

developments since scoping, we have decided to combine the assessment of using specified genetically modified crops into the CCP and determined that an environmental impact statement (EIS) would be more appropriate than an EA to ensure that a full and fair discussion of all significant environmental impacts occurs, and to inform decision-makers and the public of the reasonable alternatives that would avoid or minimize adverse impacts and enhance the quality of the human environment. All comments we received since 1998 from scoping and meetings held on the Sequoyah National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan and the 2010 scoping effort on the Draft EA for Use of Specified Genetically Modified Crops and Chemical Herbicides in Conjunction with the Cooperative Farming Program on the Sequoyah National Wildlife Refuge, will still be considered during the EIS planning process, so you do not need to resubmit them. We will conduct the environmental review of this project and develop an EIS in accordance with the requirements of NEPA, NEPA regulations (40 CFR parts 1500–1508), other appropriate Federal laws and regulations, and our policies and procedures for compliance with those laws and regulations.

Scoping: Preliminary Issues, Concerns, and Opportunities

We have identified preliminary issues, concerns, and opportunities that we will address in the CCP. We have briefly summarized some of these issues below. During public scoping, we may identify additional issues.

Habitat

Concerns related to the restoration of floodplain forests and cooperative farming exist both among the public and the Refuge staff. Past tree plantings were aimed at habitat improvement and carbon sequestration; they also resulted in the closure of open areas that facilitate public opportunities for hunting and farming.

Sequoyah NWR has an on-Refuge cooperative farming program, which has a long history. This farmed acreage has been reduced over the years. Topics of concern regarding the Refuge's farming program include: (1) The number of acres farmed; (2) the methods and crops used; (3) the use of genetically modified crops (the most significant issue identified); and (4) the use of pesticides.

The issue of invasive species also exists on the Refuge, including the expansion of current colonies, the introduction of new species, and the new locations of colonies. The potential

effect of climate change on Refuge habitat and associated wildlife populations was another concern expressed. Other scoping issues included wetland and riparian habitat restoration, land acquisition and easement efforts, and water quality.

Wildlife

Endangered species and other species of concern are a management focus of the Refuge. The Interior least tern was listed as endangered in 1985, and the American burying beetle was listed in 1989; both of these endangered species reside at Sequoyah National Wildlife Refuge and are managed under their respective recovery plans. The alligator snapping turtle is another species of concern on the Refuge, as the creeks, lakes, wetlands, and riparian areas at Sequoyah contain the unique habitat requirements that this species needs. Although the population of the alligator snapping turtle has been declining, the Refuge retains one of the largest populations of the turtle in the area. The planning team is concerned with ensuring that viable populations of these species are maintained.

Public Use

The appropriate balance of wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities with fish and wildlife conservation is very important to the Refuge. The interpretative and educational opportunities, materials, and facilities at Sequoyah are outdated or in need of improvements. Some members of the public are concerned about their access to and opportunities for hunting and fishing, which are the largest public uses on the Refuge. Other members of the public prefer minimizing these programs or eradicating them altogether. Increase of and improvements to the Refuge's wildlife observation and photography opportunities may also be warranted.

Facilities

Concern exists over access to the Refuge, the quality and abundance of public use facilities, and the development and maintenance of administrative facilities. Refuge access issues center on the improvement, maintenance, and accessibility of roads, boat ramps, entrance points, and nature trails. The administration of areas closed to public use during certain times of the year, increased parking, improved bathroom facilities, enhanced visitor displays, and additional boat ramps are also concerns.

Public Involvement

You may send comments anytime during the planning process by mail, email, or fax (see **ADDRESSES**). There will be additional opportunities to provide public input once we have prepared a draft CCP. Comments already received under the previous notice will be considered during preparation of the CCP/EIS. You do not need to resend these comments. The public's ideas and comments are an important part of the meaningful comments that will help determine the desired future conditions of the Refuge and address the full range of Refuge issues and opportunities.

Public Availability of Comments

Before including your address, phone number, email 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.

Dated: January 23, 2012.

