

related to the evaluation of candidates for the position of President of the Inter-American foundation.

3 p.m. Call to order; Begin executive session.

4:30 p.m. Adjourn.

Jocelyn Nieva,

Acting General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 05-6339 Filed 3-28-05; 10:00 am]

BILLING CODE 7025-01-M

## DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Roanoke River National Wildlife Refuge

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of the Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for Roanoke River National Wildlife Refuge in Bertie County, North Carolina.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces that a Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the Roanoke River National Wildlife Refuge are available for review and comment. The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, requires the Service to develop a comprehensive conservation plan for each national wildlife refuge. The purpose in developing a comprehensive conservation plan is to provide refuge managers with a 15-year strategy for achieving refuge purposes and contributing toward the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System, consistent with sound principles of fish and wildlife management, conservation, legal mandates, and Service policies. In addition to outlining broad management direction on conserving wildlife and their habitats, the plan identifies wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities available to the public, including opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education and interpretation.

**DATES:** Meetings will be held in early 2005 in Windsor and Halifax, North Carolina, to present the plan to the public. Mailings, newspaper articles, and posters will be the avenues to inform the public of the dates and times of the meetings. Individuals wishing to comment on the Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the Roanoke River National Wildlife Refuge should do so

within 90 days following the date of this notice. Public comments were requested, considered, and incorporated throughout the planning process in numerous ways. Public outreach has included scoping meetings, a review of the biological program, an ecosystem planning team newsletter, and a **Federal Register** notice.

**ADDRESSES:** Requests for copies of the Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement should be addressed to Bob Glennon, Natural Resource Planner, Ecosystem Planning Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1106 West Queen Street, Edenton, N.C. 27932; Telephone 252/482-2364; Fax 252/482-3885. Comments on the draft may be submitted to the above address or via electronic mail to:

*bob\_glennon@fws.gov*. 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 addresses from the record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Service analyzed three alternatives for future management of the refuge and chose alternative 3 as the preferred alternative.

Proposed goals for the refuge include:

- Protecting, maintaining, and enhancing healthy and viable populations of indigenous migratory birds, wildlife, fish, and plants including Federal and State threatened and endangered species;
- Restoring, maintaining, and enhancing the health and biodiversity of forested wetland habitats to ensure improved ecological productivity;
- Providing the public with safe, quality wildlife-dependent recreational and educational opportunities that focus on the wildlife and habitats of the refuge and the National Wildlife Refuge System; Continuing to participate in local efforts to achieve a sustainable level of economic activity; including nature-based tourism;
- Protecting refuge resources by limiting the adverse impacts of human activities and development; and
- Acquiring and managing adequate funding, human resources, facilities, equipment, and infrastructure to accomplish the other refuge goals.

Also available for review are draft compatibility determinations for recreational hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, wildlife photography, and environmental education and interpretation.

### Alternatives

The proposed action is to adopt and implement a comprehensive conservation plan for the refuge that best achieves the refuge's purpose, vision, and goals; contributes to the National Wildlife Refuge System mission; addresses the significant issues and relevant mandates; and is consistent with principles of sound fish and wildlife management. The Service analyzed three alternatives for future management and chose Alternative 3 as the one to best achieve all of these elements. It advances the refuge program considerably and outlines programs that would meet the biological needs of refuge resources and the needs of the public.

Alternative 1 was a proposal to maintain the status quo; *i.e.*, no change from current management of the refuge. The staff would not actively manage habitat or the refuge. The staff would survey populations of neotropical migratory songbirds and forest health and regeneration in bottomland hardwood forests. The refuge would allow the six priority public use activities: Hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, wildlife photography, and environmental education and interpretation. The staff would conduct environmental education and interpretation on a request basis only. The zone law enforcement officer would enforce regulations on the refuge and supervise the law enforcement officers on other nearby refuges.

