

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Applicant: Robert Brian Pate, Clemson, South Carolina, TE009025-0.

The applicant requests authorization to take (harass during nest monitoring and augmentation) the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker, *Picoides borealis*, throughout the species range in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Tennessee, and Kentucky for the purpose of enhancement of survival of the species.

Applicant: James D. Kiser, Appalachian Technical Services, Inc., Whitesburg, Kentucky, TE009638-0.

The applicant requests authorization to take (capture, tag, radio-track) the endangered gray bat, *Myotis grisescens*, Indiana bat, *Myotis sodalis*, and Virginia big-eared bat, *Corynorhinus townsendii ingens*, throughout the species' ranges in North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia for the purpose of enhancement of survival of the species.

Applicant: John J. Bernard, Natchitoches, Louisiana, TE009310-0.

The applicant requests authorization to take (harass during nest augmentation) the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker, *Picoides borealis*, throughout the species range in Louisiana for the purpose of enhancement of survival of the species.

Dated: March 29, 1999.

H. Dale Hall,

Deputy Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 99-8206 Filed 4-2-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service****Availability of a Draft Recovery Plan for the Golden Paintbrush for Review and Comment**

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announces the availability for public review of a Draft Recovery Plan for the Golden Paintbrush (*Castilleja levisecta*). This threatened herb, native to grasslands in the Puget Sound region of Washington and adjoining British Columbia, is known from only 11 small populations and requires site-specific habitat conservation measures and reintroduction to assure its recovery.

DATES: Comments on the draft recovery plan received by June 4, 1999 will be considered by the Service.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the draft recovery plan are available for inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the following location: Western Washington Office, North Pacific Coast Ecoregion, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 510 Desmond Drive SE, Suite 102, Lacey, Washington 98501. Requests for copies of the draft recovery plan and written comments and materials regarding this plan should be addressed to Nancy Gloman, Acting Supervisor, at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ted Thomas, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, at the above Lacey address (phone: 360/753-4327).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

Restoring endangered or threatened animals and plants to the point where they are again secure, self-sustaining organisms within their 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 the conservation of the species, establish criteria for the recovery levels for downlisting or delisting them, and estimate time and cost for implementing the recovery measures needed.

The Endangered Species Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) (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 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 the public comment period prior to approval of each new or revised recovery plan. Substantive technical comments will result in changes to the plans. Substantive comments regarding recovery plan implementation may not necessarily result in changes to the recovery plans, 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. Individualized responses to comments will not be provided.

This perennial herb is listed as threatened. It is native to grasslands within the Puget Lowlands of western Washington, as well as the southern tip of Vancouver Island, British Columbia. Only 11 populations, all of them small, are known to exist. Five of the

populations are on public lands and generally enjoy some degree of protection. The main threat to this plant is loss or degradation of its habitat. Most of the Puget Sound grasslands have been developed for commercial, residential, or agricultural purposes. Additional loss has been caused by encroachment of woody plants and weeds into the grasslands.

The objective of this plan is to conserve the plant so that protection by the Act is no longer necessary. Actions necessary to accomplish this objective include ensuring effective management for all state and Federally-managed sites, securing formal protection for privately-owned sites, where possible, monitoring protected sites, reintroducing the plant to suitable or restored habitat, including habitat within the species' historic range, and storing seed as a hedge against accidental loss of any of the populations.

Public Comments Solicited

The Service solicits written comments on this draft recovery plan. All comments received by the date specified above will be considered prior to final approval of this plan.

Authority

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

Dated: March 30, 1999.

Anne Badgley,

Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.

[FR Doc. 99-8177 Filed 4-2-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service****Availability of Draft Revised Recovery Plan for MacFarlane's Four-O'Clock (*Mirabilis macfarlanei*) for Review and Comment**

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announces the availability for public review of a draft revised recovery plan for MacFarlane's four-o'clock (*Mirabilis macfarlanei*). This plant occurs in grassland habitats in Idaho County, Idaho, and Wallowa County, Oregon.

DATES: Comments received on the draft recovery plan by June 4, 1999 will be considered by the Service.