

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Fish and Wildlife Service****Information Collection Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Approval Under the Paperwork Reduction Act**

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

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

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has submitted the collection of information listed below to OMB for approval under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act. A copy of the information collection requirement is included in this notice. If you wish to obtain copies of the proposed information collection requirement, related forms, and explanatory material, contact the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer at the address listed below.

**DATES:** OMB has up to 60 days to approve or disapprove information collection but may respond after 30 days. Therefore, to ensure maximum consideration, you must submit comments on or before July 3, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Send your comments on the requirement to the Office of Management and Budget, Attention: Department of the Interior Desk Officer, 725 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20503, and to Rebecca Mullin, Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, ms 222-ARLSQ, 1849 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20204.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** To request a copy of the information collection request, explanatory information and related forms, contact Rebecca A. Mullin at (703) 358-2287, or electronically to [rmullin@fws.gov](mailto:rmullin@fws.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR 1320, which implement provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13), require that interested members of the public and affected agencies have an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping activities (see 5 CFR 1320.8(d)). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (We) has submitted a request to OMB to renew its approval of the collection of information for the Sandhill Crane Harvest Survey. We are requesting a 3-year term of approval for this information collection activity. A previous 60-day notice on this information collection requirement was published in the December 2, 1999 (64 FR 67583) **Federal Register** inviting public comment. No comments on the

previous notice were received. This notice provides an additional 30 days in which to comment on the following information.

Federal agencies may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB control number for this collection of information is 1018-0023.

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703-711) and Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742d) designate the Department of the Interior as the key agency responsible for the wise management of migratory bird populations frequenting the United States and for the setting of hunting regulations that allow appropriate harvests that are within the guidelines that will allow for those populations' well-being. These responsibilities dictate the gathering of accurate data on various characteristics of migratory bird populations. The Sandhill Crane Harvest Survey is an essential part of the migratory bird management program. The survey helps determine sandhill crane harvests and harvest rates that are used to regulate sandhill crane populations (by promulgating hunting regulations) and to encourage hunting opportunity, especially where crop depredations are chronic and/or lightly harvested populations occur.

The annual questionnaire surveys people who obtained a sandhill crane hunting permit. At the end of the hunting season, we randomly select a sample of permit holders and send those people a questionnaire that asks them to report the date, State, county, and number of birds harvested for each of their sandhill crane hunts. Their responses provide estimates of the temporal and geographic distribution of the harvest as well as the average harvest per hunter, which, combined with the total number of sandhill crane permits issued, enables us to estimate the total harvest of sandhill cranes.

The Sandhill Crane Harvest Survey enables us to annually estimate the magnitude of the harvest, and the portion it constitutes of the total mid-continent sandhill crane population. Based on information from this survey, sandhill crane hunting regulations are adjusted as needed to optimize harvest at levels that provide a maximum of hunting recreation while keeping populations at desired levels.

*Title:* Sandhill Crane Harvest Survey.

*Approval Number:* 1018-0023.

*Service Form Number:* 3-530, 3-530A, and 3-2056N.

*Frequency of Collection:* Annually.

*Description of Respondents:* Individuals and households.

*Total Annual Burden Hours:* The reporting burden is estimated to average 5 minutes per respondent. The Total Annual Burden Hours is 614 hours.

*Total Annual Responses:* About 7,400 individuals are expected to participate in the survey.

We invite comments concerning this renewal on: (1) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of our migratory bird management functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of our estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and, (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents. The information collections in this program are part of a system of record covered by the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552(a)).

Dated: April 4, 2000.

**Paul R. Schmidt,**

*Acting Assistant Director for Refuges and Wildlife.*

[FR Doc. 00-13663 Filed 5-31-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-55-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Fish and Wildlife Service****Receipt of Application for Endangered Species Permit**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of receipt of application for endangered species permit.

**SUMMARY:** The following applicants have applied for permits to conduct certain activities with endangered species. This notice is provided pursuant to Section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

If you wish to comment, you may submit comments by any one of several methods. You may mail comments to the Service's Regional Office (see **ADDRESSES**). You may also comment via the internet to "kenneth\_graham@fws.gov". Please submit comments over the internet as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Please also include your name and return address in your internet message. If you do not receive a confirmation from the Service that we have received your internet message, contact us directly at either telephone number

listed below (see **FURTHER INFORMATION**). Finally, you may hand deliver comments to the Service office listed below (see **ADDRESSES**). 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 administrative record. We will honor such requests to the extent allowable by law. There may also be other circumstances in which we would withhold from the administrative record a respondent's identity, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. We will not, however, 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.

