

North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) and the Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986. The refuges are located in close proximity to the Greater Boston metropolitan area, which, along with their accessibility to the local and regional communities and diverse biological resources, make them highly attractive for natural resource educational or interpretive programs, and compatible wildlife dependent recreational uses.

Our Final CCPs include management direction for each of the refuges and include vegetation management, wildlife management, public use, cultural resources, infrastructure, and refuge operations. On each of the refuges, we have included specific management strategies that include management of native plant communities, non-native invasive species, removal and revegetation of unused roads and stream crossings, and management of water impoundments. Visitor use facilities will include new wildlife observation trails, a visitor contact station for Oxbow NWR, a visitor center for the complex, and new parking areas. Most of the trails would use existing roads and public access would be by foot. A public hunting program will be developed for each of the refuges.

The Service solicited comments on the draft CCP/EA for Great Meadows, Assabet River, and Oxbow NWRs from July 20 to September 3, 2003. We contracted with the U.S. Forest Service's Content Analysis Team (CAT) to compile the nearly 2,000 comments that we received. The CAT developed a summary report of comments as well as a database of individual comments. We used the CAT report and comment database to develop a list of substantive comments that required responses. Editorial suggestions and notes of concurrence with or opposition to certain proposals were noted and included in the decisionmaking process, but do not receive formal responses. The Final CCPs include responses to all substantive comments. Comments are considered substantive if they:

- Question, with reasonable basis, the accuracy of the information in the document,
- Question, with reasonable basis, the adequacy of the environmental analysis,
- Present reasonable alternatives other than those presented in the EIS,
- Cause changes or revisions in the CCP, and
- Provide new or additional information relevant to the analysis.

Based upon comments that we received, we have chosen management

alternative B, with the following modifications:

- We have completed a Compatibility Determination (CD) which concludes that jogging is compatible with refuge purposes. However, a study of the impacts of jogging on wildlife will be initiated and results evaluated to evaluate site specific impacts to wildlife. The CD will be reviewed and any appropriate changes will be made using the site specific data in 5 years.

- We have clarified our rules regarding picnicking in the final CCP. No picnic tables will be provided nor will large gatherings or events involving food be permitted. Eating snacks on refuge benches and trails is allowed.

- We modified our original hunting proposal based upon additional analysis of State mandated safety zones, our ability to effectively administer the hunt program, and to balance the needs of the different wildlife-dependent recreationists.

- We clarified that the waterfowl hunting areas along the Concord and Sudbury Rivers at Great Meadows and the Nashua River at Oxbow areas include the main stems of the rivers as well as adjacent wetlands and pools.

- We adjusted the proposed waterfowl hunting areas to remove areas near concentrations of houses, playing fields, and high numbers of additional users.

- We are proposing 1,192 acres of waterfowl hunting that was previously closed.

- We revised the deer hunting program to archery hunting only in areas of specific safety concern.

- We have revised the proposed access fee program to be consistent with other Region 5 refuges and to encourage purchase of the "local" annual pass. Fees would be required at Assabet River, Oxbow (south of Route 2), and the Concord impoundments of Great Meadows. Visitors would be able to use a duck stamp in lieu of the refuge access fee. All access fees are per car or per group for pedestrians.

- We have not modified our decision to prohibit dog walking at Great Meadows and Oxbow NWRs and will not allow dog walking at Assabet River NWR.

Dated: December 23, 2004.

**Marvin E. Moriarty,**

*Regional Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Hadley, Massachusetts.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Endangered Species Recovery Permit Applications

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

**ACTION:** Notice of receipt of permit applications.

**SUMMARY:** The following applicants have applied for a scientific research permit to conduct certain activities with endangered species pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ("we") solicits review and comment from local, State, and Federal agencies, and the public on the following permit requests.

**DATES:** Comments on these permit applications must be received on or before February 9, 2005.

**ADDRESSES:** Written data or comments should be submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Chief, Endangered Species, Ecological Services, 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 30 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.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Permit No. TE-036034

*Applicant:* Tierra Data Inc., Escondido, California

The permittee requests an amendment to remove/reduce to possession (collect) *Allium munzii* (Munz's onion), *Astragalus brauntonii* (Braunton's milk-vetch), and *Eryngium aristulatum* var. *parishii* (San Diego button-celery) in conjunction with surveys in Orange County, California, for the purpose of enhancing their survival.

