

[FR Doc. 98-2563 Filed 2-2-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service****Endangered and Threatened Species Permit Applications****AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.**ACTION:** Notice of receipt of applications.

The following applicants have applied for permits to conduct certain activities with endangered species. This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531, *et seq.*).

PRT-83713

Applicant: Zambrana Engineering, Inc., St. Louis, Missouri; Paul T. Raibley, Senior Aquatic Scientist.

The applicant requests a permit to take (capture and release) pallid sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*), fanshell [*Cyprogenia stegaria* (= *irrorata*)], fat pocketbook [*Potamilus* (= *Proptera*) *capax*], and Higgins' eye pearl mussel (*Lampsilis higginsii*) from the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers and their tributaries bordering or occurring in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin. Activities are proposed to document presence or absence of the species for the purpose of survival and enhancement of the species in the wild.

PRT-838714

Applicant: University of Minnesota, Raptor Center, St. Paul, Minnesota; Patrick Redig, Director.

The applicant requests a permit to take (capture, fit with radio tracking units, and release) bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) in Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Activities are proposed for the purpose of scientific research aimed at survival and enhancement of the species in the wild.

PRT-838715

Applicant: The Nature Conservancy, Oak Openings Project Office, Swanton, Ohio; David Weekes, Executive Director.

The applicant requests a permit to take (harass and kill through habitat management) Karner blue butterfly (*Lycia melissa samuelis*) at the Kitty Todd Nature Preserve in Swanton, Ohio. Activities are proposed to maintain and increase habitat for a reintroduced population of the species for the purpose of survival and enhancement of the species in the wild.

Written data or comments should be submitted to the Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Operations, 1 Federal Drive, Fort Snelling, Minnesota 55111-4056, and must be received within 30 days of the date of this publication.

Documents and other information submitted with these applications are available for review 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, Ecological Services Operations, 1 Federal Drive, Fort Snelling, Minnesota 55111-4056. Telephone: (612/713-5332); FAX: (612/713-5292).

Dated: January 26, 1998.

Matthias A. Kerschbaum,

Acting Assistant Regional Director, IL, IN, MO (Ecological Services), Region 3, Fort Snelling, Minnesota.

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BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service****Availability of a Draft Recovery Plan for the Pawnee Montane Skipper (*Hesperia leonardus montana*) for Review and Comment****AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.**ACTION:** Notice of document availability.

SUMMARY: The Fish and Wildlife Service announces the availability for public review of a draft recovery plan for the pawnee montane skipper (*Hesperia leonardus montana*). The pawnee montane skipper currently exists on 38 square miles in the South Platte River drainage system in Colorado. The Service solicits review and comment from the public on this draft recovery plan.

DATES: Comments on the draft recovery plan must be received on or before June 3, 1998 to ensure they receive consideration by the Service.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the draft recovery plan may obtain a copy by contacting the Partnerships Coordinator, Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 25486, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225. Written comments and materials regarding this plan should be sent to the above address. Comments and materials received are available on request for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Bettina Proctor, Partnerships Coordinator (see **ADDRESSES** above), at (303) 236-8155, extension 259.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

Restoring an endangered or threatened animal or plant to the point where it is again a secure, self-sustaining member of its ecosystem is a primary goal of the Service's endangered species program. To help guide the recovery effort, the Service is working to prepare recovery plans for most of the listed species native to the United States. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for conservation of the species, establish criteria for recovery levels for downlisting or delisting them, and estimate time and cost for implementing the recovery measure needed.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), 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, as amended in 1988, requires that public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment be provided during recovery plan development. The Service will consider all information presented during a public comment period prior to approval of each new or revised recovery plan. The Service and other Federal Agencies also will take these comments into account in the course of implementing approved recovery plans.

The pawnee montane skipper was listed as threatened on September 25, 1987 (52 FR 36176). The skipper occurs only on the Pikes Peak Granite Formation in the South Platte River drainage system in Colorado involving portions of Jefferson, Douglas, Teller, and Park counties. The total known habitat within the range is estimated to be 37.9 square miles.

At the time of listing, the skipper habitat was threatened with the construction of Two Forks Dam and Reservoir by the Denver Water Department, and associated development. In 1990, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency did not approve the construction of the dam, removing the immediate principal threat to the skipper's habitat. In the long term, plans to develop a reservoir in the South Platte drainage which might negatively affect skipper habitat may resurface.

Because of the limited habitat and range of the Pawnee montane skipper, unexpected environmental, random (stochastic) events could also have a major deleterious effect on the