

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service****Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment/Habitat Conservation Plan and Receipt of an Application for a Permit for the Incidental Take of the Houston Toad (*Bufo houstonensis*) During Construction of One Single Family Residence on 0.5 Acres of the 3.354-Acre Lot 36, Unit 11, Block 2, in the Pine Forest Subdivision, Phase III, Bastrop County, Texas (Stahl)**

SUMMARY: Judson Stahl (Applicant) has applied to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for an incidental take permit pursuant to Section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act (Act). The Applicant has been assigned permit number TE-032117-0. The requested permit, which is for a period of 10 years, would authorize the incidental take of the endangered Houston toad (*Bufo houstonensis*). The proposed take would occur as a result of the construction and occupation of one single family residence on 0.5 acres of the 3.354-Acre Lot 36, Unit 11, Block 2, in the Pine Forest Subdivision, Phase III, Bastrop County, Texas.

The Service has prepared the Environmental Assessment/Habitat Conservation Plan (EA/HCP) for the incidental take application. A determination of jeopardy to the species or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will not be made until at least 30 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 November 2, 2000.

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 EA/HCP may obtain a copy by contacting Tannika Engelhard, 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 (8:00 to 4:30) at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Austin, Texas. Written data or comments concerning the application and EA/HCP should be submitted to the Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Austin, Texas, at the above address. Please refer to permit number

TE-032117-0 when submitting comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tannika Engelhard at the above U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Austin Office.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 9 of the Act prohibits the "taking" of endangered species such as the Houston toad. 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

Judson Stahl plans to construct a single family residence on 0.5 acres of the 3.354-Acre Lot 36, Unit 11, Block 2, in the Pine Forest Subdivision, Phase III, Bastrop County, Texas. This action will eliminate 0.5 acres or less of Houston toad habitat and result in indirect impacts within the lot. The applicant proposes to compensate for this incidental take of the Houston toad by providing \$1,500.00 to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for the specific purpose of land acquisition and management within Houston toad habitat, as identified by the Service.

Geoffrey L. Haskett,

Regional Director, Region 2, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

[FR Doc. 00-25324 Filed 10-2-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service****Notice of Receipt of an Application and Availability of an Environmental Assessment/Habitat Conservation Plan for Issuance of an Endangered Species Act Section 10(a)(a)(B) Permit for a Permit for the Incidental Take of the Houston Toad (*Bufo houstonensis*) During Construction of One Permanent Single Family Residence and a Pond on Approximately 4.5 Acres of the 89-Acre Tract of Land Located Off of Cottletown Road, Bastrop County, Texas**

SUMMARY: Robert Gilfillan (Applicant) has applied to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for an incidental take permit pursuant to Section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act (Act). The Applicant has been assigned permit number TE-033887-0. The requested permit, which is for a period of 5 years, would authorize the incidental take of the endangered

Houston toad (*Bufo houstonensis*). The proposed take would occur as a result of the construction and occupation of one permanent single family residence, one temporary home, and one pond on 4.5 acres of the 89-acre tract of land located off of Cottletown Road, Bastrop County, Texas.

The Service has prepared the Environmental Assessment/Habitat Conservation Plan (EA/HCP) for the incidental take application. A determination of jeopardy to the species or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will not be made until at least 30 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 December 4, 2000.

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, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103. Persons wishing to review the EA/HCP may obtain a copy by contacting Scott Rowin, 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 (8:00 to 4:30) at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Austin, Texas. Written data or comments concerning the application and EA/HCP should be submitted to the Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Austin, Texas, at the above address. Please refer to permit number TE-033887-0 when submitting comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Scott Rowin at the above U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Austin Office.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 9 of the Act prohibits the "taking" of endangered species such as the Houston toad. 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

Robert Gilfillan plans to construct a permanent single family residence, a temporary home (trailer/mobile home) and a pond on 4.5 acres of the 89-acre tract of land located off of Cottletown Road, Bastrop County, Texas. The temporary home will occupy approximately 0.5 acres and will be

used during construction of the permanent residence and pond. Once completed it is anticipated the temporary home will be removed. This action will eliminate 4.5 acres or less of Houston toad habitat and result in indirect impacts within the property. The applicant proposes to compensate for this incidental take of the Houston toad by providing \$6,000.00 to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for the specific purpose of land acquisition and management within Houston toad habitat, as identified by the Service.

Renne Lohofener,

Regional Director, Region 2, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

[FR Doc. 00-25325 Filed 10-2-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-55-U

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Ruffe Control Committee Meeting

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a meeting of the Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Task Force Ruffe Control Committee. The meeting topics are identified in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

DATES: The Ruffe Control Committee will meet from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday, October 25, 2000 and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Thursday, October 26, 2000.