Joy E. Nicholopoulos,

Acting Regional Director, Southwest Region.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS–R4–FHC–2012–N030;
FVHC98130406900Y4–XXX–FF04G01000]

Correction Notice for Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill; Draft Phase I Early Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability and request for comments; correction.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the Framework Agreement for Early Restoration Addressing Injuries Resulting from the *Deepwater Horizon* Oil Spill, the Federal and State natural resource trustee agencies (Trustees) prepared a Draft Early Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment (DERP/EA) describing and proposing a suite of early restoration projects intended to commence the process of restoring natural resources and services injured or lost as a result

of the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill, which occurred on or about April 20, 2010, in the Gulf of Mexico. On December 14, 2011, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior (DOI), published a notice in the **Federal Register** informing the public of the availability of the DERP/EA and seeking written comments. This notice included a mailing address error, which the Service corrects via this notice.

DATES: We will consider public comments received on or before February 14, 2012.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brian Spears, at FW4DWHInfo@fws.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On December 14, 2011, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), United States Department of the Interior (DOI), published a notice in the **Federal Register** (76 FR 78016) informing the public of the availability of the DERP/EA and seeking written comments on the proposed restoration alternative presented in the DERP/EA.

This notice misstated the post office box number to which commenters could send comments. The correct post office box address is:

U.S. Mail: c/o U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 2099, Fairhope, AL 36533.

The Service has taken several steps to ensure that comments sent to the incorrect post office box are routed to the correct box, including filing a change of address form and coordinating with the U.S. Postal Service directly.

Everything else in the December 14, 2011, notice, including the other methods for public comment it offered, remains the same.

Public Availability of Comments

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment including your personal identifying information, may be 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.

Author

The primary author of this notice is Harriet Deal.

Authority

The authority for this action is the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2701 *et seq.*) and the implementing Natural Resource Damage Assessment regulations found at 15 CFR Part 990.

Dated: February 3, 2012.

Cynthia K. Dohner,

Authorized Official, Department of the Interior.

[FR Doc. 2012-3113 Filed 2-9-12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R2-ES-2011-N0011;
FXES1113020000F5-123-FF02ENEH00]

Endangered and Threatened Species Permit Applications

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of applications; request for public comment.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, invite the public to comment on the following applications to conduct certain activities with endangered or threatened species. The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act), prohibits activities with endangered and threatened species unless a Federal permit allows such activities. The Act and the National Environmental Policy Act also require that we invite public comment before issuing these permits.

DATES: To ensure consideration, written comments must be received on or before March 12, 2012.

ADDRESSES: Marty Tuegel, Section 10 Coordinator, by U.S. mail at Division of Endangered Species, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 1306, Room 6034, Albuquerque, NM at (505) 248-6920. Please refer to the respective permit number for each application when submitting comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Susan Jacobsen, Chief, Endangered Species Division, P.O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, NM 87103; (505) 248-6920.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Public Availability of Comments

The Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) prohibits activities with endangered and threatened species unless a Federal permit allows such activities. Along with our implementing regulations in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 50 CFR part 17, the Act provides for permits, and requires that we invite public comment before issuing these permits.

A permit granted by us under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Act authorizes applicants to conduct activities with U.S. endangered or threatened species

for scientific purposes, enhancement of survival or propagation, or interstate commerce. Our regulations regarding implementation of section 10(a)(1)(A) permits are found at 50 CFR 17.22 for endangered wildlife species, 50 CFR 17.32 for threatened wildlife species, 50 CFR 17.62 for endangered plant species, and 50 CFR 17.72 for threatened plant species.

Applications Available for Review and Comment

We invite local, State, and Federal agencies, and the public to comment on the following applications. Please refer to the appropriate permit number (*e.g.*, Permit No. TE-123456) when requesting application documents and when submitting comments.

Documents and other information the applicants have submitted with these applications are available for review, subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a) and Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552).

Permit TE-202343

Applicant: Daniel Ginter, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Applicant requests an amendment to a current permit for research and recovery purposes to conduct presence/absence surveys for southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) within New Mexico.

Permit TE-59580A

Applicant: Rocky Mountain Ecology, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Applicant requests a new permit for research and recovery purposes to conduct presence/absence surveys for southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) and Rio Grande silvery minnow (*Hybognathus amarus*) within New Mexico.

Permit TE-59587A

Applicant: Donald Connell, Driftwood, Texas.

Applicant requests a new permit for research and recovery purposes to conduct presence/absence surveys for golden-cheeked warbler (*Dendroica chrysoparia*) and black-capped vireo (*Vireo atricapilla*) within Texas.

Permit TE-60494A

Applicant: Wildlife World Zoo, Litchfield Park, Arizona.

Applicant requests an amendment to a current permit for husbandry and holding of Kemp's ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*) at the zoo in Arizona.