**DATES:** Written data or comments on these applications must be received, at the address given below, by July 3, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** 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 to the following office within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 200, Atlanta, Georgia 30345 (Attn: Ken Graham, Permits Biologist). Telephone: 404/679-7358; Facsimile: 404/679-7081.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ken Graham, Telephone: 404/679-7358; Facsimile: 404/679-7081.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Applicant:* Christopher A. Taylor, Illinois Natural History Survey, Champaign, Illinois, TE027337-0

The applicant requests a permit to capture the Nashville crayfish, *Orconectes shoupi*, and to collect one specimen for genetic/systematics research on the species, in order to clarify species classification and for enhancement of management and survival of the species.

*Applicant:* Dr. Paul Yokely, Jr., Florence, Alabama, TE027307-0

The applicant requests authorization to take (capture, identify, release, collect dead freshwater snail and mussel shells, and to relocate captured specimens upstream away from potential harm due

to construction activities) federally-listed fish, snails, and mussels during the course of aquatic surveys throughout Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and Tennessee. Any taking would occur during routine biological surveys and monitoring, for the purpose of enhancement of survival of the species.

*Applicant:* Michael R. Hurst, Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest, Gainesville, Georgia, TE027344-0

The applicant requests authorization to take (capture, band, and harass during nest monitoring, construction of artificial cavities, and placement of restrictor plates) the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker, *Picoides borealis*, on and adjacent to the Oconee National Forest in Georgia, for the purpose of enhancement of survival of the species.

*Applicant:* Stuart W. McGregor, Geological Survey of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, TE027346-0

The applicant requests authorization to take (survey for, capture, handle, identify, and release) 44 species of federally-listed freshwater mussels that could be potentially encountered during routine biological surveys throughout Alabama and in the upper Tombigbee River system in Mississippi, for the purpose of conducting status surveys and enhancement of survival of the species.

*Applicant:* Steven D. Maloney, Griggs & Maloney Incorporated, Murfreesboro, Tennessee, TE027376-0

The applicant requests authorization to take (capture, identify, and relocate) the endangered Nashville Crayfish, *Orconectes shoupi*, throughout the species range in Tennessee, for the purpose of enhancement of survival of the species.

Dated: May 25, 2000.

**H. Dale Hall,**

*Acting Regional Director.*

[FR Doc. 00-13656 Filed 5-31-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-55-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Fish and Wildlife Service**

**Notice of Availability of a Safe Harbor Agreement With Assurances and Receipt of an Application for an Incidental Take Permit for Activities on Certain State Lands, by the Arizona Department of Transportation**

**SUMMARY:** The Arizona Department of Transportation (Applicant) has applied to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for an enhancement of survival

permit pursuant to Section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act (Act). The Applicant has been assigned permit number TE-026887-0. The requested permit, which is for a period of 10 years, would authorize the incidental take of the endangered Gila topminnow (*Poeciliopsis occidentalis*) and the endangered desert pupufish (*Cyprinodon macularius*). The proposed take may occur on certain State Lands owned by the Arizona Department of Transportation in the State of Arizona.

Non-federal landowners, who commit to implementing conservation for listed species through a Safe Harbor Agreement, will receive assurances from the Service. The assurances are that additional conservation measures will not be required and additional land, water, or resource use restrictions will not be imposed. The Service has prepared the Categorical Exclusion for the enhancement of survival permit application. A determination of whether jeopardy to the species would occur 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 July 3, 2000. The agreement, along with any supporting documentation, is available for public 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 the comment period to the address specified below.

**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 Safe Harbor Agreement and Categorical Exclusion may obtain a copy by contacting Doug Duncan, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Tucson Sub Office, 300 West Congress, Room 6J, Tucson, AZ 85701 (520/670-4860) or David Harlow, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arizona Ecological Services Field Office, 2321 West Royal Palm Road, Suite 103, Phoenix, Arizona 85021 (602/640-2720; fax 602/640-2730). Documents will be available for public inspection by written request, by appointment only, during normal business hours (7:30 to 4:30) at the offices above. Written data or comments concerning the application, Safe Harbor Agreement, and Categorical Exclusion should be submitted to the Field