##### Permit No. TE-096454

*Applicant:* Russell Williams, Murrieta, California

The applicant requests a permit to take (survey by pursuit) the Quino checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha quino*) in conjunction with surveys throughout the range of the species in California for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

**Permit No. TE-096466**

*Applicant:* San Bernardino National Forest, Big Bear City, California

The applicant requests a permit to take (survey by pursuit) the Quino checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha quino*) in conjunction with surveys in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, California, for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

**Permit No. TE-096456**

*Applicant:* Garvin Hoefler, Soquel, California

The applicant requests a permit to take (survey by pursuit) the Santa Cruz long-toed salamander (*Ambystoma macrodactylum croceum*) in conjunction with surveys in Santa Cruz, Monterey, Santa Clara, and San Benito Counties, California, for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

**Permit No. TE-086593**

*Applicant:* Arizona Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Tucson, Arizona

The applicant requests a permit to take (capture and collect) the Owens tui chub (*Gila bicolor snyderi*) and the Owens pupfish (*Cyprinodon radiosus*) in conjunction with parasite research in San Bernardino County, California, for the purpose of enhancing their survival.

**Permit No. TE-075112**

*Applicant:* Gregory Chatman, Rialto, California

The applicant requests a permit to take (survey by pursuit) the Quino checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha quino*) in conjunction with surveys throughout the range of the species in California for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

**Permit No. TE-097516**

*Applicant:* Ryan Thomas, Pasadena, California

The applicant requests a permit to take (harass by survey and monitor nests) the southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) and the California least tern (*Sterna autillarum browni*), take (locate and monitor nests) the least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), and take (harass by survey) the California clapper rail (*Rallus longirostris obsoletus*) and the light-footed clapper rail (*Rallus*

*longirostris levipes*) in conjunction with surveys throughout the range of each species in California for the purpose of enhancing their survival.

**Permit No. TE-097845**

*Applicant:* SRS Technologies, Lompoc, California

The applicant requests a permit to take (harass by survey and monitor nests) the southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) and the California least tern (*Sterna autillarum browni*), take (locate and monitor nests) the least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), take (capture, handle, and release) the arroyo toad (*Bufo californicus*), and take (harass by survey, capture, handle, and release) the tidewater goby (*Eucyclogobius newberryi*) and the unarmored threespine stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus williamsoni*) in conjunction with surveys in Santa Barbara County, California, for the purpose of enhancing their survival.

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

**Michael B. Fris,**

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

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Fish and Wildlife Service**

**Re-Opening of the Comment Period for the Draft Recovery Plan for the Sentry Milk-Vetch**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of re-opening of public comment period.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce the re-opening of the comment period for public review of a draft Recovery Plan for the sentry milk-vetch (*Astragalus cremnophyllax* var. *cremnophyllax*) for an additional 30 days. The original public comment period was held from September 14, 2004 to October 14, 2004. We are re-opening the public comment period in response to a specific request from the National Park Service, Grand Canyon National Park (Park) to allow additional time for public review of this draft Recovery Plan. All known populations of the species occur on land managed by the Park in Coconino County, Arizona.

**DATES:** Comments on the draft Recovery Plan must be received on or before February 9, 2005, to receive consideration by the Service.

**ADDRESSES:** Persons wishing to review the draft Recovery Plan may obtain a copy by accessing the Service's Arizona Ecological Services Field Office Internet Web page at <http://arizonaes.fws.gov> or by contacting the Field Supervisor, Arizona Ecological Services Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2321 West Royal Palm Road, Suite 103, Phoenix, Arizona 85021-4951 (602/242-0210) to obtain a copy via the mail or in person at the address above. Written comments and materials regarding the plan should be addressed to the Field Supervisor at the address provided above. Comments and materials received are available on request for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mima Falk, Arizona Ecological Services Tucson Suboffice, 201 N Bonita Ave., Tucson, Arizona 85745 (520/670-6150 ext. 225).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

Restoring an endangered or threatened animal or plant species to the point where it is again a secure, self-sustaining member of its ecosystem is a primary goal of the Service's endangered species program. To help guide the recovery effort, the Service is working to prepare recovery plans for most of the listed species native to the United States. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for conservation of species, establish criteria for the recovery levels for downlisting or delisting them, and estimate time and cost for implementing the recovery measures needed.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), requires the development of recovery plans for listed species, unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of a particular species. Section 4(f) of the Act, as amended in 1988, requires that public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment be provided during recovery plan development. We will consider all information presented during the public comment period prior to approval of each new or revised recovery plan. We, along with other Federal agencies, will also take these comments into account in the course of implementing approved recovery plans.

The draft Recovery Plan describes the status, current management, recovery