ADDRESSES: The Ruffe Control Committee meeting will be held in the Comfort Inn, 4404 I-75 Business Spur, Sault Ste Marie, Michigan.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sharon Gross, Executive Secretary, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force at 703-358-2308 or by e-mail at: sharon_gross@fws.gov or Thomas Busiahn, Ruffe Control Committee Chair, at 703-358-1718.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. I), this notice announces a meeting of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Ruffe Control Committee. The ANS Task Force was established by the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990.

Topics to be covered during the Ruffe Control Committee meeting include: the status of existing ruffe populations, a review of the eight components of the

ruffe control plan, an evaluation of the bait harvest prohibitions currently in place on Lake Superior, and other topics.

Minutes of the meeting will be maintained by the Executive Secretary, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, Suite 851, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22203-1622, and will be available for public inspection during regular business hours, Monday through Friday.

Dated: September 27, 2000.

Cathleen I. Short,

Co-Chair, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, Assistant Director—Fisheries and Habitat Conservation.

[FR Doc. 00-25315 Filed 10-2-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[MT-924-1430-HN-003E; MTM 84984, MTM 86124]

Public Notice—Jurisdiction Transfer as Required by the Crow Boundary Settlement Act of 1994; Montana

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This document provides notification to the public and state and local governmental officials of the transfer of exclusive jurisdiction and administration of the surface estate of 12,465.32 acres of public lands from the Bureau of Land Management to the United States of America, Bureau of Indian Affairs in trust for the Crow Indian Tribe and shall be recognized as part of the Crow Indian Reservation.

EFFECTIVE DATES: December 2, 1999, December 8, 1999, December 16, 1999, January 12, 2000, February 24, 2000, and March 27, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Russell Sorensen, BLM Dillon Field Office, 1005 Selway Drive, Dillon, Montana 59725-9431, 406-683-8036. By virtue of the authority vested in the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to Section 5(d)(G) of the Crow Boundary Settlement Act of November 2, 1994, P.L. 103-444, it is ordered as follows:

1. Subject to valid existing rights, jurisdiction of the surface estate for the following described lands was transferred to the Bureau of Indian Affairs in trust for the Crow Indian Tribe on the dates listed below:

(a) December 2, 1999:

Principal Meridian

T. 3 S., R. 29 E.,

Sec. 10, all.

(b) December 8, 1999:

T. 6 S., R. 33 E.,
Sec. 12, NE $\frac{1}{4}$.

T. 1 S., R. 35 E.,
Sec. 16, all.

T. 3 S., R. 35 E.,
Sec. 16, all.

T. 2 S., R. 36 E.,
Sec. 16, all.

(c) December 16, 1999:

T. 3 S., R. 28 E.,
Sec. 36, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$.

(d) January 12, 2000:

T. 3 S., R. 33 E.,
Sec. 16, S $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$.

T. 3 S., R. 34 E.,
Sec. 36, lot 4, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$.

T. 4 S., R. 37 E.,
Sec. 21, all.

T. 4 S., R. 38 E.,
Sec. 16: NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$,
and SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$.

T. 5 S., R. 36 E.,
Sec. 2, SE $\frac{1}{4}$;
Sec. 11, E $\frac{1}{2}$.

(e) February 24, 2000:

T. 3 S., R. 29 E.,
Sec. 11, all.

(f) March 27, 2000:

T. 1 S., R. 35 E.,
Sec. 36, all.

T. 1 S., R. 36 E.,
Sec. 16, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, and
N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 36, all.

T. 2 S., R. 35 E.,
Sec. 16, all.

T. 2 S., R. 36 E.,
Sec. 36, all.

T. 3 S., R. 35 E.,
Sec. 36, all.

T. 3 S., R. 36 E.,
Sec. 16, all.

T. 4 S., R. 37 E.,
Sec. 1, S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$, and S $\frac{1}{2}$.

T. 5 S., R. 26 E.,
Sec. 16, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, and SE $\frac{1}{4}$.

T. 5 S., R. 30 E.,
Sec. 3, lots 1 to 4, inclusive, S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$, and
S $\frac{1}{2}$.

T. 5 S., R. 33 E.,
Sec. 36, all.

T. 6 S., R. 30 E.,

Sec. 1, lots 1 to 7, inclusive, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$,
S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, and W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;

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

The areas described aggregate 12,465.32 acres in Big Horn and Yellowstone Counties, Montana.

2. The transfer of the above described surface estate for such lands and all activities conducted thereon vests custody and accountability unto the United States of America, on behalf of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, in trust for the Crow Indian Tribe.

Dated: September 20, 2000.

Thomas P. Lonnie,

Deputy State Director, Division of Resources.

[FR Doc. 00-25301 Filed 10-2-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-SS-P