

100 flowering individuals within a 0.8-kilometer (0.5-mile) radius, and exhibit net demographic stability or growth for at least 15 years, as determined through annual demographic monitoring. For the purposes of this plan, measurements of population size and structure are based only on flowering individuals because non-flowering plants cannot be reliably identified to species. If necessary, a reserve area would be subject to augmentation using genetically appropriate cultivated individuals to meet the minimum size criterion. Reserves should contain ample habitat to provide a spatial buffer around each population, and allow room for population migration and expansion over time.

(3) To avoid population vulnerability arising from the inordinate concentration of individuals within a very small area, potentially subject to unpredictable catastrophic events, flowering individuals must be distributed over a minimum of 500 square meters (0.05 hectares or 0.12 acres) of occupied habitat<sup>1</sup> within each recovery area. Thus, reserve populations may have more than the minimum of 1,000 flowering individuals if their distribution, densely confined to a small area, falls short of the occupied habitat requirement.

(4) To maintain favorable habitat conditions, a site-specific habitat management plan would be developed for each reserve area to prevent colonization of invasive weeds and maintain favorable mid-successional characteristics.

(5) To protect plants from bulb collecting and herbivory by deer, each reserve area would be subject to fencing or other measures if annual population monitoring determine the severity of these threats.

(6) To protect plants from fungal disease, each reserve area would be subject to treatment with fungicides or other measures if annual population monitoring to evaluate the severity of the fungal disease threat.

#### Public Comments Solicited

We solicit written comments on the recovery plan described. All comments received by the date specified above will be considered prior to approval of this plan.

<sup>1</sup> "Occupied habitat" is defined based on a vegetation sampling procedure employed by the Service using 1 meter by 1 meter plots that are scored for the presence or absence of *Fritillaria gentneri*. A plot with one or more *Fritillaria gentneri* flowering stems is considered a square meter of occupied habitat.

#### Authority

The authority for this action is section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1533(f).

Dated: August 30, 2002.

#### Rowan W. Gould,

*Acting Regional Director, Region 1, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*

[FR Doc. 02-29734 Filed 11-21-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Assessment and Receipt of an Application for an Incidental Take Permit for the Briargate Development, El Paso County, CO

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability and receipt of application.

**SUMMARY:** This notice advises the public that La Plata Investments, LLC (Applicant) has applied to the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for an Incidental Take Permit pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 as amended (Act). The Service proposes to issue a 30-year permit to the Applicant that would authorize the incidental take of the Preble's meadow jumping mouse (Preble's) (*Zapus hudsonius preblei*), federally-listed as threatened, and loss and modification of its habitat associated with construction of a residential and commercial development in El Paso County, Colorado. Construction of the proposed project will result in the temporary loss of approximately 10.68 hectares (26.38 acres) and the permanent loss of 23.29 hectares (57.55 acres) that provide potential foraging and hibernation habitat for Preble's. The permit application includes a combined Environmental Assessment/Habitat Conservation Plan (Plan), which is available for public review and comment. The Plan fully describes the proposed project and the measures the Applicant will undertake to minimize and mitigate project impacts to Preble's.

The Service requests comments on the Plan for the proposed issuance of an Incidental Take Permit. We provide this notice pursuant to section 10(a) of the Act and National Environmental Policy Act regulations (40 CFR 1506.6). All comments on the Plan and permit application will become part of the administrative record and will be available to the public.

**DATES:** Written comments on the permit application and Plan should be received on or before December 23, 2002.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments regarding the permit application or the Plan should be addressed to LeRoy Carlson, Field Supervisor, Fish and Wildlife Service, Colorado Field Office, 755 Parfet Street, Suite 361, Lakewood, Colorado 80215. Comments may be sent by facsimile to (303) 275-2371.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Kathleen Linder, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, Colorado Field Office, telephone (303) 275-2370.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Document Availability

Individuals wishing copies of the Plan and associated documents for review should immediately contact the above office. Documents also will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

##### Background

Section 9 of the Act and Federal regulation prohibits the "take" of a species listed as endangered or threatened, respectively. (Take is defined under the Act, in part, as to harm, or harass a listed species.) However, the Service may issue permits to authorize "incidental take" (defined by the Act as take that is incidental to, and not the purpose of, the carrying out of an otherwise lawful activity) of listed species under limited circumstances. Regulations governing permits for threatened species are promulgated in 50 CFR 17.32; regulations governing permits for endangered species are promulgated in 50 CFR 17.22.

The proposed action is the issuance of a permit under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Act to allow the incidental take of Preble's during the construction of a residential and commercial development at the site. The project will directly affect approximately 33.97 hectares (83.93 acres), of which 10.68 hectares (26.38 acres) are temporary impacts and the remaining 23.29 hectares (57.55 acres) are permanent impacts to potential habitat for Preble's. A Plan has been developed as part of the preferred alternative.

