

names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the administrative record. We will honor such requests to the extent allowable by law. There may also be other circumstances in which we would withhold from the administrative record a respondent's identity, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. However, we will not consider anonymous comments. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

Applicant: Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc., Atlanta, Georgia, Florida, TE063179-0.

The applicant requests authorization to take (survey, capture, translocate, and release) the following mussels and fishes: Fat three-ridge mussel (*Amblema neislerii*), Chipola slabshell (*Elliptio chipolaensis*), purple bankclimber (*Elliptio sloatianus*), upland combshell (*Epioblasma metastrata*), southern acornshell (*Epioblasma othcaloogensis*), fine-lined pocketbook (*Lampsilis altilis*), shiny-rayed pocketbook (*Lampsilis subangulata*), Alabama moccasinshell (*Medionidus acutissimus*), Coosa moccasinshell (*Medinidus acutissimus*), Gulf moccasinshell (*Medinidus penicillatus*), Ochlockonee moccasinshell (*Medionidus simpsonianus*), Southern clubshell (*Pleurobema decisum*), Southern pigtoe (*Pleurobema georgianum*), Ovate clubshell (*Pleurobema perovatum*), oval pigtoe (*Pleurobema pyriforme*), triangular kidneyshell (*Ptychobranthus greeni*), short nose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*), blue shiner (*Cyprinella caerulea*), Cherokee darter (*Etheostoma scotti*), Etowah darter (*Etheostoma etowahae*), Amber darter (*Percina antesella*), goldline darter (*Percina aurolineata*), Conasauga logperch (*Percina jenkinsi*), and snail darter (*Percina tanasi*). The proposed activities will take place throughout the state of Georgia.

Applicant: South Carolina Parks, Recreation and Tourism, Cheraw, South Carolina, Gary P. Haight, TE063183-0.

The applicant requests authorization to harass red-cockaded woodpeckers (*Picoides borealis*) while installing squirrel and snake excluder devices on

active and non-active cluster trees with cavities. The proposed activities will take place in the Cheraw State Park, South Carolina.

Applicant: Trent Alan Farris, Foley, Alabama, TE064856-0.

The applicant requests authorization to take (survey, capture, mark, tag, and release) the following species: Alabama beach mouse (*Peromyscus polionotus ammobates*), Perdido Key beach mouse (*Peromyscus polionotus trissyllepsis*), Choctawhatchee beach mouse (*Peromyscus polionotus allophrys*), and Saint Andrew beach mouse (*Peromyscus polionotus peninsularis*). Take will occur while conducting presence and absence population surveys, studying population status and distributions, translocating individuals to augment populations, and radio tagging for scientific purposes. The proposed activities will take place in Alabama and Florida.

Applicant: Samuel Paul Atkinson; Shaw, McLeod, Belser, and Hurlbutt; Sumter, South Carolina, TE064882-0.

The applicant requests authorization to take (capture, band, release, monitor nests, and install artificial cavity inserts) red-cockaded woodpeckers (*Picoides borealis*) while conducting presence and absence surveys. The surveys will be conducted throughout the species historical range.

Dated: December 19, 2002.

J. Mitch King,

Acting Regional Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Receipt of a Permit Application (Reid) for Incidental Take of the Houston Toad

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: Roger Reid and Marie Waneck (Applicants) have applied for an incidental take permit (TE-066089-0) pursuant to section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act (Act). The requested permit would authorize the incidental take of the endangered Houston toad. The proposed take would occur as a result from the construction and operation of commercial storage units on a 2.625 acre property on Highway 21, Bastrop County, Texas.

DATES: Written comments on the application should be received on or before February 18, 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 contacting Clayton Napier, 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 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-066089-0 when submitting comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Clayton Napier, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 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 Houston toad. However, the Fish and Wildlife Service (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.

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).

Applicant: Roger Reid and Marie Waneck plan to construct commercial storage units within 5 years, on approximately 0.3 acres of a 2.625-acre property on Highway 21, Bastrop County, Texas. This action will eliminate 0.3 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 \$660.00 to the Houston Toad Conservation Fund at the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for the specific purpose of land acquisition and

management within Houston toad habitat.

Geoffrey L. Haskett,

Regional Director, Region 2.

[FR Doc. 03-1062 Filed 1-16-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Issuance of Permit for Incidental Take of Threatened Species for the Lefever Property, El Paso County, CO

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of issuance of permit for incidental take of endangered species.

