

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]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

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]

BILLING CODE 4510-55-U

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.

Commencing at the SW corner of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 18, Township 6 South, Range 5 West, thence run North 349.97 feet to the point of beginning; thence S 89 46 58 E, 2632.46 feet to the East line of Section 18. Said right-of-way contains 3.02 acres, more or less.

Also for the purpose and duration of the initial construction and installation of the proposed pipeline, a temporary right-of-way and work space twenty-five (25) feet in width located on the north side of the proposed right-of-way.

The purpose of this notice is to inform the public that the United States Fish and Wildlife Service is currently considering the merits of approving this application.

DATES: Interested persons desiring to comment on this application should do so on or before February 14, 2000.

ADDRESSES: If you wish to comment, you may submit your comments by any one of several methods. You may mail comments to Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1875 Century Boulevard, Room 420, Atlanta, Georgia 30345. You may also comment via the Internet to *Sam ___ Hamilton@fws.gov*. Please submit Internet comments as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Please also include "Attn: Brenda Johnson" and your name and return address in your internet message. If you do not receive a confirmation from the system that we have received your Internet message, contact us at U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Realty, Brenda Johnson, 1-800-419-9582. Finally, you may hand-deliver comments to Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 400, Atlanta, Georgia 30345. Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the rulemaking record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There also may be circumstances in which we would withhold from the rulemaking record a respondent's identity, as allowable by law. If you wish to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. However, we will not consider anonymous comments. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brenda Johnson, Realty Specialist, at the above Atlanta, Georgia, address (404) 679-7202 or FAX (404) 679-7273.

Right-of-way applications are filed in accordance with Section 28 of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (41 Stat. 449:30 U.S.C. 185), as amended by Public Law 93-153.

Sam D. Hamilton,

Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 00-847 Filed 1-12-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Geological Survey

Request for Public Comments on Proposed Information Collection to be Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for Review Under the Paperwork Reduction Act

The proposal for the collection of information described below will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for approval under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). Copies of the proposed collection of information and related forms may be obtained by contacting the Bureau's clearance officer at the phone number listed below. Comments and suggestions on the proposal should be made within 60 days directly to the Bureau clearance officer, U.S. Geological Survey, 807 National Center, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, Virginia, 20192, telephone (703) 648-7313.

Specific public comments are requested as to:

1. whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions on the bureaus, including whether the information will have practical utility;
2. the accuracy of the bureau's estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
3. the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
4. how to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other forms of information technology.

Title: Assessment of the Use and Benefits of Waterfowl Production Areas in Minnesota.

OMB approval number: New collection.

Abstract: Respondents supply information on (1) preferences for recreational and educational activities

and experiences associated with Waterfowl Production Areas, (2) the non-economic benefits they accrue from visiting Waterfowl Production Areas, and (3) their attitudes and support toward federal management and acquisition of Waterfowl Management Areas. This information will be used to help improve management of Waterfowl Production Areas and improve the operation of the Waterfowl Production Area program.

Bureau form number: Various.

Frequency: Annually during 2000, 2001, and 2002.

Description of respondents: Visitors to Waterfowl Production Areas in the state of Minnesota.

Estimated completion time: 0.33 hours (20 minutes).

Annual responses: 600.

Annual burden hours: 200.

Bureau clearance officer: John Cordyack 703-648-7313.

Dated: January 6, 2000.

Dennis B. Fenn,

Chief Biologist.

[FR Doc. 00-846 Filed 1-12-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-7Y-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[OR-104-6333-HD; GPO-0076]

Closure of Access Roads: Oregon

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Roseburg District, Swiftwater Field Office.

ACTION: Closure of Bureau of Land Management Administered Roads—Douglas County, Oregon.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that certain BLM roads in Douglas County, Oregon are hereby closed to all types of motorized vehicles from January 20, 2000, until this notice is rescinded. The purpose of this road closure is to prevent excessive erosion, and to protect recent BLM investments in road maintenance work.

Personnel that are exempt from the road closure include any federal, state, or local officer, or member of any organized rescue or fire-fighting force in the performance of an official duty. Additional persons authorized by the BLM, Swiftwater Field Manager, may be allowed but must be approved in advance in writing.

The roads included in this closure are designated with the following road numbers: 25-3-19.0, 25-3-30.0, 25-3-30.1, 25-3-32.0, 25-4-13.0, 25-4-14.0, 25-4-35.0, and 25-4-35.1. The spur