

californiense) in conjunction with presence or absence surveys in Santa Barbara County, California for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

Permit No. TE-025200

Applicant: Kathleen L. Whitney, Santa Barbara, California.

The applicant requests a permit to take (harass by survey, locate and monitor nests, capture, band, and release) the southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) and take (monitor nests, capture, band, and release) the least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) in conjunction with scientific research through out each species range in California for the purpose of enhancing their survival.

Permit No. TE-025197

Applicant: Lockheed Martin Environmental Services, Las Vegas, Nevada.

The applicant requests a permit to take (harass by survey, capture and handle, collect tissue samples, and collect voucher specimens) the razorback sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*) and Colorado squawfish (*Ptychocheilus lucius*) in conjunction with presence or absence surveys and scientific research throughout each species range for the purpose of enhancing their survival.

Permit No. TE-025394

Applicant: David B. Waller, San Diego, California.

The applicant requests a permit 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-837308

Applicant: John K. Konecny, Escondido, California.

The permittee requests an amendment to his permit to: take (harass by survey) the Yuma clapper rail (*Rallus longirostris yumanensis*); take (harass by survey, locate and monitor nests, capture, band, and release) the southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*); and take (monitor nests, capture, band, and release) the least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) in conjunction with surveys and population monitoring throughout each species range in the State of Arizona for the purpose of enhancing their survival.

Permit No. TE-826200

Applicant: California Department of Parks and Recreation, Bay Area District, Pescadero, California.

The permittee requests an amendment to his permit to take (capture) the San Francisco garter snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis tetrataenia*) and take (capture, mark) the California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*) in conjunction with population monitoring and habitat enhancement within Ano Nuevo State Park, California for the purpose of enhancing their survival.

Permit No. TE-025434

Applicant: Russell N. Holmes, Bureau of Land Management, Roseburg, Oregon.

The applicant requests a permit to remove and reduce to possession specimens of *Plagiobothrys hirtus* (rough popcornflower) in conjunction with recovery efforts within Douglas County, Oregon for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

Permit No. TE-025732

Applicant: Samuel S. Sweet, University of California, Santa Barbara, California.

The applicant requests a permit to take (capture and handle) the California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*) in conjunction with presence or absence surveys in Santa Barbara County, California for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

Permit No. TE-025944

Applicant: Chris Farmer, Santa Barbara, California.

The applicant requests a permit to: take (harass by survey and monitor nests) the southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*); take (monitor nests) the least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*); and take (harass by survey) the California least tern (*Sterna antillarum browni*) in conjunction with presence or absence surveys throughout each species range in California for the purpose of enhancing their survival.

Permit No. TE-026485

Applicant: Dr. David Kingsley, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, California.

The applicant requests a permit to take (capture, handle, and collect) the unarmored threespine stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus williamsoni*) in conjunction with genetic research throughout the species range in California for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

DATES: Written comments on these permit applications must be received on or before June 12, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Written data or comments should be submitted to the Chief, Endangered Species, Ecological Services, Fish and Wildlife Service, 911

NE, 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.

Thomas J. Dwyer,

Acting Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: As provided in Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the Fish and Wildlife Service announces a meeting designed to foster partnerships to enhance public awareness of the importance of aquatic resources and the social and economic benefits of recreational fishing and boating in the United States. This meeting, sponsored by the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council (Council), is open to the public, and interested persons may make oral statements to the Council or may file written statements for consideration.

DATES: June 6, 2000, 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Radisson Hotel Old Town, 901 N. Fairfax St., Alexandria, Virginia 22314, telephone (703) 683-6000, FAX (703) 683-7597.

Summary minutes of the conference will be maintained by the Council Coordinator at 4040 N. Fairfax Dr., Room 132A, Arlington, VA 22203, and will be available for public inspection during regular business hours within 30

days following the meeting. Personal copies may be purchased for the cost of duplication.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Laury Parramore, Council Coordinator, at (703) 358-1711.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council was formed in January 1993 to advise the Secretary of the Interior through the Fish and Wildlife Service Director about sportfishing and boating issues. The Council represents the interests of the public and private sectors of the sport fishing and boating communities and is organized to enhance partnerships among industry, constituency groups, and government. The 18-member Council includes the director of the Service and the president of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, who both serve in ex officio capacities. Other Council members are directors from state agencies responsible for managing recreational fish and wildlife resources and individuals who represent the interests of saltwater and freshwater recreational fishing, recreational boating, the recreational fishing and boating industries, recreational fisheries resources conservation, aquatic resource outreach and education, and tourism. On June 6, 2000, the Council will convene to discuss: (1) Progress on a report containing recommendations for improving the National Fish Hatchery System. The report was requested by the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service and is being written by the Hatchery Project Steering Committee, a subgroup of the Council's Technical Working Group. (2) The Council's work in its role as a facilitator of discussions with Federal and State agencies and other sportfishing and boating interests concerning a variety of national boating and fisheries management issues. (3) The Council's role in providing the Interior Secretary with information about the implementation of the Strategic Plan for the National Outreach and Communications Program. The Secretary approved the plan in February 1999, and the 5-year, \$36 million federally funded outreach campaign authorized by the 1998 Sportfishing and Boating Safety Act is now being implemented by the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, a private, nonprofit organization.

