

ACTION: Notice of availability and receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Castle Rock Development Company and Castle Rock Land Company have applied to the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for an incidental take permit pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). The permit would authorize the incidental take of Preble's meadow jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius preblei*) ("Preble's"), federally listed as threatened, and loss and modification of its habitat associated with construction and use of a portion of The Meadows property in the Town of Castle Rock, Colorado. The permit would be in effect for 30 years from the date of issuance.

We announce the receipt of the applicants' incidental take permit application that includes a combined proposed Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Preble's at The Meadows. The proposed HCP/EA is available for public comment. It fully describes the proposed project and the measures the applicants would undertake to minimize and mitigate project impacts to Preble's.

The Service requests comments on the Plan for the proposed issuance of an Incidental Take Permit. We provide this notice pursuant to section 10(c) of the Act and National Environmental Policy Act regulations (40 CFR 1506.6). All comments on the Plan and permit application will become part of the administrative record and will be available to the public.

DATES: Written comments on the permit application, Habitat Conservation Plan, and Environmental Assessment should be received on or before February 18, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Comments regarding the permit application and HCP/EA should be addressed to LeRoy Carlson, Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Colorado Field Office, 755 Parfet Street, Suite 361, Lakewood, Colorado 80215.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kathleen Linder, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, Colorado Field Office, telephone (303) 275-2370.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Document Availability

Individuals wishing copies of the HCP/EA and associated documents for review should immediately contact the above office. Documents also will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business

hours at the Lakewood, Colorado, Field Office (see **ADDRESSES** above).

Background

Section 9 of the Act and Federal regulation prohibit the "take" of a species listed as endangered or threatened. Take is defined under the Act, in part, as to kill, harm, or harass a federally listed species. However, the Service may issue permits to authorize "incidental take" of listed species under limited circumstances. Incidental take is defined under the Act as take of a listed species that is incidental to, and not the purpose of, the carrying out of an otherwise lawful activity under limited circumstances. Regulations governing permits for threatened species are promulgated in 50 CFR 17.32.

The applicants plan to develop portions of The Meadows in Douglas County, Colorado, that may constitute habitat for the Preble's. Such development would include commercial parcels, water well construction and a recreational trail extension. The planning area for the permit application is approximately 194 hectares (480 acres) and is located west of Interstate Highway 25 (I-25), within the corporate boundaries of the Town of Castle Rock. The area subject to the permit application straddles the East Plum Creek drainage and is entirely contained within two major railway lines, with the exception of one small parcel. An existing bridge spans East Plum Creek and carries The Meadows Parkway as it crosses the property on the southern (upstream) portion of the property. The project would permanently alter a total of 3.5 hectares (8.6 acres) of vegetation within the riparian corridor and would temporarily alter an additional 10.06 hectares (24.87 acres) of vegetation. As discussed below, the applicants propose a number of measures to mitigate possible impacts of the proposed action.

Alternatives considered in addition to the proposed action were: alternative site design based on land use plans approved by the Town of Castle Rock, alternative site location, wait for a regional 10(a)(1)(B) permit, and no action. None of these alternatives eliminated potential take of Preble's.

Only one federally listed species, the threatened Preble's, occurs onsite and has the potential to be adversely affected by the project. To mitigate impacts that may result from incidental take, the HCP provides that mitigation will include the dedication of 17.5 hectares (43.3 acres) of additional open space (in addition to 98.6 hectares (243.7 acres) already designated as open space), enhancement of habitat within 4 hectares (10 acres) of existing open

space, segregation of commercial areas and riparian areas with barriers, revegetation of areas of temporary disturbance with native vegetation, limitations on project sizes, limitations on access, elimination of cattle grazing, and regulation of trail use and location. All efforts will be made to minimize the temporary disturbance during construction of water wells and water delivery systems and impacts to in-stream flows. All construction will be initiated between October 15 and April 30 to minimize and avoid impacts to Preble's.

The Applicants are committed to providing the necessary funding to support the mitigation. The Applicants will place the necessary funds into an escrow or similar type account that will limit use of the funds to mitigation activities.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the Act. We will evaluate the permit application, the plan, and comments submitted therein to determine whether the application meets the requirements of section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Act. If it is determined that those requirements are met, a permit will be issued for the incidental take of the Preble's in conjunction with the construction and use of The Meadows. The final permit decision will be made no sooner than 60 days from the date of this notice.

Dated: December 4, 2002.

Ralph O. Morgenweck,

Regional Director, Denver, Colorado.

