

to assist the refuge in reaching primary objectives.

#### Next Step

After this comment period ends, we will analyze the comments and address them in the form of a Final CCP and Finding of No Significant Impact.

#### Public Availability of Comments

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

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

**Editorial Note:** This document was received at the Office of the Federal Register on June 25, 2008.

Dated: February 8, 2008.

**Cynthia K. Dohner,**

*Acting Regional Director.*

[FR Doc. E8-14745 Filed 6-27-08; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-55-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R2-ES-2008-N0144; 20124-1113-0000-F5]

#### Endangered and Threatened Species Permit Applications

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

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

**SUMMARY:** The following applicants have applied for scientific research permits to conduct certain activities with endangered species pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, written comments must be received on or before July 30, 2008.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be submitted to the Chief, Endangered Species Division, Ecological Services, P.O. Box 1306, Room 4102, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103. 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. Documents

will be available for public inspection, by appointment only, during normal business hours at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 500 Gold Ave., SW., Room 4102, Albuquerque, New Mexico. Please refer to the respective permit number for each application when submitting comments.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Chief, Endangered Species Division, P.O. Box 1306, Room 4102, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103, (505) 248-6920.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Public Availability of Comments

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

#### Permit TE-1817501

**Applicant:** Paul Stone, DeRidder, Louisiana.

Applicant requests a new permit for research and recovery purposes to conduct presence/absence surveys of red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*) within Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi.

#### Permit TE-181762

**Applicant:** Jeffrey George, South Padre Island, Texas.

Applicant requests a new permit for research and recovery purposes to conduct presence/absence surveys of the following species: Kemp's Ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*), leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*), and hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) within Texas and the Gulf of Mexico.

#### Permit TE-821356

**Applicant:** U.S. Geologic Survey, Southwest Biological Science Center, Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center, Flagstaff, Arizona.

Applicant requests an amendment to a current permit for research and recovery purposes to conduct presence/absence surveys of razorback sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*) within Arizona.

#### Permit TE-814933

**Applicant:** Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Austin, Texas.

Applicant requests an amendment to a current permit for research and

recovery purposes to conduct presence/absence surveys of Rio Grande silvery minnow (*Hybognathus amarus*) within Texas.

#### Permit TE-183429

**Applicant:** Bureau of Land Management, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Applicant requests a new permit for research and recovery purposes to conduct presence/absence surveys of the American burying beetle (*Nicrophorus americanus*) within Oklahoma.

#### Permit TE-056119

**Applicant:** Marlin Sawyer, San Antonio, Texas.

Applicant requests an amendment to a current permit for research and recovery purposes to conduct presence/absence surveys of the following species: whooping crane (*Grus americana*), northern aplomado falcon (*Falco femoralis septentrionalis*), southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*), and interior least tern (*Sterna altillarum*) within Texas.

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*

Dated: June 9, 2008.

**Christopher Jones,**

*Acting Regional Director, Southwest Region, Fish and Wildlife Service.*

[FR Doc. E8-14733 Filed 6-27-08; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-55-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

**Texas Chenier Plain National Wildlife Refuge Complex, Chambers, Jefferson, and Galveston Counties, TX, Consisting of Moody National Wildlife Refuge, Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge, McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge, and Texas Point National Wildlife Refuge**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability: Final environmental impact statement, comprehensive conservation plan, and land protection plan.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce the availability of our Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP), and Final Land Protection Plan (LPP) for the Texas Chenier Plain National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) Complex. In this final EIS/CCP/LPP, we describe how we will manage this

Refuge Complex for the next 15 years and expand the refuge boundaries for each of the four refuges within the Refuge Complex.

**DATES:** We will sign a record of decision (ROD) no sooner than 30 days after publication of this notice.

**ADDRESSES:** You may view or obtain copies of the final EIS, CCP, and LPP by any of the following methods:

- *Agency Web Site:* Download a copy of the document at [http://www.fws.gov/southwest/refuges/Plan/docs/](http://www.fws.gov/southwest/refuges/Plan/docs/LINKS.pdf)  
*LINKS.pdf*.

- *Mail:* Doug St. Pierre, Division of Planning, P.O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, NM 87103.