SUMMARY: On July 8, 2002, a notice was published in the *Federal Register* (Vol. 67 No. 130 FR 45142), that an application had been filed with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) by Thomas Lefever, El Paso County, Colorado, for a permit to incidentally take Preble's meadow jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius preblei*), pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1539), as amended. The "Environmental Assessment/Habitat Conservation Plan for Issuance of an Endangered Species Section 10(a)(1)(B) Permit for the Incidental Take of the Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse (*Zapus hudsonius preblei*) for the Construction of a Single Family Residence at the Lefever Property in El Paso County, Colorado," accompanied the permit application.

Notice is hereby given that on December 19, 2002, as authorized by the provisions of the Act, the Service issued a permit (TE-059261) to the above-named party subject to certain conditions set forth therein. The permit was granted only after the Service determined that it was applied for in good faith, that granting the permit will not be to the disadvantage of the threatened species, and that it will be consistent with the purposes and policy set forth in the Act, as amended.

Additional information on this permit action may be requested by contacting the Colorado Field Office, 755 Parfet Street, Suite 361, Lakewood, Colorado 80215, telephone (303) 275-2370, between the hours of 7 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

Dated: December 19, 2002.

John A. Blankenship,

Deputy Regional Director, Denver, Colorado.

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BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[AK-931-1310-DP-NPRA]

Notice of Availability and Announcement of Public Subsistence-Related Hearing Schedule; Northwest National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Draft Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces the availability of the Northwest National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Draft Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (IAP/EIS). The planning area is roughly bounded by the Ikpikpuk River to the east. The southern boundary extends along a portion of the Colville River and then proceeds along township and sections lines generally in a north and west direction to the west to the boundary of the NPR-A. It then proceeds due north to Icy Cape on the Arctic Ocean and proceeds east along the Arctic coastline encompassing the bays, lagoons, inlets, and tidal waters between the NPR-A's outlying islands and the mainland.

The IAP/EIS contains four alternatives for a land management plan within the 8.8 million-acre planning area and assessments of each plan's impacts on the surface resources present there. These alternatives provide varying answers to three primary questions. First, will the BLM conduct oil and gas lease sales in the planning area and, if so, what lands will be made available for leasing? Second, what measures should we develop to protect important surface resources during oil and gas activities? Third, what non-oil and gas land allocations should we consider for this portion of the NPR-A?

The no action alternative calls for no change from the status quo, and under it no leasing would occur. Alternatives A through C make progressively less land, especially environmentally sensitive land, available to possible leasing. Alternative A makes 100 percent available, Alternative B makes 96 percent available, Alternative C makes 47 percent available. Stipulations would provide protection for natural and cultural resources under all alternatives, but their nature, number and scope would vary between alternatives.

Alternative A contains the fewest stipulations and many of them are performance based and reliant on

subsequent NEPA analysis. Alternative B's stipulations are similar to those in Alternative A, but some surface occupancy protections are tied to areas of sensitive resources. Alternative C has more prescriptive stipulations, many of which are tied to areas associated with sensitive resources.

The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to identify specific lands in the NPR-A as "Special Areas," and there are small parts of two previously designated Special Areas within the planning area. Alternative B recommends that the Kasegaluk Lagoon, an area that is rich in wildlife and that features marine tidal flats which are rare on the North Slope, as an additional Special Area.

Alternative C recommends that Congress designate three wilderness areas within the planning area. The first is the Kasagaluk Lagoon. The second and third areas are located in the hills and mountains in the southern part of the planning area and have special values, are particularly remote, and feature good hiking and scenic vistas in high terrain. Alternative C also recommends Congressional designation of the part of the Colville River in the planning area as a Wild river and that 21 other rivers in the unit be designated as Scenic.

Section 810 of the Alaska National Lands Conservation Act requires BLM to evaluate the effects of the alternative plans presented in this IAP/EIS on subsistence activities in the planning area, and to hold public hearings if it finds that any alternative might significantly restrict subsistence activities. Appendix 5 of the document indicates that alternatives A and B may significantly restrict subsistence activities. In addition, all alternatives may significantly restrict subsistence in the cumulative case. Therefore, the BLM is holding public hearings on subsistence in conjunction with the public meetings discussed below.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent to the NPR-A Planning Team, Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Office (931), 222 West 7th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7599. Comments can also be submitted at the project Web site at www.ak.blm.gov/nwnpra or sent via e-mail to nwnpracomment@ak.blm.gov. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by