

community; (3) Protection and enhancement of habitat for migratory birds; (4) Protection and enhancement of Refuge habitat to sustain healthy populations of native fish and wildlife in addition to migratory birds; (5) Restoration of native threatened and endangered species on Refuge lands; (6) Development of a database of pertinent scientific information regarding Refuge habitats and wildlife; (7) Provision of quality consumptive and non-consumptive wildlife-dependent public use; (8) Development of education and outreach programs that enable the public to 1—understand, enjoy and value the fish and wildlife resources found on and off the Refuge, 2—understand events and issues related to these resources, and 3—act to promote fish and wildlife conservation; (9) Compliance with historic and archaeological resource protection laws and regulations; and (10) Institution of an efficient administration that supports accomplishment of Refuge objectives. Some of the specific actions proposed to achieve these goals include but are not necessarily limited to the following strategies:

- Acquire lands within the proposed refuge boundary as they become available from willing sellers;
- Restore bottomland hardwood forest in floodplain areas previously converted to pecan orchard, cropland or pasture;
- Control excessive or prolonged flooding in bottomland forests through the installation of water control structures in existing beaver dams and/or control of problem beaver populations;
- Develop green tree reservoirs, moist soil units and other managed wetlands where conditions support their creation to enhance habitat for waterfowl;
- Develop a recreational trail and visitor contact center;
- Map and monitor wildlife habitats;
- Establish three waterfowl sanctuaries closed to all public entry (2,500 acres total);
- Convert all exotic grass pastureland to bottomland hardwood, wetland or tallgrass prairie conditions that originally existed on the sites.

Based on a review and evaluation of the information contained in the CCP and EA for Deep Fork National Wildlife Refuge, the Regional Director, Southwest Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, has determined that the approval of the individual or cumulative approaches reflected in the Proposed Alternative and CCP Goals, Objectives and Strategies, is not deemed to constitute a major Federal action which would significantly affect the

quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. However, it is the intent of the Service to revisit questions of potential significant environmental consequences in accordance with NEPA upon consideration of the implementation of site specific proposals called for and discussed in the final plan document.

ADDRESSES: Copies may be obtained by writing to: Mr. John Slown, AICP, Biologist/Conservation Planner, Division of Refuges, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P. O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, NM 87103-1306.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: It is Service policy to have all lands within the National Wildlife Refuge System managed in accordance with an approved CCP. The CCP guides management decisions and identifies refuge goals, long-range objectives, and strategies for achieving refuge purposes. The planning process has considered many elements, including habitat and wildlife management, habitat protection and acquisition, public and recreational uses, and cultural resources. Public input into this planning process has assisted in the development of these documents. The CCP will provide other agencies and the public with a clear understanding of the desired conditions for the Refuge and how the Service will implement management strategies.

The Service considered comments and advice generated in response to a draft document issued April 1999. The Service is furnishing this notice in compliance with Service CCP policy to advise other agencies and the public of the availability of the final documents.

Dated: October 7, 1999.

Stephen W. Perry,

Acting Regional Director, Albuquerque, NM.

[FR Doc. 99-28124 Filed 10-27-99; 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

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of permit issuance.

On June 3, 1999, a notice was published in the **Federal Register**, vol. 64, no. 106 and FR 29873, that an application was filed with the Fish and Wildlife Service by Douglas County, Colorado, for a permit to incidentally

take, pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1539), as amended, Preble's meadow jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius preblei*) in Douglas County, Colorado, pursuant to the terms of Maytag Trail Habitat Conservation Plan.

Notice is hereby given that on October 12, 1999, as authorized by the provisions of the Act, the Service issued a permit (PRT-TE018090) 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 would not be to the disadvantage of the threatened species, and that it was consistent with the purposes and policy set forth in the Endangered Species Act, as amended.

Additional information on this permit action may be requested by contacting the Field Supervisor, Fish and Wildlife Service, 755 Parfet Street, Suite 361, Lakewood, Colorado 80215, telephone (303) 275-2370, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. weekdays.

Dated: October 20, 1999.

Terry T. Terrell,

Deputy Regional Director, Denver, Colorado.

[FR Doc. 99-28140 Filed 10-27-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

RIN 1018-AF63

Proposed Policy on General Conservation Permits

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Service announces a proposed policy to enhance the use of permits as conservation tools by granting general conservation permits under a number of wildlife and plant laws and treaties. The policy recognizes scientific and conservation professionals and institutions as partners in resource conservation and management and provides incentives for them to work with protected species and their habitats. It establishes a framework for us to evaluate permit applications based on a risk assessment and grant a general conservation permit under certain circumstances to professionals conducting scientific, management, and conservation activities. This proposed policy is intended to complement the current system used to process permit applications.