

Dated: December 4, 2002.

Ralph O. Morgenweck,

Regional Director, Denver, Colorado.

[FR Doc. 03-1068 Filed 1-16-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Sabine, Cameron Prairie, and Lacassine National Wildlife Refuges

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare comprehensive conservation plans and environmental assessments for Sabine, Cameron Prairie, and Lacassine National Wildlife Refuges in Louisiana.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the Fish and Wildlife Service, Southeast Region, intends to gather information necessary to prepare comprehensive conservation plans and environmental assessments pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and its implementing regulations. The Service is furnishing this notice in compliance with the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 668dd *et seq.*), to achieve the following:

(1) Advise other agencies and the public of our intentions, and

(2) Obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues to include in the environmental documents.

Special mailings, newspaper articles, and other media announcements will inform people of the opportunities for written input throughout the planning process.

DATES: The Service has already begun the planning process by hosting a series of local meetings in Cameron and Calcasieu Parishes during October 2002, to solicit comments. An open house to involve the public will be held on January 16, 2003, at Best Suites of America (Downtown Exit off Interstate 10), 401 Lakeshore Drive, Lake Charles, Louisiana. The public may attend formal presentations at 2 p.m., 4 p.m., or 6 p.m., or may visit any time during the open house to view maps and other displays, consider each refuge purpose and mission statement, visit one-on-one with Service representatives, and give personal suggestions for future management of each refuge. Special mailings, newspaper articles, and announcements will inform the public of times and locations of additional meetings and opportunities for input.

ADDRESSES: Address comments, questions, and requests for more information to the following: Judy McClendon, Natural Resource Planner, Southwest Louisiana Refuges, 1428 Highway 27, Bell City, Louisiana 70630; Telephone 337/598-2216; Fax 337/598-2492; E-Mail judy_mcclendon@fws.gov. Additional information concerning these refuges may be found at the Service's Internet site <http://www.fws.gov/>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: By Federal law, all lands within the National Wildlife Refuge System are to be managed in accordance with an approved comprehensive conservation plan. The plan guides management decisions and identifies refuge goals, long-range objectives, and strategies for achieving refuge purposes. The planning process will consider many elements including wildlife and habitat management, public recreational activities, and cultural resource protection. Public input into the planning process is essential.

Sabine National Wildlife Refuge, located in Cameron Parish, Louisiana, encompasses 124,511 acres of fresh/intermediate/brackish marsh and is managed for the protection of wintering waterfowl. Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge, located in Cameron Parish, Louisiana, encompasses 9,621 acres of fresh marsh, prairie, and manipulated moist-soil units and provides for nesting, migrating, and wintering waterfowl and their critical habitats. Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge, located in Cameron and Evangeline Parishes, Louisiana, encompasses 34,886 acres and was established to preserve marshlands and to provide habitat for migrating and wintering waterfowl. Lacassine refuge also manages a 3,345-acre wilderness area, a 20,000-acre private lands mini-refuge program for migrating waterfowl in six refuges, and oversees wetland easements in Jefferson Davis Parish.

Review of the draft plans, expected in 2003, will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), NEPA regulations (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), other appropriate Federal laws and regulations, and Service policies and procedures for compliance with those regulations.

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

Dated: December 3, 2002

J. Mitch King,

Acting Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 03-1070 Filed 1-16-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Receipt of Application for Endangered Species Permit

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of application for endangered species permit.

SUMMARY: The following applicants have applied for permits 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.*).

DATES: Written data or comments on these applications must be received, at the address given below, by February 18, 2003.

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 to the following office within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 200, Atlanta, Georgia 30345 (Attn: Victoria Davis, Permit Biologist). Telephone: 404/679-4176; Facsimile: 404/679-7081.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Victoria Davis, Telephone: 404/679-4176; Facsimile: 404/679-7081.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: If you wish to comment, you may submit comments by any one of several methods. You may mail comments to the Service's Regional Office (see **ADDRESSES**). You may also comment via the internet to victoria_davis@fws.gov. Please submit comments over the internet as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Please also include your name and return address in your internet message. If you do not receive a confirmation from the Service that we have received your internet message, contact us directly at either telephone number listed above (see **FURTHER INFORMATION**). Finally, you may hand deliver comments to the Service office listed below (see **ADDRESSES**). 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 address from the administrative record. We will honor such requests to the extent allowable by law. There may also be other circumstances in which we would withhold from the administrative record a respondent's identity, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. However, we will not consider anonymous comments. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

Applicant: Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc., Atlanta, Georgia, Florida, TE063179-0.