- *In-Person Viewing or Pickup:* Call 409-267-3337 to make an appointment during regular business hours at Texas Chenier Plain NWR Complex Headquarters, 509 Washington Street, Anahuac, TX.

- *Local Libraries:* The final document is also available at the Public Libraries located in the project area of Chambers and Jefferson Counties, TX.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Doug St. Pierre, 505-248-6636 (phone); mail to: [doug\\_stpierre@fws.gov](mailto:doug_stpierre@fws.gov) (e-mail).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Introduction**

With this notice, we complete the CCP process, except for the ROD, for Texas Chenier Plain NWR Complex begun in our October 21, 1999, **Federal Register** notice (64 FR 56800). For more about the process, see that notice. We released the draft EIS/CCP/LPP to the public, announcing it and requesting comments in a notice of availability in the **Federal Register** (71 FR 61063; October 17, 2006).

The Texas Chenier Plain Refuge Complex is located along the upper Texas Gulf Coast between Houston, TX, and the Louisiana border. This coastal ecosystem includes important freshwater, estuarine marshes, tallgrass prairie with small depressional wetlands, and coastal woodlots. These habitats are an important part of the primary wintering area for Central Flyway ducks and geese, and, additionally, are critical staging areas for neotropical landbirds migrating to and from Central and South America.

With this notice, we announce our decision and the availability of the final EIS/CCP/LPP for Texas Chenier Plain NWR Complex in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (40 CFR 1506.6(b)) requirements. We completed a thorough analysis of the environmental, social, and economic considerations, which we included in the final EIS/CCP/LPP.

The CCP will guide us in managing and administering Moody, Anahuac, McFaddin, and Texas Point Refuges for the 15 years following publication of the final CCP. Refuge Management Alternative D, as we described in the final EIS, is the foundation for the CCP.

**Background**

*The CCP Process*

The National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 668dd-668ee), which amended the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (NWRSA), requires us to develop a CCP for each national wildlife refuge. The purpose in developing a CCP is to provide refuge managers with a 15-year plan 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 our policies. In addition to outlining broad management direction on conserving wildlife and their habitats, CCPs identify wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities available to the public, including opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education and interpretation. We will review and update the CCP at least every 15 years in accordance with the NWRSA, as amended, and NEPA.

**Comments**

We solicited comments on the draft EIS/CCP/LPP for Texas Chenier Plain NWR Complex from October 17, 2006, to January 16, 2007 (71 FR 61063). We received 18 written comments by mail or e-mail, in addition to the 5 comments we recorded at the Service's two public hearings held on November 28 and 30, 2006, in Port Arthur and Hankamer, TX. In Chapter 6 of the final EIS/CCP/LPP, we documented and responded to all of the substantive comments received and noted editorial changes to the final document in response to these comments where appropriate. All of the comments received were considered in the decision-making process to select the two preferred alternatives.

**Our Preferred Alternatives**

After considering the comments we received, we have chosen two Preferred Alternatives, one from each of the two separate sets of Alternatives analyzed and considered.

*Preferred Refuge Management Alternative D—Emphasis on an integrated management approach combining:* (1) Expanded habitat

management and restoration programs, (2) New research and wildlife population monitoring, and (3) Increased efforts to address major threats to the ecosystem.

Preferred Refuge Boundary Expansion Alternative C—a 7,920 acre expansion of the Moody NWR boundary, a 47,750 acre expansion of the Anahuac NWR boundary, a 7,190 acre expansion of the McFaddin NWR boundary, and a 1,400 acre expansion of the Texas Point NWR boundary.

Dated: June 24, 2008.

**Christopher Todd Jones,**

*Acting Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Albuquerque, New Mexico.*

[FR Doc. E8-14741 Filed 6-27-08; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Fish and Wildlife Service**

[FWS-R9-IA-2008-N0158; 96300-1671-0000-P5]

**Receipt of Applications for Permit**

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

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

**SUMMARY:** The public is invited to comment on the following applications to conduct certain activities with endangered species and/or marine mammals.

**DATES:** Written data, comments or requests must be received by July 30, 2008.

**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 within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice to: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 212, Arlington, Virginia 22203; fax 703/358-2281.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Division of Management Authority, telephone 703/358-2104.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Endangered Species**

The public is invited to comment on the following applications for a permit to conduct certain activities with endangered species. This notice is provided pursuant to Section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).