

We solicit public review and comment on each of these recovery permit applications.

Dated: April 29, 2004.

Lawrence R. Gamble,

Acting Manager, California/Nevada Operations Office, Region 1, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 04-11038 Filed 5-14-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Receipt of Applications for Endangered Species Permits

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of applications for permits.

SUMMARY: The public is invited to comment on the following applications to conduct certain activities with endangered species. We provide this notice pursuant to section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

DATES: We must receive written data or comments on these applications at the address given below, by June 16, 2004.

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: Victoria Davis, Permit Biologist).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Victoria Davis, telephone (404) 679-4176; facsimile (404) 679-7081.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The public is invited to comment on the following applications for permits to conduct certain activities with endangered species. If you wish to comment, you may submit comments by any one of the following methods. You may mail comments to the Service's Regional Office (*see ADDRESSES* section) or via electronic mail (e-mail) to "victoria_davis@fws.gov". Please submit electronic comments 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 e-mail message. If you do not receive a confirmation from the Service that we have received your e-mail

message, contact us directly at the telephone number listed above (*see FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT* section). Finally, you may hand deliver comments to the Service office listed above (*see ADDRESSES* section).

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. 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.

Applicant: Florida Power & Light Company, Florida Power & Light Turkey Point Power Plant, James Robert Lindsay, Juno Beach, Florida, TE084921-0.

The applicant requests authorization to take (capture, identify, examine, measure, weigh, permanently mark, tag, sex, manipulate water temperatures, use spotlights, transport, translocate) the American Crocodile while conducting population and habitat monitoring and management. The proposed activities would take place on the shore of Biscayne Bay, Miami-Dade County, Florida.

Applicant: Brian A. Estes, GeoSyntec Consultants, Inc., Atlanta, Georgia, TE087127-0.

The applicant requests authorization to take (capture, identify, photograph, release) the following species: Blue shiner (*Cyprinella caerulea*), Etowah darter (*Etheostoma etowahae*), Cherokee darter (*Etheostoma scotti*), amber darter (*Percina antesella*), goldline darter (*Percina aurolineata*), Conasauga logperch (*Percina jenkinsi*), snail darter (*Percina tanasi*), and eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon corais couperi*). The activities would take place while conducting presence and absence studies. The proposed activities would occur in the State of Georgia.

Applicant: Jeanette Wyneken, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Florida TE087169-0.

The applicant requests authorization to take (capture and sacrifice) six leatherback sea turtles (*Dermodochelys*

coriacea) while conducting studies of retinal physiology (spectral sensitivity to light). The activities would take place at Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Palm Beach County, Florida.

Applicant: Sandhills Ecological Institute, Kerry B. Sadler, Southern Pines, North Carolina TE087191-0.

The applicant requests authorization to take (capture, band, release, and monitor nests) of the red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*) while conducting population monitoring and management. The proposed activities would take place in the North Carolina Sandhills, including Moore, Hoke, Cumberland, Richmond, and Scotland Counties, North Carolina.

Applicant: Goethe State Forest, Florida Division of Forestry, Elizabeth G. Zimmerman, TE087194-0.

The applicant requests authorization to take (harass, capture, band, translocate, install artificial cavity inserts, drill starts) red-cockaded woodpeckers (*Picoides borealis*) while conducting population monitoring and management. The proposed activities would take place on Goethe State Forest, Levy County, Florida.

Applicant: James Edwin Moyers, St. Joe Timberland Company, Panama City, Florida, TE087199-0.

The applicant requests authorization to take (capture, identify, exam, measure, clip toe, and release) the Choctawhatchee beach mouse (*Peromyscus polionotus allophres*) and St. Andrew beach mouse (*Peromyscus polionotus peninsularis*) while conducting live-trapping to assess population presence/absence and population status. The proposed activities would occur in Walton, Bay, and Gulf Counties, Florida.

Dated: May 5, 2004.

Cynthia K. Dohner,

Acting Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 04-11077 Filed 5-14-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Lehua Island Ecosystem Restoration Project; Joint Federal and State of Hawaii Environmental Document

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, this notice advises the public that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural

Resources (DLNR) intend to gather information necessary to prepare a joint Federal/State environmental document (environmental assessment or environmental impact statement) for the proposed Lehua Island Ecosystem Restoration Project. The United States Coast Guard, the owner of Lehua Island, intends to become a cooperating agency with us, for the purposes of preparing the environmental document. This document will address the proposal of eradicating non-native rodents and possibly non-native rabbits from Lehua as a means of restoring native seabirds, insects and coastal plants, some of which are threatened with extinction. In addition, the Service and the DLNR propose to implement preventative actions to keep non-native mammals from re-establishing on Lehua, and respond to any such re-introductions. The proposed project would take place on the island of Lehua, Kauai County, Hawaii and would be managed by the Service in cooperation with the DLNR.