Alternative 2 proposes moderate program increases. The refuge would develop a habitat management plan and manage all habitats on the refuge. The staff would survey a wide range of wildlife on the refuge. The six priority public use activities would continue to be allowed with the refuge having the capacity to increase the number of opportunities. The staff would conduct regularly scheduled environmental education and interpretation programs. The Service would build a shop and equipment storage facility.

Alternative 3 proposes substantial program increases. The refuge would develop a habitat management plan and manage all habitats on the refuge and selected easements large enough to warrant consideration. The staff would survey all wildlife on the refuge. The refuge would increase further the number of public use opportunities beyond the level proposed in Alternative 2. The Service would build a shop and equipment storage facility.

**Actions Common to All Alternatives**

All three alternatives share the following concepts and techniques for achieving the goals of the refuge:

- Cooperating with State and Federal agencies, non-government organizations, and Dominion Power Company to evaluate the effects of managed flows on the Roanoke River floodplain on the refuge's natural resources;
- Cooperating with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission to administer a hunting program on the refuge;
- Cooperating with the Partnership for the Sounds and Roanoke River Partners to promote nature-based tourism;
- Monitoring populations of neotropical songbirds and the health of bottomland hardwood forest stands; and
- Encouraging scientific research on the refuge.

Roanoke River National Wildlife Refuge, in northeastern North Carolina, consists of 20,978 acres, of which 13,824 acres are baldcypress-water tupelo swamp and 7,154 acres are bottomland hardwood forests. These forests support a variety of wildlife species, including neotropical migratory songbirds, waterfowl, colonial nesting birds, deer, turkey, and squirrels.

The refuge hosts 20,000 visitors annually who participate in hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, wildlife photography, and environmental education and interpretation.

**Authority:** This notice is published under the authority of the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, Public Law 105-57.

Dated: January 19, 2005.

**Cynthia K. Dohner,**

*Acting Regional Director.*

[FR Doc. 05-6255 Filed 3-29-05; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-55-M**

**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 the public, and from local, State and Federal agencies on the following permit requests.

**DATES:** Comments on these permit applications must be received on or before April 29, 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-101141**

*Applicant:* Washington State University, Vancouver, Washington.

The applicant requests a permit to take (survey by pursuit, mark, and release) the Fender's blue butterfly (*Icaricia icarioides fenderi*) in conjunction with research in Polk and Lane Counties, Oregon, for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

**Permit No. TE-101373**

*Applicant:* Jeanie Taylor, Seattle, Washington.

The applicant requests a permit to reduce/remove to possession (collect seeds) *Hackelia venusta* (showy stickseed) in conjunction with research in Chelan County, Washington, for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

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

Dated: March 11, 2005.

**Don Weathers,**

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

[FR Doc. 05-6246 Filed 3-29-05; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-55-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Fish and Wildlife Service****Availability of an Environmental Assessment and Receipt of Applications for Incidental Take Permits for the Arnaudo Brothers, Wathen-Castanos, and River East Holding Sites in Merced County, CA**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability; reopening of public comment period.

**SUMMARY:** The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is reopening the public comment period on the Draft Arnaudo Brothers, Wathen-Castanos and River East Holding Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for an incidental take permit for the endangered San Joaquin kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis mutica*, "kit fox") in Merced County, California.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration of comments, they must be received on or before April 29, 2005.

**ADDRESSES:** Please address written comments to Ms. Lori Rinek, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605, Sacramento, California 95825. You also may send comments by facsimile to (916) 414-6713.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Lori Rinek, Chief, Conservation Planning and Recovery Division, at (916) 414-6600.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Availability of Documents**

You may obtain copies of these documents for review by contacting the above office [see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**]. Documents also will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address [see **ADDRESSES**] and at the following website: <http://www.harveyecology.com/>.

**Background**

The Arnaudo Brothers, Wathen-Castanos, and River East Holding Sites (Applicants) have applied to the Service for incidental take permits pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended. The Service is considering issuing 10-year permits to the Applicants that would authorize take of the endangered kit fox incidental to otherwise lawful activities associated with the residential and commercial development of four sites in Merced County, California. The projects would result in the incidental take of kit fox on the project sites