term and to transfer jurisdiction to the Secretary of the Interior and reserve the land for use and administration by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The land is described as follows:

New Mexico Principle Meridian

T. 13 N., R. 16 W.,

Sec. 6, lot 6.

T. 13 N., R. 17 W.,

Sec. 1, lots 1 to 4, inclusive;

Sec. 2, lots 1 to 4, inclusive;

Sec. 3, lots 9 to 11, inclusive.

T. 14 N., R. 16 W.,

Sec. 19, lots 1 to 4, inclusive;

Sec. 30, lots 1 to 4, inclusive;

Sec. 31, lots 1 to 4, inclusive.

T. 14 N., R. 17 W.,

Secs. 24, 25, and 26;

Sec. 27, lots 5 to 8, inclusive, and E $\frac{1}{2}$;

Sec. 34, lots 5 to 10, inclusive, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, and N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 35, lots 1 to 4, inclusive, N $\frac{1}{2}$, and N $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$;

Sec. 36, lots 1 to 4, inclusive, N $\frac{1}{2}$, and N $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$.

The area described contains approximately 4,526 acres in McKinley County.

2. The land described in paragraph 1 continues to be withdrawn from settlement, sale, location, or entry under the general land laws, including the United States mining laws (30 U.S.C. Ch.2 (1994)), but not from leasing under the mineral leasing laws, to protect an area having cultural, historical, religious, geological and archeological significance to the Navajo Nation and the Pueblo of Zuni. The withdrawn land is to be managed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs for these values, as well as, other compatible uses. This withdrawal will expire 20 years from the effective date of this order unless, as

a result of a review conducted before the expiration date pursuant to Section 204(f) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C. 1714(f) (1994), the Secretary determines that the withdrawal shall be extended.

3. The land and resources shall be managed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, its successors or assignees, in accordance with the Memorandum of Agreement between the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization and the Department of the Interior. The Memorandum of Agreement shall be incorporated into any future land transfers for the life of the Memorandum of Agreement. The Memorandum of Agreement may be reviewed and amended by the agencies as necessary.

4. The Army and its officers, agents, employees, contractors, and subcontractors will have the right of access, upon reasonable notice, to enter the land described in this order for the purposes of activities related to the Fort Wingate Depot Activity Installation Restoration Program and other environmentally related compliance programs and to construct, operate, maintain or undertake response and remedial actions to implement this program.

5. The Army represents that, to the best of its knowledge, no unexploded ordnance are currently present on the land described in this order. Due to the former use of the land as an active military installation, there is a possibility that unexploded ordnance may exist on the land. Upon due notice, the Army agrees to remove any such remaining unexploded ordnance discovered on the land, as required under applicable law and regulations, as expeditiously as is reasonable and practicable, subject to the availability of funds.

Dated: June 7, 2000.

Sylvia V. Baca,

Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

[FR Doc. 00-15492 Filed 6-19-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

RIN 1010-AC09

Market Centers for Use in Applying Revised Royalty Valuation Regulations for Federal Oil

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of market centers.

SUMMARY: As required by revised Federal oil valuation regulations, the