The applicant requests authorization to take (survey, capture, translocate, and release) the following mussels and fishes: Fat three-ridge mussel (*Amblema neislerii*), Chipola slabshell (*Elliptio chipolaensis*), purple bankclimber (*Elliptio sloatianus*), upland combshell (*Epioblasma metastriata*), southern acornshell (*Epioblasma othcaloogensis*), fine-lined pocketbook (*Lampsilis altilis*), shiny-rayed pocketbook (*Lampsilis subangulata*), Alabama moccasinshell (*Medionidus acutissimus*), Coosa moccasinshell (*Medionidus acutissimus*), Gulf moccasinshell (*Medionidus penicillatus*), Ochlockonee moccasinshell (*Medionidus simpsonianus*), Southern clubshell (*Pleurobema decisum*), Southern pigtoe (*Pleurobema georgianum*), Ovate clubshell (*Pleurobema perovatum*), oval pigtoe (*Pleurobema pyriforme*), triangular kidneyshell (*Ptychobranhus greeni*), short nose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*), blue shiner (*Cyprinella caerulea*), Cherokee darter (*Etheostoma scotti*), Etowah darter (*Etheostoma etowahae*), Amber darter (*Percina antesella*), goldline darter (*Percina aurolineata*), Conasauga logperch (*Percina jenkinsi*), and snail darter (*Percina tanasi*). The proposed activities will take place throughout the state of Georgia.

Applicant: South Carolina Parks, Recreation and Tourism, Cheraw, South Carolina, Gary P. Haight, TE063183-0.

The applicant requests authorization to harass red-cockaded woodpeckers (*Picoides borealis*) while installing squirrel and snake excluder devices on

active and non-active cluster trees with cavities. The proposed activities will take place in the Cheraw State Park, South Carolina.

Applicant: Trent Alan Farris, Foley, Alabama, TE064856-0.

The applicant requests authorization to take (survey, capture, mark, tag, and release) the following species: Alabama beach mouse (*Peromyscus polionotus ammobates*), Perdido Key beach mouse (*Peromyscus polionotus trissyllepsis*), Choctawhatchee beach mouse (*Peromyscus polionotus allopheys*), and Saint Andrew beach mouse (*Peromyscus polionotus peninsularis*). Take will occur while conducting presence and absence population surveys, studying population status and distributions, translocating individuals to augment populations, and radio tagging for scientific purposes. The proposed activities will take place in Alabama and Florida.

Applicant: Samuel Paul Atkinson; Shaw, McLeod, Belser, and Hurlbutt; Sumter, South Carolina, TE064882-0.

The applicant requests authorization to take (capture, band, release, monitor nests, and install artificial cavity inserts) red-cockaded woodpeckers (*Picoides borealis*) while conducting presence and absence surveys. The surveys will be conducted throughout the species historical range.

Dated: December 19, 2002.

J. Mitch King,

Acting Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 03-1064 Filed 1-16-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Receipt of a Permit Application (Reid) for Incidental Take of the Houston Toad

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: Roger Reid and Marie Waneck (Applicants) have applied for an incidental take permit (TE-066089-0) pursuant to section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act (Act). The requested permit would authorize the incidental take of the endangered Houston toad. The proposed take would occur as a result from the construction and operation of commercial storage units on a 2.625 acre property on Highway 21, Bastrop County, Texas.

DATES: Written comments on the application should be received on or before February 18, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the application may obtain a copy by writing to the Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, PO Box 1306, Room 4102, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103. Persons wishing to review the EA/HCP may obtain a copy by contacting Clayton Napier, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78758 (512/490-0057). Documents will be available for public inspection by written request, by appointment only, during normal business hours (8 to 4:30) at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Austin, Texas. Written data or comments concerning the application and EA/HCP should be submitted to the Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Austin, Texas, at the above address. Please refer to permit number TE-066089-0 when submitting comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Clayton Napier, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78758 (512/490-0057).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 9 of the Act prohibits the "taking" of endangered species such as the Houston toad. However, the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), under limited circumstances, may issue permits to take endangered wildlife species incidental to, and not the purpose of, otherwise lawful activities. Regulations governing permits for endangered species are at 50 CFR 17.22.

The Service has prepared the Environmental Assessment/Habitat Conservation Plan (EA/HCP) for the incidental take application. A determination of jeopardy to the species or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will not be made until at least 30 days from the date of publication of this notice. This notice is provided pursuant to Section 10(c) of the Act and National Environmental Policy Act regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

Applicant: Roger Reid and Marie Waneck plan to construct commercial storage units within 5 years, on approximately 0.3 acres of a 2.625-acre property on Highway 21, Bastrop County, Texas. This action will eliminate 0.3 acres or less of Houston toad habitat and result in indirect impacts within the lot. The Applicant proposes to compensate for this incidental take of the Houston toad by providing \$660.00 to the Houston Toad Conservation Fund at the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for the specific purpose of land acquisition and