

the Director, Office of Self-Governance may select up to 50 additional participating tribes/consortia per year for the tribal self-governance program, and negotiate and enter into a written funding agreement with each participating tribe. The Act mandates that the Secretary submit copies of the funding agreements at least 90 days before the proposed effective date to the appropriate committees of the Congress and to each tribe that is served by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) agency that is serving the tribe that is a party to the funding agreement. Initial negotiations with a tribe/consortium located in a region and/or agency which has not previously been involved with self-governance negotiations, will take approximately two months from start to finish. Agreements for an October 1 to September 30 fiscal year need to be signed and submitted by July 1. Agreements for a January 1 to December 31 fiscal year need to be signed and submitted by October 1.

Purpose of Notice

25 CFR parts 1000.10 to 1000.31 will be used to govern the application and selection process for tribes/consortia to begin their participation in the tribal self-governance program in fiscal year 2003 and calendar year 2003. Applicants should be guided by the requirements in these subparts in preparing their applications. Copies of these subparts may be obtained from the information contact person identified in this notice.

Tribes/consortia wishing to be considered for participation in the tribal self-governance program in fiscal year 2003 or calendar year 2003 must respond to this notice, except for those which are (1) currently involved in negotiations with the Department; (2) one of the 80 tribal entities with signed agreements; or (3) one of the tribal entities already included in the applicant pool as of the date of this notice.

Dated: December 12, 2001.

Neal A. McCaleb,

Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

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BILLING CODE 4310-W8-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Endangered Species Permit Applications

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of permit applications.

SUMMARY: The following applicants have requested renewal of scientific research and enhancement of survival permits to conduct certain activities with endangered species pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Permit No. TE-051139

Applicant: Turner Endangered Species Fund, Cimarron, New Mexico.

The applicant requests a renewed permit to take black-footed ferrets (*Mustela nigripes*) in conjunction with recovery activities throughout the species' range for the purpose of enhancing its survival and recovery.

Permit No. TE-051140

Applicant: St. Louis Zoological Park, St. Louis, Missouri 63110.

The applicant requests a renewed permit to take Wyoming toads (*Bufo hemiophrys baxteri*) in conjunction with recovery activities throughout the species' range for the purpose of enhancing its survival and recovery.

Permit No. TE-049748

Applicant: Dr. Todd Cowl, Utah State University, Logan, Utah 84322.

The applicant requests a renewed permit to take razorback suckers (*Xyrauchen texanus*), Colorado pikeminnows (*Ptychocheilus lucius*), bonytail chub (*Gila elegans*), and June suckers (*Chasmistes liorus*) in conjunction with recovery activities throughout the species' range for the purpose of enhancing their survival and recovery.

Permit No. 047252

Applicant: Trent Miller, SWCA, Inc., Environmental Consultants, Westminster, Colorado 80031.

The applicant requests a renewed permit to take black-footed ferrets (*Mustela nigripes*) in conjunction with recovery activities throughout the species' range for the purpose of enhancing its survival and recovery.

Permit No. TE-045150

Applicant: Dr. William W. Hoback, University of Nebraska at Kearney, Kearney, Nebraska 68849.

The applicant requests a renewed permit to take American burying beetles (*Nicrophorus americanus*) in conjunction with recovery activities throughout the species' range for the purpose of enhancing its survival and recovery.

DATES: Written comments on these requests for permits must be received February 11, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Written data or comments should be submitted to the Assistant Regional Director—Ecological Services, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 25486, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225-0486; telephone 303-236-7400, facsimile 303-236-0027.

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 303-236-7400.

Dated: December 20, 2001.

Ralph O. Morgenweck,

Regional Director, Denver, Colorado.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CA-670-5101-ER-B140; CACA-42662]

Notice of Availability of Final Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report and Proposed Amendments to the California Desert Conservation Area Plan and the Yuma District Resource Management Plan in Conjunction With the Proposed North Baja Pipeline Project

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of Final Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report and proposed amendments to the California Desert Conservation Area Plan (CDCA Plan) and the Yuma District Resource Management Plan in conjunction with the proposed North Baja Pipeline Project.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the availability of Final Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) and proposed amendments to the California Desert Conservation Area Plan (CDCA Plan) and the Yuma District Resource Management Plan (Yuma RMP) in conjunction with the proposed North Baja Pipeline project. The proposed North Baja Pipeline project would provide natural gas supplies for new gas-fired electric power generation