

Orem, Utah 84058, Telephone: (801) 226-7187, Fax: (801) 226-7150.

Copies are also available for inspection at:

Central Utah Water Conservancy District, 355 West University Parkway, Orem, Utah 84058

Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission, 102 West 500 South, Suite 315, Salt Lake City, Utah 84101

Department of the Interior, Natural Resource Library, Serials Branch, 18th and C Streets, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240

Department of the Interior, Central Utah Project Completion Act Office, 302 East 1860 South, Provo, Utah 84606

Dated: March 14, 2000.

**Ronald Johnston,**

*CUP Program Director, Department of the Interior.*

[FR Doc. 00-6794 Filed 3-17-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-RK-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Notice of Availability

**SUMMARY:** The Peregrine Fund (J. Peter Jenny; applicant) has requested an amendment to its incidental take permit pursuant to Section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) on December 16, 1996, under permit number PRT-814839. The amendment requests that 42 additional counties, including Andrews, Brewster, Cochran, Crane, Crockett, Culberson, Dawson, Dimmit, Duval, Ector, Edwards, El Paso, Frio, Gaines, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Jim Hogg, Kinney, La Salle, Loving, Martin, Maverick, McMullen, Medina, Midland, Pecos, Presidio, Real, Reeves, Starr, Sutton, Terrel, Terry, Upton, Uvalde, Val Verde, Ward, Webb, Yoakum, Winkler, Zapata and Zavala Counties be added to the 15 county area in Texas where The Peregrine Fund already has a permit for incidental take in association with their aplomado falcon (*Falco femoralis septentrionalis*) reintroduction program.

**DATES:** Written comments on the amendment should be received on or before April 19, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Persons wishing to review the amendment may obtain a copy by writing to the Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 500 Gold Avenue, S.W., P.O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103. In addition, the amendment will be available for public inspection by

written request, by appointment only, during normal business hours (8:00 to 4:30) at the Service's Clear Lake Ecological Services Field Office, 17629 El Camino Real, Suite 211, Houston, Texas 77058. Written comments concerning the application should be submitted to the Field Supervisor, Clear Lake Ecological Services Field Office, 17629 El Camino Real, Suite 211, Houston, Texas 77058. Please refer to the amendment to PRT-814839 when submitting comments.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Edith A. Erling, Clear Lake Ecological Services Field Office, 17629 El Camino Real, Suite 211, Houston, Texas 77058; (281) 286-8282.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 9 of the Act prohibits the "taking" of endangered species such as the aplomado falcon. However, the Service, under limited circumstances, may issue permits to take endangered wildlife species when such taking is incidental to, and not the purpose of, otherwise lawful activities. Regulations governing permits for endangered species are at 50 CFR 17.22.

To facilitate the reintroduction of the aplomado falcon, The Peregrine Fund is currently authorized to take aplomado falcons, incidental to lawful land-use activities, on specific lands enrolled in The Peregrine Fund's "Safe Harbor" program. To date, eight landowners have enrolled a total of 1.26 million acres in The Peregrine Fund's "Safe Harbor" program. A total of 466 captive-bred aplomado falcons have been released. At least 19 pairs have become established and have successfully fledged at least 19 young. As aplomado falcon pairs become established they fiercely defend their territory and behave aggressively towards other falcons. This behavior, while normal, effectively reduces areas available for future releases. Therefore, additional habitat is needed to achieve the goal of a self-sustaining population of aplomado falcons.

**APPLICANT:** This amendment to permit PRT-814839 would authorize incidental take on an additional 48,994,295 acres, again, only on land that is enrolled in the "safe harbor" program for that purpose. To facilitate the reintroduction of the aplomado falcon, The Peregrine Fund is currently authorized to take aplomado falcons, incidental to lawful land-use activities,

on specific lands enrolled in The Peregrine Fund's "safe harbor" program.

**Geoffrey L. Haskett,**

*Regional Director, Region 2, Albuquerque, New Mexico.*

[FR Doc. 00-6803 Filed 3-17-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4510-55-U**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Notice of Availability; Recommended Guidance for Private Landowners Concerning the Cactus Ferruginous Pygmy-owl; and the Cactus Ferruginous Pygmy-owl Survey Protocol

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of Availability; Private Landowner Guidance and Survey Protocol for the Cactus Ferruginous Pygmy-owl.

**SUMMARY:** The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announces the availability of its recommended private landowner guidance for the cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl (*Glaucidium brasilianum cactorum*) (pygmy-owl). These recommendations will assist private landowners in minimizing their risk of inadvertently "taking" (harming, harassing or killing) a pygmy-owl. In addition, the Service in cooperation with the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD), announces the availability of a revised survey protocol for the pygmy-owl. This survey protocol should be used by landowners and managers in determining presence/absence of the endangered pygmy-owl.

On March 10, 1997, the Service published a final rule adding the Arizona population of the pygmy-owl to the federal list of endangered species (62 FR 10730). The principle cause for the decline in population and reduction in current known range for the once "common" and "fairly numerous" species is the loss of habitat.

