

Dated: February 19, 2013.

Noreen E. Walsh,

Regional Director, Denver, Colorado.

[FR Doc. 2013-06612 Filed 3-21-13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R1-ES-2012-N198;
FXES11130100000C2-123-FF01E00000]

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Recovery Plan for Rogue and Illinois Valley Vernal Pool and Wet Meadow Ecosystems

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, announce the availability of the approved Recovery Plan for Rogue and Illinois Valley Vernal Pool and Wet Meadow Ecosystems. The recovery plan addresses two endangered plant species that are endemic to southern Oregon, and also includes some recommendations for other species in these ecosystems. The plan includes recovery objectives and criteria, and prescribes specific recovery actions necessary to achieve downlisting and delisting of the species from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants.

ADDRESSES: An electronic copy of the recovery plan is available at <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/species/recovery-plans.html> and <http://www.fws.gov/pacific/ecoservices/endangered/recovery/plans.html>. Copies of the recovery plan are also available by request from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Roseburg Field Office, 2900 NW. Stewart Parkway, Roseburg, Oregon 97470 (phone: 541-957-3474). Printed copies of the recovery plan will be available for distribution within 4 to 6 weeks of publication of this notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sam Friedman, Botanist, at the above Roseburg address.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Recovery of endangered or threatened animals and plants is the primary goal of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). Recovery means improvement of the status of a federally listed species to the point at which listing it is no longer required under the criteria set forth in section 4(a)(1) of the Act and its

implementing regulations at 50 CFR part 424. The Act requires the development of recovery plans for listed species unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of a particular species. Recovery plans help guide the recovery effort by prescribing actions considered necessary for the conservation of the species, establishing criteria for downlisting or delisting listed species, and estimating time and cost for implementing the measures needed for recovery.

Section 4(f) of the Act requires public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment during recovery plan development. From September 22, 2006, through November 21, 2006, we provided the draft of this recovery plan to the public and solicited comments (71 FR 55508). We considered information we received during the public comment period and comments from peer reviewers in our preparation of the final recovery plan, and have summarized that information and our responses to comments in Appendix G of the approved recovery plan. We welcome continuing public comment on this recovery plan, and we will consider all substantive comments on an ongoing basis to inform the implementation of recovery activities and future updates to the recovery plan.

In this recovery plan, we describe our recovery strategies and objectives for two endangered plants: *Lomatium cookii* (Cook's desert-parsley) and *Limnanthes floccosa* ssp. *grandiflora* (equivalent to *Limnanthes pumila* ssp. *grandiflora* in current taxonomy) (large-flowered woolly meadowfoam). The plan also provides recommendations for recovery of the threatened vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*) within Oregon, supplementing the existing rangewide recovery plan for the species that was published on March 7, 2006 (71 FR 11441). In addition, site-specific information and recommendations for long-term conservation are provided for seven species of conservation concern.

The species addressed in this recovery plan occur in vernal pool, swale, or seasonal wet meadow habitats within southern Oregon and are largely confined to limited areas by topographic constraints, soil types, and climatic conditions. Surrounding (or associated) upland habitat is critical to the proper ecological function of these vernal pool habitats. Most of the vernal pool plants and animals addressed in the recovery plan have life histories adapted to the short period for growth and reproduction within inundated or drying pools and meadows interspersed with long dormant periods and extreme

year-to-year variation in rainfall. All of the species addressed in this recovery plan are threatened by the continued degradation, loss, and fragmentation of their native vernal pool or wet meadow ecosystems.

The recovery actions described in this recovery plan include: (1) Protection, management, and restoration of vernal pool and wet meadow habitat; (2) population status surveys and monitoring; (3) research on biology and management of the species; and (4) enhancement of public awareness and participation in species recovery. The recovery strategy is oriented to adaptive management of vernal pool and wet meadow habitat, consistent with the Service's Strategic Habitat Conservation process, which calls for an iterative process of biological planning, conservation design, conservation delivery, and monitoring and research. The biological planning and conservation design set forth in this recovery plan lay out the criteria for recovery and identify localities for implementing actions, while the recovery actions describe a process for implementing conservation on the ground, outcome-based monitoring to assess success, and ongoing assumption-driven research to test biological hypotheses important to management. The objective of this recovery plan is to recover the two endangered plants and the threatened animal species sufficiently to warrant delisting, and to ensure the long-term conservation of the seven taxa of concern. An interim goal is to downlist *Lomatium cookii* and *Limnanthes floccosa* ssp. *grandiflora* from endangered to threatened status.