[FR Doc. 02-31773 Filed 12-17-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act: Request for Grants Proposals for Year 2003

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of request for proposals.

SUMMARY: The purpose of this notice is to advise the public that the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is accepting proposals for funding under the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (Act) program. Projects may be for protection and management of neotropical migratory bird populations; maintenance, management, protection, and restoration of their habitats; research and monitoring; law enforcement; and community outreach and education. Projects may be located in the United

States, Latin America, or the Caribbean. Projects require matching funds.

DATES: Proposals must be sent no later than Friday, January 31, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Application materials may be found at <http://birdhabitat.fws.gov>. Proposals may be submitted as an electronic mail attachment to neotropical@fws.gov, or sent on a computer disk to: NMBCA Program, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Mail Stop MBSP—4075, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Virginia USA 22203.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Doug Ryan or Office Secretary, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, (703) 358-1784; facsimile (703) 358-2282.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purposes of the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (Act) are to:

1. Perpetuate healthy populations of neotropical migratory birds;
2. Assist in the conservation of these birds by supporting conservation initiatives in the United States, Latin America, and the Caribbean; and
3. Provide financial resources and foster international cooperation for those initiatives.

The Act authorizes \$5 million for this program, and Congress appropriated \$3 million for Fiscal Year (FY) 2002. The program is expected to be funded in FY 2003. At a minimum, 75 percent of this money will be available for projects outside the United States. The maximum individual award for FY2003 will be \$250,000. Federal funds requested under the Act must be matched 3:1 by non-Federal funds. That is, for every U.S. Federal dollar, three non-U.S. Federal dollars are required for the project. For projects in the United States, the non-Federal share must be in cash. For projects in Latin America and the Caribbean, the non-Federal share may be cash or an in-kind contribution.

Projects may be located in the United States and in all countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, with the exception of Cuba. Projects in Canada are not eligible for this funding.

An applicant may be an individual, corporation, partnership, trust, association, other private entity, government agency in the United States or a foreign country, or an international organization.

The information collection requirements associated with grant proposals under the Act are approved under Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number 1018-0113, which expires on November 30, 2005.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information

unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The information collection solicited: is necessary to gain a benefit in the form of a grant, as determined by the Fish and Wildlife Service; is necessary to determine the eligibility and relative value of projects; results in an approximate paperwork burden of 40 hours per application; and does not carry a premise of confidentiality. The information collections in this program will not be part of a system of records covered by the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552(a)).

Dated: November 14, 2002.

Steve Williams,

Director.

[FR Doc. 02-31836 Filed 12-17-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Meeting of the Klamath Fishery Management Council

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: 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 Klamath Fishery Management Council, established under the authority of the Klamath River Basin Fishery Resources Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 460ss *et seq.*). The Klamath Fishery Management Council makes recommendations to agencies that regulate harvest of anadromous fish in the Klamath River Basin. The objectives of this meeting are to hear technical reports, to discuss and develop Klamath fall Chinook salmon harvest management options for the 2003 season, and to make recommendations to the Pacific Fishery Management Council and other agencies.

DATES: The Klamath Fishery Management Council will meet from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday, March 9, 2003.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Red Lion Hotel Sacramento, 1401 Arden Way, Sacramento, California.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Phil Detrich, Project Leader, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1829 South Oregon Street, Yreka, California 96097, telephone (530) 842-5763.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: At the March 9, 2003, meeting, the Klamath Fishery Management Council may schedule short follow-up meetings to be held between March 10, through March 14, 2003, at the Red Lion Hotel

Sacramento, 1401 Arden Way, Sacramento, California, where the Pacific Fishery Management Council will be meeting.

For background information on the Klamath Fishery Management Council, please refer to the notice of their initial meeting that appeared in the **Federal Register** on July 8, 1987 (52 FR 25639).

Dated: December 11, 2002.

John Engbring,

Manager, California/Nevada Operations Office, Sacramento, CA.

[FR Doc. 02-31778 Filed 12-17-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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DATES: The Klamath Fishery Management Council will meet from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Thursday, February 27, 2003, and from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, February 28, 2002.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Best Western Beachfront Inn, 16008 Boat Basin Road, Brookings, Oregon.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Phil Detrich, Project Leader, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1829 South Oregon Street, Yreka, California 96097, telephone (530) 842-5763.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: For background information on the Klamath Fishery Management Council, please refer to the notice of their initial meeting that appeared in the **Federal Register** on July 8, 1987 (52 FR 25639).