

Permit No. TE-050450

Applicant: Lisa Allen, Dana Point, California.

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

Permit No. TE-074658

Applicant: Cecilia Meyer Lovell, San Diego, California.

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

Permit No. TE-077388

Applicant: Oregon Zoo, Portland, Oregon.

The applicant requests a permit to take (captive breed) the California condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*) in conjunction with a recovery program for the species in Multnomah County, Oregon, for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

Permit No. TE-077392

Applicant: Peter Waldburger, Los Osos, California.

The applicant requests a permit to take (harass by survey) the Morro shoulderband snail (*Helminthoglypta walkeriana*) in conjunction with surveys throughout the range of the species in California for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

We solicit public review and comment on each of these recovery permit applications.

Dated: October 2, 2003.

David J. Wesley,

Deputy Regional Director, Region 1, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 03-25580 Filed 10-8-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service****Re-Opening of the Comment Period for the Draft Recovery Plan for the Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep**

AGENCY: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of re-opening of public comment period.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, announce a re-opening of the comment period for public review of the Draft Recovery Plan for the Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep (*Ovis canadensis californiana*) for an additional 60 days. The original comment period closed on September 29, 2003. We are re-opening the comment period in response to specific requests from the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep Foundation to allow additional time for public review of this draft recovery plan. This draft recovery plan includes recovery criteria and measures for the Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep.

DATES: Comments on the draft recovery plan must be received on or before December 8, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the draft recovery plan are available for inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the following location: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office, 2493 Portola Road, Suite B, Ventura, California 93003 (telephone 805-644-1766). Requests for copies of the draft recovery plan and written comments and materials regarding the plan should be addressed to the Field Supervisor at the above address. An electronic copy of this draft recovery plan is also available at <http://www.r1.fws.gov/ecoservices/endangered/recovery/default.htm>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carl Benz, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, at the above address.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

On July 30, 2003, we published a Notice of Availability of the Draft Recovery Plan for the Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep, opening a 60-day public comment period that is scheduled to end on September 29, 2003. We have received requests from the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Wilderness Society, and the Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep Foundation to extend the comment period so that they might more thoroughly review the plan. Based on these requests, we determined to re-open the comment period for

public review of this draft recovery plan.

Recovery of endangered or threatened animals and plants is a primary goal of our endangered species program and the Endangered Species Act (Act) (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). Recovery means improvement of the status of listed species to the point at which listing is no longer appropriate under the criteria set out in section 4(a)(1) of the Act. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for the conservation of the species, establish criteria for downlisting or delisting listed species, and estimate time and cost for implementing the measures needed for recovery.

The Act requires the development of recovery plans for listed species unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of a particular species. Section 4(f) of the Act requires that public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment be provided during recovery plan development. We will consider all information presented during the public comment period prior to approval of each new or revised recovery plan. Substantive technical comments may result in changes to the plan. Substantive comments regarding recovery plan implementation may not necessarily result in changes to the recovery plan, but will be forwarded to appropriate Federal or other entities so that they can take these comments into account during the course of implementing recovery actions.

This draft recovery plan was developed by the Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep Recovery Team. We coordinated with the California Department of Fish and Game, and a team of stakeholders, which included ranchers, landowners and managers, agency representatives, and non-government organizations.

The population of bighorn sheep in the Sierra Nevada of California was listed as an endangered species on January 3, 2000, (65 FR 20) following emergency listing on April 20, 1999, (64 FR 19300). At the time of listing, the bighorn sheep population was very small, with only about 125 adults known to exist among 5 geographic areas, with little probability of interchange among those areas. The bighorn sheep is threatened primarily by transmission of disease from domestic sheep and goats, and predation by mountain lions. Key elements for immediate action are: (1) Predator management; (2) augmentation of small herds with sheep from larger ones; and (3) elimination of the threat of a pneumonia epizootic resulting from contact with domestic sheep or goats. Actions needed to recover the bighorn

sheep include: (1) Protection of bighorn sheep habitat; (2) increase population growth by enhancing survivorship and reproductive output of bighorn sheep; (3) increase the numbers of herds, and thereby the number of bighorn sheep; (4) develop and implement a genetic management plan to maintain genetic diversity; (5) monitor status and trends of bighorn sheep herds and their habitat; (6) research; and (7) providing information to the public.