The Service is furnishing this notice in order to: (1) Advise other Federal and State agencies, affected tribes, and the public of our intentions; (2) announce the initiation of a 40-day public scoping period; and (3) to obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues to be included in the environmental document.

DATES: Written comments from all interested parties must be postmarked by 40 days from the date of publication. A public meeting is scheduled to be held in Lihue, Kauai on Wednesday June 9, 2004, at the Lihue Neighborhood Center from 7–9 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Please address comments and requests to be added to the mailing list to Chris Swenson, Project Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 300 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 3–122, Honolulu, Hawaii 96850, facsimile: (808) 792–9580.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Project Biologists Chris Swenson or Katie Swift at the above address or telephone: (808) 792–9400.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Lehua Island, located approximately 31 kilometers west of Kauai, Hawaii, is known for its beauty and biological diversity. Seventeen species of seabirds have been recorded from Lehua, including nesting Laysan and Black-Footed Albatross, and Newell's Shearwaters, a species listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. Lehua, a designated State seabird sanctuary, is also home to several species of native coastal plants and insects. However, non-native rats are

also present on the island. Rats impact seabirds through predation and are known to have eliminated many seabird species from islands around the world. They also feed on native plants and insects and can suppress or eliminate many of these species as well. In addition, non-native rabbits were introduced to Lehua during or before the 1930s. On many islands, rabbits have decimated the vegetation and even competed with seabirds for use of burrows. After conducting biological surveys of Lehua and a careful examination of known impacts of rats and rabbits on island ecosystems, Service and DLNR biologists, in consultation with other experts, have concluded that the proposed eradication of rodents and rabbits is a prudent management action. Successful eradication would allow re-colonization and restoration of several species of plants and seabirds on Lehua. Following the proposed eradication, there could still be a threat of re-introduction of non-native mammals from grounded vessels and transport of people and materials to the island. Service and DLNR wildlife managers are proposing to have the capability to respond rapidly to any such introductions.

The Service is engaging in the proposed Lehua restoration project under the management authorities granted it by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531–1544), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 as amended (16 U.S.C. 703–712) and the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 as amended (16 U.S.C. 742a–742j, not including 742 d–l). The DLNR is engaging in this project under the authorities of Hawaii Revised Statutes 183D–4 and 195D–5, which authorize it to manage wildlife sanctuaries and to manage and protect indigenous and endangered species and their associated ecosystems.

The Service and the DLNR are proposing to conduct an environmental review of the Lehua Island Ecosystem Restoration Project and prepare a joint Federal/State environmental document for impacts related to the ecosystem and the human environment. Alternatives for eradication may include the following methods or a combination of these methods: aerial broadcast of bait pellets containing rodenticides, hand broadcast of rodenticide pellets and/or placing rodenticides in bait stations for rat eradication; and shooting and/or trapping for rabbit eradication. Eradications could potentially be followed by monitoring the success of the removal actions and the response of native biota to alien species removal.

The environmental review will analyze the Lehua Island Ecosystem Restoration Project, as well as a full range of reasonable alternatives, and the associated impacts of each alternative. Should information become available during the scoping process that indicates the likelihood of significant environmental impacts from the Lehua Island Ecosystem Restoration Project, the Service will proceed with preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS). Otherwise, an environmental assessment will be prepared to determine whether an EIS is needed.

The Service and the DLNR are requesting written comments regarding the proposed action from interested individuals, organizations and agencies. Respondents should address concerns regarding potential environmental impacts to the human environment, applicable mitigation and reasonable alternatives they feel could be included in the environmental analysis. Additional information, including the time and location of the public meeting, any changes to the project scope, and availability of draft documents for review will be sent out via local and regional press releases and direct mailings.

The environmental review of this project will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), National Environmental Policy Act Regulations 40 CFR (1500–1508), other appropriate Federal laws and regulations, and policies and procedures of the Service for compliance with those regulations.

Dated: April 15, 2004.

Carolyn A. Bohan,
Regional Director, Fish and Wildlife Service,
Region 1, Portland, Oregon.

[FR Doc. 04–11075 Filed 5–14–04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Issuance of Permits

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of issuance of permits for marine mammals.

SUMMARY: The following permits were issued.

ADDRESSES: Documents and other information submitted with these applications are available for review, subject to the requirements of the