In December 1997, the Service provided interim guidance describing the habitat relied upon by the pygmy-owl and suggested that landowners with such habitat have surveys conducted on their land to determine whether the habitat is occupied by an owl prior to disturbing the habitat. The intent of the Service was to furnish landowners and agencies with enough information to determine the level of stewardship their development planning should require in order to avoid harming, harassing, or killing (taking) a pygmy-owl. On August 13, 1998 the Service published two

notices of availability and opening of public comment periods for the proposed pygmy-owl landowner guidance (63 FR 43363) and survey protocol (63 FR 43362). On September 16, 1998, the Service announced the extension of the comment period from September 14, 1998, to November 14, 1998 for both the landowner guidance and protocol (63 FR 49539). Public information meetings were also held on the guidance and survey protocol on October 5, 1998, in Phoenix, Arizona; on October 6, 1998, in Tucson, Arizona; and on October 7, 1998, in Sierra Vista, Arizona. On November 20, 1998, the Service again announced the extension of the comment period for both the guidance and protocol to March 14, 1999 (63 FR 64449).

Using information gathered during the comment period and subsequently from researchers in the field, and with technical assistance of AGFD, we revised the proposed "Guidance for Private Landowners and Federal, State, and Local Agencies Concerning Take of the Endangered Cactus Ferruginous Pygmy-owl" and "Protocol for Surveying for the Endangered Cactus Ferruginous Pygmy-owl". The Service's recommended landowner guidance entitled "Recommended Guidance for Private Landowners Concerning the Cactus Ferruginous Pygmy-owl" and the AGFD-Service authored "The Cactus Ferruginous Pygmy-owl Survey Protocol", both dated January 2000, incorporate those modifications found to be appropriate, and replace the 1998 proposed landowner guidance and 1993 AGFD survey protocol. We and AGFD intend to annually review and (as appropriate) modify this survey protocol, to ensure that the best scientific information is incorporated into the prescribed methodology.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the revised landowner guidance and survey protocol may be obtained from the Service's Region 2 World Wide Web Home Page at: <http://ifw2es.fws.gov/Arizona/> or from the Field Supervisor, Arizona Ecological Services Field Office, 2321 West Royal Palm Road, Suite 103, Phoenix, Arizona 85021-4951.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mike Wrigley at the above address (telephone 602/640-2720, facsimile 602/640-2730).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

The cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl (*Glaucidium brasilianum cactorum*) (pygmy-owl) was listed as an endangered species on March 10, 1997

as result of loss and degradation of habitat, overutilization for recreational purposes, inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms, low levels of genetic variation, possible contamination from pesticides, and potential competition from other bird species that use cavities for nesting (62 FR 10730). Historically in Arizona, pygmy-owls occupied areas of south-central Arizona from the New River, about 56 km (35 mi) north of Phoenix, west to Agua Caliente near Gila Bend and Cabeza Prieta Tanks, and east to near present day Geronimo and Fort Thomas along the Gila River. Recent records (since 1993) suggest that pygmy-owls in Arizona may only occur in Pima and Pinal counties, however, the total number and their distribution in Arizona is currently unknown because not all areas have been surveyed. Only 39 adult individuals were known to exist in the state in the spring of 1999. Most of these birds were distributed in three areas: northwest Tucson, Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, and the Altar Valley, including Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge.

In Arizona, pygmy-owls rarely occur below 305 m (1,000 ft) or above 1,219 m (4,000 ft). Historically, cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*)-mesquite (*Prosopis* spp.) forest and mesquite woodland along the Gila and Salt rivers, and major tributaries were environments typically used by the owls. Pygmy-owls currently occupy paloverde (*Cercidium* spp.)-mesquite-acacia (*Acacia* spp.) xeroriparian, and saguaro (*Carnegiea gigantea*)-paloverde desertscrub areas often with ironwood (*Olneya tesota*) and/or exotic landscaping supported by irrigation. Recently, pygmy-owls have also been located in semidesert and Sonoran savanna grasslands with xeroriparian washes. Dominant tree species in riparian areas include mesquite, ash (*Fraxinus* spp.), and hackberry (*Celtis* spp.). Uplands in these areas primarily consist of grasslands with dispersed mesquite trees, and very few, isolated saguaro cacti in some areas.

**Nancy M. Kaufman,**

*Regional Director, Albuquerque, New Mexico.*  
[FR Doc. 00-6802 Filed 3-17-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4510-55-U**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Bureau of Land Management**

[WO-350-1430-PF-01-24 1A]

**Extension of Currently Approved Information Collection; OMB Approval Number 1004-0004**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is announcing its intention to request extension of approval for the collection of information from those persons who submit an application (Form 2520-1), to apply for a desert-land entry to reclaim, irrigate, and cultivate arid and semiarid public lands in the Western United States. The BLM uses the information to determine if the applicant is eligible to make a desert-land entry under the appropriate land entry laws.

**DATES:** Comments on the proposed information collection must be received by May 19, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments may be mailed to: Regulatory Management Team (420), Bureau of Land Management, 1849 C Street NW., Room 401LS, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Comments may be sent Internet to: [WOCComment@blm.gov](mailto:WOCComment@blm.gov). Please include "Attn: 1004-0004" and your name and address in your Internet message.

Comments may be hand delivered to the Bureau of Land Management Administrative Record, Room 401 L Street NW., Washington, D.C.

Comments will be available for public review at the L Street address during regular business hours (7:45 am to 4:15 pm, Monday through Friday).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Alzata L. Ransom, Lands and Realty Group, at (202) 452-7772.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In accordance with 5 CFR 1320.12(a), BLM is required to provide 60-day notice in the **Federal Register** concerning a collection of information contained in published current rules to solicit comments on (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c)