Dated: May 3, 2000.

John G. Rogers,

Deputy Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

(WY-060-1320-EL, WYW141435)

Availability of a Final Environmental Impact Statement on the Horse Creek Federal Coal Lease Application in the Wyoming Powder River Basin

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of a Final Environmental Impact Statement on the Horse Creek Federal coal lease application in the decertified Powder River Federal Coal Production Region, Wyoming.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and implementing regulations, and other applicable statutes, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces the availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Horse Creek Federal coal lease application in the Wyoming Powder River Basin pursuant to 43 CFR 3425.3. This Federal coal lease application has been assigned case file number WYW141435. The FEIS analyzes the impacts of issuing a Federal coal lease for the proposed Horse Creek Federal coal tract. The Horse Creek tract is being considered for sale as a result of a coal lease application received from the Antelope Coal Company (ACC) on February 14, 1997. The tract includes approximately 2,838 acres containing approximately 356.5 million tons of geologically in-place Federal coal reserves in Campbell and Converse Counties, Wyoming. It was applied for as a maintenance tract for ACC's adjacent Antelope Mine, located in northern Converse County, Wyoming. ACC is a subsidiary of Kennecott Energy Company.

DATES: A 30-day availability period for the FEIS will start on the date that the Environmental Protection Agency publishes a notice of availability of the FEIS in the **Federal Register**. Following the 30-day availability period, a Record of Decision will be prepared and distributed.

ADDRESSES: Please address questions, comments, or requests for copies of the FEIS to the Casper District Office, Bureau of Land Management, Attn: Nancy Doelger, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, Wyoming 82604. Fax them to (307) 261-7587 or e-mail them to casper_wymail@blm.gov (Attn: Nancy Doelger).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Nancy Doelger or Mike Karbs at the above address or phone: 307-261-7600.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The application for the Horse Creek Federal coal tract was filed as a maintenance tract lease-by-application (LBA) under the provisions of 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 3425.1.

On February 14, 1997, ACC filed coal lease application WYW141435 for the Horse Creek Federal coal tract with the BLM. On May 1, 1998, ACC modified the Horse Creek application. The modified Horse Creek Federal coal tract includes the following lands:

T. 41 N., R. 71 W., 6th PM Wyoming
 Sec. 14, lots 5 thru 7, and 10 thru 15;
 Sec. 15, lots 6 thru 11, and 14 thru 16;
 Sec. 22, lots 1, 3 thru 6, and 9 thru 13;
 Sec. 23, lots 2 thru 7, and 10 thru 16;
 Sec. 25, lots 11 and 12 (S ½);
 Sec. 26, lots 1 thru 8, 12, and 13;
 Sec. 27, lots 1 thru 3, 5, 12 thru 14, and 16;
 Sec. 34, lots 1, 7, 8 thru 10, and 16;
 Sec. 35, lots 8 thru 10.

The area described contains 2,837.91 acres more or less with an estimated 356.5 million tons of geologically in-place coal.

The Antelope Mine, which is adjacent to the lease application area, has an approved mining and reclamation plan from the Land Quality Division of the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality and an approved air quality permit from the Air Quality Division of the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality to mine up to 30 million tons of coal per year. According to the application filed for the Horse Creek Federal coal tract, the maintenance tract would be mined to extend the life of the existing mine.

The Powder River Regional Coal Team (RCT) reviewed the Horse Creek Federal coal lease application at their meeting on April 23, 1997, in Casper, Wyoming, and recommended that it be processed. The RCT was notified in writing of the modified tract configuration.

A public hearing was held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 8, 1999, at the Holiday Inn, 2009 S. Douglas Highway, Gillette, Wyoming. The purpose of the hearing was to receive comments on the FEIS, on the fair market value, the maximum economic recovery, and the proposed competitive sale of the coal included in the proposed Horse Creek Federal coal tract. Comments on the DEIS were accepted for 60 days following November 12, 1999, the date that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published their notice of availability of the FEIS in the **Federal Register**. The comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) ended on January 12, 2000. Nine comments were