

Southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) along the Colorado River corridor within Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona.

Permit No. 819475

Applicant: Michael J. Armbruster, Denver, Colorado

The applicant requests a permit to conduct presence/absence surveys for the Southwestern willow flycatcher in the Pecos River Basin and the Rio Grande River Basin from Velarde in Rio Arriba County to the north end of Elephant Butte Reservoir in Socorro County, New Mexico.

DATES: Written comments on these permit applications must be received October 21, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Written data or comments should be submitted to the Legal Instruments Examiner, Division of Endangered Species/Permits, Ecological Services, P.O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103. 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: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services, Division of Endangered Species/Permits, P.O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103. Please refer to the respective permit number for each application when requesting copies of documents. 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.

Lynn B. Starnes,
Regional Director, Region 2, Albuquerque,
New Mexico.

[FR Doc. 96-24146 Filed 9-19-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-55-U

Endangered and Threatened Species Permit Applications

ACTION: Notice of receipt of applications.

SUMMARY: The following applicants have applied 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.*).

Permit No. 819477

Applicant: Kevin L. Hamann.

The applicant requests a permit to conduct field surveys, locate roosts and/or nests, map the distribution, and monitor activities of all Mexican spotted owls (*Strix occidentalis lucida*) located five to six miles north of Tres Ritos on NM Highway 518; at the intersection of NM 48 and the Rio Bonito in Taos County, New Mexico, and along NM Highway 48 between Alto and Angus in Lincoln County, New Mexico.

Permit No. 819489

Applicant: Tod Hull, Flagstaff, Arizona.

The applicant requests a permit to conduct presence/absence surveys for the Southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) along the Upper Gila River Area, and the Redrock area south of the Upper Gila River Area in New Mexico.

Permit No. 819491

Applicant: Michael J. Fitzgerald, Farmington, New Mexico.

The applicant requests a permit to conduct presence/absence surveys for the Southwestern willow flycatcher in New Mexico and Arizona.

Permit No. 819493

W.L. Taylor, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

The applicant requests a permit to conduct presence/absence surveys for the Southwestern willow flycatcher in San Juan Pueblo, Ojo Caliente, and Mule Creek, New Mexico.

Permit No. 819528

Applicant: Patricia Mehlhop, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The applicant requests a permit to conduct presence/absence surveys for the Southwestern willow flycatcher in the Rio Grande Valley from Velarde in Rio Arriba County to the north end of Elephant Butte Reservoir in Socorro County and in the Organ Mountains in Dona Ana County, New Mexico.

Permit No. 819531

Applicant: Russell B. Duncan, Tucson, Arizona.

The applicant requests a permit to conduct field surveys, capture, band, and obtain blood samples from Mexican spotted owls, and conduct field surveys for the Southwestern willow flycatcher, Yuma clapper rail (*Rallus longirostris yumanensis*), desert pupfish (*Cyprinodon macularius*), Gila topminnow (*Poeciliopsis occidentalis occidentalis*), razorback sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*), Colorado squawfish (*Ptychocheilus lucius*), spikedace (*Meda fulgida*), loach

minnow (*Tiaroga cobitis*) and lesser long-nosed bat.

Permit No. 819536

Applicant: William J. Schreier, Denver, Colorado.

The applicant requests a permit to conduct presence/absence surveys, and map locations and territory distribution for Southwestern willow flycatchers at Rattlesnake Springs, Carlsbad Caverns National Park, Eddy County, New Mexico.

Permit No. 819538

Applicant: Paul E. Sawyer, Phoenix, Arizona.

The applicant requests a permit to conduct presence/absence surveys for Southwestern willow flycatchers in Arizona.

Permit No. 819541

Applicant: Michael Tremble, Gallup, New Mexico.

The applicant requests a permit to conduct presence/absence surveys for Southwestern willow flycatchers, Mexican spotted owls, American peregrine falcons (*Falco peregrine anatum*), and black-footed ferrets (*Mustela nigripes*) on the San Juan River edges and floodplain riparian vegetation at Shiprock, New Mexico and the Navajo Nation in Arizona.

Permit No. 819549

Applicant: Cisney Havaton, Peach Springs, Arizona.

The applicant requests a permit to conduct field surveys, locate, and map the distribution of Mexican spotted owls; and to acquire razorback suckers and transport them to Willow Beach National Fish Hatchery for a radio telemetry study on the Colorado River to stock into the Grand Canyon within the Hualapai Indian Reservation in Peach Springs, Arizona.

Permit No. 819558

Applicant: Warren B. Starnes, Lufkin, Texas.