Public Comments Solicited

We solicit written comments on the draft recovery plan described. All comments received by the date specified above will be considered in developing a final recovery plan.

Authority: The authority for this action is section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1533(f).

Dated: September 24, 2003.

Steve Thompson,

Manager, California/Nevada Operations Office, Region 1, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 03-25576 Filed 10-8-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force 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. The meeting topics are identified in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section.

DATES: The Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force will meet from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 4, and from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, November 5, 2003.

ADDRESSES: The ANS Task Force meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn, 4610 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22203. Phone 703-243-9800.

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

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

Topics to be covered during the ANS Task Force meeting include: an update of activities from each of the Task Force's regional panels; status and updates from several other Task Force committees and working groups including the Prevention Committee, the Asian Carp working group, and the New Zealand mud snail working group, review of State ANS Management Plans from Hawaii, Indiana and Wisconsin; an update on ballast water management activities; an update on the activities of the National Invasive Species Council; a discussion on the National Aquatic Invasive Species Act; and other topics.

Minutes of the meeting will be maintained by the Executive Secretary, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, Suite 810, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22203-1622, and will be available for public inspection during regular business hours, Monday through Friday.

Dated: October 2, 2003.

Mamie Parker,

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

[FR Doc. 03-25647 Filed 10-8-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NM-070-03-1610-DR]

Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision for Proposed Farmington Resource Management Plan Revision and Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, New Mexico State Office, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the National Environmental Policy Act, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces the availability of the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Proposed Farmington Resource Management Plan (RMP) revision and Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The revised plan addressed the oil and gas estate administered by BLM in the Farmington Field Office and the Albuquerque Field Office; the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Jicarilla District of the Carson National Forest; portions of the Coyote and Cuba Districts of the Santa Fe National Forest, and the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) for lands surrounding Navajo Reservoir. Other issues relating to landownership adjustments, Off-Highway Vehicle management, Specially Designated

Areas, and coal leasing suitability were addressed only for lands administered by the Farmington Field Office. The USFS and BOR were cooperating agencies in preparation of the RMP. The Final EIS and Proposed RMP were available for protest from April 4, 2003, to May 5, 2003. All protests and comments were considered during the preparation of the ROD.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the ROD have been sent to affected Federal, State, and local Government agencies and to interested parties. The document will be available electronically on the following Web site: <http://www.nm.blm.gov/>. Copies of the ROD are available for public inspection at the following BLM office locations: Farmington Field Office, 1235 La Plata Highway, Farmington, NM 87401; and Albuquerque Field Office, 435 Montano Rd. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87107.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

James Ramakka, RMP Project Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Farmington Field Office, 1235 La Plata Highway, Farmington, NM 87401 (505-599-6307).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This ROD approves the proposed revision to the Farmington RMP. The RMP provides guidance for managing approximately 1,415,300 acres of public land and 3,020,693 acres of Federal minerals in San Juan, McKinley, Rio Arriba and Sandoval Counties. The overall planning area encompasses 8,274,100 acres.

The ROD approves new decisions concerning oil and gas leasing and development, Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) designations, landownership adjustments, management of Specially Designated Areas, and coal leasing suitability. These decisions are intended to replace goals, objectives, management actions and conditions of use described in the 1988 Farmington RMP and subsequent amendments related to these matters. No other decisions of the 1988 Farmington RMP or amendments are affected.

Dated: August 14, 2003.

Linda S.C. Rundell,

New Mexico State Director.

[FR Doc. 03-25616 Filed 10-8-03; 8:45 am]

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