

DATES: We must receive your written comments on or before November 7, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Please address comments to the Field Supervisor, Fish and Wildlife Service, 2730 Loker Avenue West, Carlsbad, California 92008. You also may send comments by facsimile to telephone (760) 431-9624.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Mary Beth Woulfe, Branch Chief, at the above address or call (760) 431-9440.

Availability of Documents

You may obtain copies of the documents for review by calling the Service's Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office at the above referenced telephone number. Documents also are available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

Background

Section 9 of the Act and its implementing regulations prohibit the "take" of threatened or endangered species. That is, no one may harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture or collect listed animal species, or attempt to engage in such conduct (16 U.S.C. 1538). Harm may include significant habitat modification where it actually kills or injures wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding, and sheltering (50 CFR 17.3(c)). The Service, however, may issue permits to take endangered and/or threatened wildlife species incidental to, and not the purpose of otherwise lawful activities. Regulations governing permits for endangered and/or threatened species are found at 50 CFR 17.22 and 17.32.

We propose to transfer permit PRT-799348 to Ocean Trails, L.P. and to amend this permit to authorize incidental take of the Palos Verdes blue butterfly and coastal California gnatcatcher from L.P.'s proposed activities as described in the amendment to the Habitat Conservation Plan. We also propose to issue a separate permit to the City of Rancho Palos Verdes to authorize incidental take of the coastal California gnatcatcher from proposed City road repairs within Shoreline Park.

The amended Habitat Conservation Plan describes alternatives to the action and provisions for minimization, mitigation, and monitoring of impacts. These proposed actions would compensate for both the temporary and permanent loss of habitat resulting from the proposed Projects and would benefit the long-term conservation of the coastal

California gnatcatcher and the Palos Verdes blue butterfly.

The City of Rancho Palos Verdes would restore and conserve 1.68 acres of sage scrub habitat for both temporary and permanent impacts that would be caused by road repair within Shoreline Park. Ocean Trails, L.P. would plant the larval host plant of the Palos Verdes blue butterfly, grown from local seed, in several of its revegetation areas and may also allow for the species to be relocated to the Project site. In addition, Ocean Trails, L.P. would restore 26.96 acres of sage scrub habitat on both the reconstructed and stabilized landslide area and within the Shoreline Park conservation area. Ocean Trails, L.P. also would relocate the 10-acre revegetation site from the Switchback area to Shoreline Park. These sites are being managed in perpetuity for the conservation of the species covered by the Ocean Trails Habitat Conservation Plan.

The amendment to the Habitat Conservation Plan and the amendment to the Environmental Assessment considers three alternatives to each of the four aspects of the proposed Project:

A. Palos Verdes Blue Butterfly: (1) Under the No Project alternative, the Palos Verdes blue butterfly would not be added as a covered species under the Ocean Trails Habitat Conservation Plan; (2) Under the second alternative, partial replanting of the Palos Verdes blue butterfly host plant would take place on the Project site; and (3) Under the Proposed Project alternative, the Palos Verdes blue butterfly would be added as a covered species under the Ocean Trails Habitat Conservation Plan and the host plant would be planted in all of the Project's revegetation areas.

B. Landslide Remediation: (1) Under the No Project alternative, the Service would not approve the amendment and the landslide would not be repaired; (2) Under the second alternative, there would be complete landslide removal and replacement; and (3) Under the Proposed Project alternative, there would be partial landslide removal and replacement along with both onsite and offsite revegetation.

C. Location of the 10-Acre Switchback Mitigation Site: (1) Under the No Project alternative, revegetation would remain in the Switchback area without irrigation; (2) Under the second alternative the habitat restoration required by the Habitat Conservation Plan and by this amendment would be installed at the White Point Preserve in San Pedro; and (3) Under the Proposed Project alternative the habitat restoration required by the Habitat Conservation Plan and by this

amendment would be installed in the southern half of Shoreline Park adjacent to the existing revegetation efforts in the northern half of the park.

D. Road Repair: (1) Under the No Project alternative, the amendment would not be approved and the road would not be repaired and would continue to deteriorate, causing a significant danger to public health and safety; (2) Under the second alternative, the road would be excavated down to the base of the slope and reconstructed with properly compacted fill; and (3) Under the Proposed Project alternative, the road would be repaired by excavating down a maximum of 20 feet below the road surface and adding drainage improvements, impacting a maximum of 0.43 acre of sage scrub habitat.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act and Service regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (40 CFR 1506.6). We will evaluate the permit applications, the amended Habitat Conservation Plan, amended Environmental Assessment, the associated documents and comments submitted thereon to determine whether the applications meet the requirements of section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act. If we determine that the requirements are met: (1) We will transfer permit PRT-799348 to Ocean Trails, L.P. and amend it to authorize incidental take of the Palos Verdes blue butterfly and coastal California gnatcatcher from L.P.'s proposed activities; and (2) we will issue a separate permit to the City of Rancho Palos Verdes to authorize incidental take of the coastal California gnatcatcher from proposed City road repairs. We will make a final decision on these permit actions no sooner than 60 days from the date of this notice.