The applicant requests a permit to survey, monitor, capture, and band red-cockaded woodpeckers (*Picoides borealis*) in State, private, and National Forests and grasslands in East Texas.

DATES: WRITTEN COMMENTS ON THESE PERMIT APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 21, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Written data or comments should be submitted to the Legal Instruments Examiner, Division of Endangered Species/Permits, Ecological Services, P.O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103. Please refer to the respective permit number for each application when submitting comments.

All comments received, including names and addresses, received will become part of the official administrative record and may be made available to the public.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services, Division of Endangered Species/Permits, P.O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103. Please refer to the respective permit number for each application when requesting copies of documents. 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.

Lynn B. Starnes,
Regional Director, Region 2, Albuquerque,
New Mexico.
[FR Doc. 96-24160 Filed 9-19-96; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4510-55-M

Notice of Availability of a Draft Recovery Plan for the Bluemask (=Jewel) Darter for Review and Comment

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability and public comment period.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces the availability for public review of a technical/agency draft recovery plan for the bluemask (=jewel) darter. This small darter (2 inches long) is endemic to the Caney Fork River system (above Great Falls), Cumberland River Basin, in central Tennessee. The species was historically known from five rivers and is still known from four of these rivers (Cane Creek, Van Buren County; Collins River, Warren and Grundy Counties; Rocky River, Van Buren County; and Upper Caney Fork River, White County). The Collins River population inhabits about 23 stream miles. However, the other three populations inhabit less than 2.8 stream miles each. Populations of this species have been fragmented by habitat alteration, water withdrawal, and the general deterioration of water quality resulting from siltation and other pollutants contributed by coal mining, gravel mining, poor land use practices, and waste discharges. These factors continue to impact the species and its habitat. The species' present limited distribution also makes it vulnerable to extirpation from stochastic

events such as chemical spills. The Service solicits review and comment from the public on this draft plan.

DATES: Comments on the draft recovery plan must be received on or before November 19, 1996 to receive consideration by the Service.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the technical/agency draft recovery plan may obtain a copy by contacting the Asheville Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 160 Zillicoa Street, Asheville, North Carolina 28801 (Telephone 704/258-3939). Written comments and materials regarding the plan should be addressed to the Field Supervisor at the above address. 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: Mr. Richard Biggins, Fish and Mollusk Recovery Coordinator, at the address and telephone number shown in the "Addresses" section (Ext. 228).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Restoring endangered or threatened animals and plants to the point where they are again secure, self-sustaining members of their ecosystems 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 the conservation of the species, criteria for recognizing 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, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) (Act), 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 a public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment be provided during recovery plan development. The Service will consider all information presented during a public comment period prior to approval of each new or revised recovery plan. The Service and other Federal agencies will also take these comments into account in the course of implementing approved recovery plans.

The primary species considered in this draft recovery plan is the bluemask (=jewel) darter (*Etheostoma (Doration) sp.*). The areas of emphasis for recovery

actions are the tributaries of the Caney Fork River system (above Great Falls Reservoir). Cumberland River basin, in central Tennessee. Habitat protection, population augmentation and reintroduction, and the preservation of genetic material are the major objectives of this recovery plan.

Public Comments Solicited

The Service solicits written comments on the recovery plan described. All comments received by the date specified above will be considered prior to approval of the final plan.

Authority: The authority for this action is section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1533(f).

Dated: September 16, 1996.

Brian P. Cole,
State Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 96-24145 Filed 9-19-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

Bureau of Land Management

[AK-962-1410-00-P]

Alaska; Notice for Publication AA-10698 Alaska Native Claims Selection

In accordance with Departmental regulation 43 CFR 2650.7(d), notice is hereby given that a decision to issue conveyance under the provisions of Sec. 14(h)(1) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of December 18, 1971, 43 U.S.C. 1601, 1613(h)(1), will be issued to Bering Straits Native Corporation for approximately 5.5 acres. The lands involved are in the vicinity of Lapplander Village, Alaska.

Kateel River Meridian, Alaska

T. 19 S., R. 8 W.,

Sec. 31;

Sec. 32.

A notice of the decision will be published once a week, for four (4) consecutive weeks, in the *The Nome Nugget*. Copies of the decision may be obtained by contacting the Alaska State Office of the Bureau of Land Management, 222 West Seventh Avenue, #13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7599 (907) 271-5960.

Any party claiming a property interest which is adversely affected by the decision, an agency of the Federal government or regional corporation, shall have until October 21, 1996 to file an appeal. However, parties receiving service by certified mail shall have 30 days from the date of receipt to file an appeal. Appeals must be filed in the Bureau of Land Management at the address identified above, where the requirements for filing an appeal may be obtained. Parties who do not file an