Authority

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

Dated: November 6, 2012.

Richard R. Hannan,

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

[FR Doc. 2013-06621 Filed 3-21-13; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-HQ-IA-2013-N072;
FXIA16710900000P5-123-FF09A30000]

Endangered Species; Marine Mammals; Issuance of Permits

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of issuance of permits.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), have issued the following permits to conduct certain activities with endangered species, marine mammals, or both. We issue these permits under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA).

ADDRESSES: Brenda Tapia, Division of Management Authority, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax

Drive, Room 212, Arlington, VA 22203; fax (703) 358-2280; or email DMAFR@fws.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brenda Tapia, (703) 358-2104 (telephone); (703) 358-2280 (fax); DMAFR@fws.gov (email).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On the dates below, as authorized by the provisions of the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), as amended, and/or the MMPA,

as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), we issued requested permits subject to certain conditions set forth therein. For each permit for an endangered species, we found that (1) The application was filed in good faith, (2) The granted permit would not operate to the disadvantage of the endangered species, and (3) The granted permit would be consistent with the purposes and policy set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

ENDANGERED SPECIES

Permit No.	Applicant	Receipt of application Federal Register notice	Permit issuance date
69463A	Denver Zoological Foundation	77 FR 41198; July 12, 2012	February 22, 2012.
69465A	Denver Zoological Foundation	77 FR 41198; July 12, 2012	February 22, 2012.
88568A	The Living Desert	77 FR 66476; November 5, 2012	February 12, 2013.
91717A	Thomas Archipley	77 FR 74506; December 14, 2012	March 4, 2013.
90697A	Stephen Dunbar, Loma Linda University ...	78 FR 4162; January 18, 2013	March 15, 2013.
724540	Archie Carr Center for Sea Turtle Research.	78 FR 5481; January 25, 2013	March 12, 2013.

MARINE MAMMALS

Permit No.	Applicant	Receipt of application Federal Register notice	Permit issuance date
134593 and 134595	Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium	71 FR 53464; September 11, 2006	March 13, 2013.
73634A	Seward Association for the Advancement of Marine Science, Alaska SeaLife Center.	77 FR 70457; November 26, 2012	March 8, 2013.

Availability 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 to: Division of Management Authority, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 212, Arlington, VA 22203; fax (703) 358-2280.

Brenda Tapia,

Program Analyst/Data Administrator, Branch of Permits, Division of Management Authority.

[FR Doc. 2013-06596 Filed 3-21-13; 8:45 am]

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ACTION: Notice of availability; request for comments.

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

DATES: To ensure consideration, please send your written comments by April 22, 2013.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments or requests for copies or more information by any of the following methods. Alternatively, you may use one of the following methods to request hard copies or a CD-ROM of the documents. Please specify the permit you are interested in by number (e.g., Permit No. TE-98708A).

- *Email:* permitsR6ES@fws.gov.

Please refer to the respective permit number (e.g., Permit No. TE-98708A) in the subject line of the message.

- *U.S. Mail:* Ecological Services, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 25486-DFC, Denver, CO 80225

- *In-Person Drop-off, Viewing, or Pickup:* Call (303) 236-4212 to make an appointment during regular business hours at 134 Union Blvd., Suite 645, Lakewood, CO 80228.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kathy Konishi, Permit Coordinator Ecological Services, (303) 236-4212 (phone); permitsR6ES@fws.gov (email).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) prohibits activities with endangered and threatened species unless a Federal permit allows such activity. 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 you to conduct activities with United States endangered or threatened species for scientific purposes, enhancement of propagation or survival, or interstate commerce (the latter only in the event that it facilitates scientific purposes or

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R6-ES-2013-N071;
FXES11130600000D2-123-FF06E00000]

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Recovery Permit Applications

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.