Dated: August 30, 2000.

Elizabeth H. Stevens,

Deputy Manager, California/Nevada Operations Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento, California.

[FR Doc. 00-23035 Filed 9-7-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Western Regional Panel Meeting

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a meeting of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Western Regional Panel Committee. The meeting topics are identified in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

DATES: The Panel will meet from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., on Tuesday, September 26, 2000, and 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, September 27, 2000.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Elihu M. Harris State Building, 1515 Clay Street, Training Rooms B, C, D, 2nd Floor, Oakland, California.

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 Linda Drees, Western Regional Panel Coordinator at 785-539-3473 (ext. 107) or by e-mail at linda_drees@fws.gov.

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 Western Regional Panel Committee. The Task Force was established by the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990.

The Panel, comprised of representatives from Federal, State, and local agencies and from private environmental and commercial interests, provides the following: (1) Identifies priorities for the Western Region with respect to aquatic nuisance species; (2) makes recommendations to the Task Force regarding an education, monitoring (including inspection), prevention, and control program to prevent the spread of the zebra mussel west of the 100th Meridian; (3) coordinates with other aquatic nuisance species program activities in the Western region; (4) develops an emergency response strategy for Federal, State, and local entities for stemming new invasions of aquatic nuisance species; and (5) provide advance to public and private individuals and entities concerning methods of preventing and controlling aquatic nuisance species. The focus of this meeting will be to: review Panel activities for the past year and develop priorities for the coming year; develop plans to implement priority actions; and provide updates of ongoing activities including ballast water treatment research, marine exotic species surveys and other emerging issues.

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 5, 2000.

Cathleen I. Short,

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

[FR Doc. 00-23121 Filed 9-7-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Receipt of Application for Approval

The following applicant has applied for approval to conduct certain activities with birds that are protected in accordance with the Wild Bird Conservation Act of 1992. This notice is provided pursuant to Section 112(4) of the Wild Bird Conservation Act of 1992, 50 CFR 15.26(c).

Applicant: On August 10, 2000 we published a notice of receipt of application for approval (65 FR 49007) from the CITES Management Authority of Argentina, Direccion de Fauna y Flora Silvestre, Buenos Aires. The applicant wishes to establish a scientifically based sustainable management plan for the Blue-fronted amazon parrot (*Amazona aestiva*) in Argentina. The comment for this application is scheduled to end on September 10, 2000. The comment period is hereby extended until October 11, 2000. Comments previously submitted during the comment period need not be resubmitted as they will be incorporated into the public record and will be fully considered in the final determination on this application.

Written data or comments should be submitted to the Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203 and must be received by the Director by October 11, 2000.

Documents and other information submitted with this application 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 to the following office within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203. Phone: (703/358-2104); FAX: (703/358-2281).

Dated: September 5, 2000.

Andrea Gaski,

Acting Chief, Branch of CITES Operations, Division of Management Authority.

[FR Doc. 00-23139 Filed 9-7-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-U

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Geological Survey

MPI Drilling, Inc.; Proposed Cooperative Research and Development Agreement

AGENCY: United States Geological Survey, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of proposed Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) negotiations under the Technology Transfer Act of 1986.

SUMMARY: The United States Geological Survey (USGS) is contemplating entering into a CRADA with MPI Drilling, Inc. for the development of improved drilling technology.

INQUIRIES: Information on the proposed CRADA is available to the public upon request at the address below. If any other parties are interested in similar activities with the USGS, please contact: Wayne L. Newell, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, Virginia 20192; Telephone: 703-648-6991; Internet: wnewell@usgs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is to meet the USGS requirement stipulated in the Survey Manual.

P. Patrick Leahy,

Associate Director for Geology.

[FR Doc. 00-23083 Filed 9-7-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-Y7-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Indian Gaming

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of approved Tribal-State Compact.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 11 of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988 (IGRA), Pub. L. 100-497, 25 U.S.C. § 2710, the Secretary of the Interior shall publish, in the **Federal Register**, notice of approved Tribal-State Compacts for the purpose of engaging in Class III gaming activities on Indian lands. The Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, through his delegated authority, has approved the Tribal-State Compact between the