

presence or absence surveys throughout its range for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

[Permit No. TE-786714]

Applicant: Elyssa Robertson, El Cajon, California

The permittee requests an amendment to take (survey by pursuit) the Quino checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha quino*) in conjunction with presence or absence surveys throughout its range for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

[Permit No. TE-799570]

Applicant: Carol Witham, Davis, California

The permittee requests an amendment to take (harass by survey, collect, and sacrifice) the San Diego fairy shrimp (*Brachinecta sandiegonensis*) and the Riverside fairy shrimp (*Streptocephalus woottoni*) throughout each species range in California in conjunction with surveys and population monitoring for the purpose of enhancing their survival.

DATES: Written comments on these permit applications must be received on or before February 14, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Written data or comments should be submitted to the Chief—Endangered Species, Ecological Services, Fish and Wildlife Service, 911 N.E. 11th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97232-4181; Fax: (503) 231-6243. Please refer to the respective permit number for each application when submitting comments. All comments received, including names and addresses, will become part of the official administrative record and may be made available to the public.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Documents and other information submitted with these applications are available for review, subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act, by any party who submits a written request for a copy of such documents within 20 days of the date of publication of this notice to the address above; telephone: (503) 231-2063. Please refer to the respective permit number for each application when requesting copies of documents.

Dated: January 5, 2000.

Thomas Dwyer,

Acting Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.

[FR Doc. 00-799 Filed 1-12-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment/Habitat Conservation Plan and Receipt of an Application for Incidental Take Permit for Houston Toad (*Bufo houstonensis*) During Construction of a Single Family Residence on 5.06 Acres on Lot 18 in Section One of the Circle D Subdivision in Bastrop County, Texas

SUMMARY: James L. Adams (Applicant) has applied to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for an incidental take permit pursuant to Section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act (Act). The Applicant has been assigned permit number TE-021226-0. The requested permit, which is for a period of 5 years, would authorize the incidental take of the endangered Houston toad (*Bufo houstonensis*). The proposed take would occur as a result of the construction of a single family residence on Lot 18 in Section One of the Circle D Subdivision, Bastrop County, Texas.

The Service has prepared the Environmental Assessment/Habitat Conservation Plan (EA/HCP) for the incidental take application. A determination of jeopardy to the species or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will not be made until at least 30 days from the date of publication of this notice. This notice is provided pursuant to Section 10(c) of the Act and National Environmental Policy Act regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

DATES: Written comments on the application should be received on or before February 14, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the application may obtain a copy by writing to the Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103. Persons wishing to review the EA/HCP may obtain a copy by contacting Scott Rowin, Ecological Services Field Office, 10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78758 (512/490-0063). Documents will be available for public inspection by written request, by appointment only, during normal business hours (8:00 to 4:30) at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Austin, Texas. Written data or comments concerning the application and EA/HCP should be submitted to the Field Supervisor, Ecological Services Field Office, Austin, Texas at the above address. Please refer to permit number TE-021226-0 when submitting comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Scott Rowin at the above Austin Ecological Services Field Office.

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

APPLICANT: James L. Adams plans to construct a single family residence on 5.06 acres platted as Lot 18 in Section One of the Circle D Subdivision, Bastrop County, Texas. This action will eliminate less than one acre of habitat. The applicant proposes to mitigate for this incidental take of the Houston toad by donating \$1,500 into the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for the specific purpose of land acquisition and management within Houston toad habitat, as identified by the Service.

Alternatives to this action were rejected because not developing the subject property with federally listed species present was not economically feasible and alteration of the project design would not alter the level of impacts.

Geoffrey L. Haskett,

Regional Director, Region 2, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

[FR Doc. 00-800 Filed 1-12-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Natural Gas Pipeline Right-of-Way Permit Application to Cross Grand Bay National Wildlife Refuge

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior.

AGENCY: Notice.

SUMMARY: This Notice advises the public that Mississippi Power Company, has applied for a right-of-way permit for the installation of a twenty (20) inch outer-diameter natural gas pipeline across 3.02 acres of Grand Bay National Wildlife Refuge in Jackson County, Mississippi, described as follows:

A right-of-way with a beginning width of fifty (50) feet on, over, across, and through that part of the Grand Bay National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) lying and being in Jackson County, Mississippi, described as follows: The proposed route is paralleling, adjacent, and south of the existing railroad and transmission rights-of-way.