The Preble's is the only federally-listed species that occurs on site and has the potential to be directly affected by the proposed project. The Applicant has agreed to implement the following measures to minimize and mitigate the impacts that may result from project construction:

1. Enhance 4.41 hectares (10.90 acres) of Preble's habitat along the North Fork

of Pine Creek. Enhancement will include transplanting native shrubs from areas of impact to protected habitat, over-seeding of native grasses, and noxious weed control.

2. Restoration of 10.68 hectares (26.38 acres) along the main branch of Pine Creek, and the North and South forks of Pine Creek. Restoration will include the immediate revegetation of the site with native grass seed and clumps of native shrubs.

3. Preservation of 64.13 hectares (158.48 acres) of Preble's habitat by the placement of deed restrictions over the property. This is the result of protecting all remaining Preble's habitat within the project area. An additional 7.75 hectares (19.14 acres) of natural open space adjacent to Preble's habitat also will be protected.

4. Off-site enhancement and restoration of approximately 75 hectares (186 acres) along Kettle Creek, an area known to have a healthy population of Preble's. Enhancement will include transplanting native shrubs from areas of impact to protected habitat, over-seeding of native grasses, and noxious weed control. Existing horse trails along the creek bottom will be restored by stabilizing the immediate area, then seeding with native grass species.

5. Off-site preservation of the 75-hectare (186-acre) Kettle Creek Preserve. Initially the property will be protected by deed restrictions. After that, the deed to the entire property will be turned over to the Trust for Public Lands, who is in the process of forming a new not-for-profit organization to take control of these types of properties and manage them for the sole purpose of endangered species habitat.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the Act. The Service will evaluate the permit application, the Plan and comments submitted therein to determine whether the application meets the requirements of section 10(a) of the Act. If it is determined that those requirements are met, a permit will be issued for the incidental take of Preble's. The final permit decision will be made no sooner than 30 days from the date of this notice.

Dated: November 6, 2002.

**John A. Blackenship,**

*Deputy Regional Director, Denver, Colorado.*  
[FR Doc. 02-29732 Filed 11-21-02; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-55-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Fish and Wildlife Service**

**Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Great Lakes Panel Meeting**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces a meeting of the Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Task Force Great Lakes Panel. The meeting topics are identified in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

**DATES:** The Great Lakes Panel will meet from 10 am to 5 pm on Tuesday, December 10, 2002, and 8 am to 1 pm on Wednesday, December 11, 2002.

**ADDRESSES:** The Great Lakes Panel meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn, North Campus, 3600 Plymouth Road in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Phone (734) 769-9800.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kathe Glassner-Shwayder, Project Manager, Great Lakes Commission, at 734-665-9135 or Sharon Gross, Executive Secretary, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force at 703 358-2308 or by e-mail at: [sharon\\_gross@fws.gov](mailto:sharon_gross@fws.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. I), this notice announces a meeting of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Great Lakes Panel. The Task Force was established by the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990.

The Great Lakes Panel, comprised of representatives from Federal, State, and local agencies and from private environmental and commercial interests, performs the following activities:

(a) Identifies priorities for the Great Lakes Region with respect to aquatic nuisance species;

(b) Makes recommendations to the Task Force regarding programs to carry out zebra mussel programs;

(c) Assists the Task Force in coordinating Federal aquatic nuisance species program activities in the Great Lakes region;

(d) Coordinates, where possible, aquatic nuisance species program activities in the Great Lakes region that are not conducted pursuant to the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (as amended, 1996);

(e) Provides advice to public and private individuals and entities concerning methods of controlling aquatic nuisance species; and

(f) Submits an annual report describing activities within the Great Lakes region related to aquatic nuisance species prevention, research, and control.

Topics to be addressed at this meeting include: an update and a discussion on key provisions of the National Aquatic Invasive Species Act (NAISA) of 2002; a discussion on the Great Lakes Panel's Rapid Response Model Plan; a discussion on the development of Panel priorities through regional coordination; an update on the development of ballast water standards; a review of project and related concerns on Asian carp invasions; and a discussion on the review process for Sea Grant Proposals and the role of regional panels.

Minutes of the meeting will be maintained by the Executive Secretary, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, Suite 810, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22203-1622, and will be available for public inspection during regular business hours, Monday through Friday.

Dated: October 30, 2002.

**Robert J. Batky,**

*Acting Co-Chair, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, Acting Assistant Director—Fisheries & Habitat Conservation.*

[FR Doc. 02-29690 Filed 11-21-02; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-55-M**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Bureau of Land Management**

**[NV-952-1430-BX]**

**Availability of Electronic Records**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** The purpose of this notice is to inform the public and interested State and local government officials of the availability of electronic Title Records in Nevada.

**EFFECTIVE DATES:** November 1, 2002.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Robert M. Scruggs, Chief, Branch of Geographic Sciences, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Nevada State Office, 1340 Financial Blvd., PO Box 12000, Reno, Nevada 89520, 775-861-6644.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Beginning on November 1, 2002, the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Nevada State Office will make available its Master Title Plats, Use Plats, and Historical Indices (Title Records) in an electronic format. At the same time, the BLM will phase out the use of microfiche for these records. This change reflects the BLM's