

Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act, Pub. L. 104-193).

[FR Doc. 98-3237 Filed 2-9-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Endangered and Threatened Species Permit Applications

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of permit applications.

SUMMARY: The following applicants have applied for a scientific research permit to conduct certain activities with endangered species pursuant to section 10 (a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Permit No.'s: 741345, 756268, 777965, 816204, 831207, 787392, 745541, 804203, 744707, 802453, 787644, 809230, 775869

Applicants: Baxter Consulting Services, Lake Mathews, California; Philip Behrends, Solana Beach, California; LSA, Irvine, California; Douglas Kelt, Davis, California; Kirtland Biological Services, Riverside, California; San Bernardino County Museum, Redlands, California; SJM Biological Consultants, San Diego, California; Stephen Myers, Riverside, California; Michael O'Farrel, Las Vegas, Nevada; Mary Price, Riverside, California; William Vanherweg, Bakersfield, California; Leroy McClenaghan, San Diego, California; Richard Friesen, Irvine, California.

These applicants request a permit amendment to take (capture, handle, and release) the San Bernardino kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys merriami parvus*) in conjunction with presence or absence surveys, population monitoring, and research in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, California, for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

Permit No.'s. 780195, 786497, 802447, 781220, 783926

Applicants: Royce B. Riggan, Jr., San Diego, California; Paul Principe, Murrieta, California; Kimberly Miller, San Diego, California; William D. Wagner, Wrightwood, California; California Department of Transportation, San Diego, California.

These applicants request a permit amendment to take (harass by survey) the Quino checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha quino*) in conjunction with presence or absence surveys and ecological research throughout the species' range in California, for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

Permit No.'s. 838741, 839084, 839078

Applicant: Larry D. Munsey, Tustin, California; Wendy Loeffler, Orange, California; Spencer Langdon, Costa Mesa, California.

These applicants request a permit to take (harass by survey) the Quino checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha quino*) in conjunction with presence or absence surveys and ecological research throughout the species' range in California, for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

Permit No. 838739

Applicant: Larry Munsey International, Irvine, California.

The applicant requests a permit to take (harass by survey) the Quino checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha quino*) in conjunction with presence or absence surveys and ecological research throughout the species' range in California, for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

Permit No. 702631

Applicant: Assistant Regional Director-Ecological Services, Region 1, Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland, Oregon.

The applicant requests a permit amendment to take (capture, handle, and release) the San Bernardino kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys merriami parvus*) throughout the species' range in California in conjunction with recovery efforts, for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

DATES: Written comments on these permit applications must be received on or before March 12, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Written data or comments should be submitted to the Chief, Division of Consultation and Conservation Planning, Ecological Services, Fish and Wildlife Service, 911 N.E. 11th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97232-4181; FAX: (503) 231-6243. Please refer to the respective permit number for each application when submitting comments. All comments, 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:

Documents and other information submitted with these applications are available for review, subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act and the Freedom of Information Act, by any party who submits a written request for a copy of such documents within 20 days of the date of publication of this notice to the address above; telephone: (503) 231-2063. Please refer to the respective permit number for each

application when requesting copies of documents.

Dated: February 4, 1998.

Don Weathers,

Acting Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.

[FR Doc. 98-3255 Filed 2-9-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Availability of a Draft Recovery Plan for the Star Cactus (*Astrophytum asterias*) for Review and Comment

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announces the availability for public review of a draft recovery plan for the star cactus (*Astrophytum asterias*). This species occurs in the grasslands and thornshrub of the Rio Grande Plains of Texas and Tamaulipas, Mexico. It is found on gravelly clays or loams overlaying the Tertiary Catahoula and Frio formations in the United States, and on soils of limestone origin overlaying Cenozoic to Mesozoic marine sediments in Tamaulipas. The historical range of star cactus included Cameron, Hidalgo, and Starr Counties in South Texas and the states of Nuevo Leon and Tamaulipas in Mexico. The cactus was historically and is still found on private lands and may also occur on State lands or highway right-of-ways. 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 May 11, 1998, to receive consideration by the Service.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the draft recovery plan may examine a copy by contacting Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Field Office, c/o TAMU-CC Campus Box 338, 6300 Ocean Drive, Corpus Christi, Texas, 78412. Telephone (512) 994-9005. Fax No. (512) 994-8262. Written comments and materials regarding the plan should also be addressed to the above address. Comments and materials received will be made available upon request for public inspection by appointment during normal business hours at the same address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Corpus Christi) at (512) 994-9005.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Restoring an endangered or threatened animal or plant to the point where it is a secure, self-sustaining member of its ecosystem, is a primary goal of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's endangered species program. To help guide the recovery effort, the Service prepares recovery plans for most of the listed species native to the United States. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for conservation of the species, establish criteria for the recovery levels for reclassifying them from endangered to threatened status or removing them from the list, and estimate the time and cost for implementing the needed recovery measures.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) 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 public notice and 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 take these comments into account in the course of implementing approved recovery plans.

The star cactus was listed as an endangered species on November 17, 1993. The primary objective of this recovery plan is to maintain sufficient star cactus populations in natural habitats to ensure that the species is safe from extinction. This species is threatened by habitat destruction and modification through conversion of native habitat to agricultural land uses and urban development; collection of wild plants for the cactus trade; competition with exotic grasses introduced for cattle forage and erosion control; and genetic vulnerability due to low population numbers. The Recovery Plan is the product of considerable biological and historical data developed by a team of scientists, agency personnel, stakeholders from the management community, conservation organizations, and the general public. It provides scientific information about the species and establishes management plans for the protection of native populations, and the development of new populations to enhance its range and abundance to the extent that no natural or man-caused disturbance will result in irrevocable losses.

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 plan.

Authority

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

Dated: January 30, 1998.

Ren Loehefner,

Acting Regional Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 2.

[FR Doc. 98-3232 Filed 2-9-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service**Application for Approval of Tin Shot as Nontoxic for Waterfowl Hunting**

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of application.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces that the International Tin Research Institute, Ltd. (ITRI), of Uxbridge, Middlesex, United Kingdom, has applied for approval of tin shot as nontoxic for waterfowl hunting in the United States. The Service has initiated review of the Tier 1 application.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul R. Schmidt, Chief, or Carol Anderson, Wildlife Biologist, Office of Migratory Bird Management (MBMO), (703) 358-1714.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Since the mid-1970s, the Service has sought to identify shot that, when spent, does not pose a significant toxic hazard to migratory birds and other wildlife. Currently, only bismuth-tin and steel shot are approved by the Service as nontoxic. Tungsten-iron shot received temporary conditional approval for the 1997-98 hunting season. The Service believes approval for other suitable candidate shot materials as nontoxic is feasible.

On November 5, 1997, ITRI submitted their Tier 1 application for approval of pure tin shot as nontoxic pursuant to 50 CFR 20.134 (recently amended—see 62 FR 63608, December 1, 1997). The Service has determined that the application is complete, and has initiated a comprehensive review of the Tier 1 information to be concluded within April 13, 1998. After this review, the Service will either 1) publish a *Notice of Review* to inform the public

that the Tier 1 test results are inconclusive or 2) publish a proposed rule for approval of the candidate shot. The *Notice of Review* will indicate whether Tier 2, Tier 3, or both tests will be required before nontoxic approval of the tin shot is granted. If the Tier 1 data results in a preliminary determination that the candidate material does not impose a significant danger to migratory birds, other wildlife, and their habitats, the Service will propose to approve this shot based on the toxicological report and toxicity studies.

ITRI's candidate shot is made from commercially pure tin; no alloying or other alterations are intentionally made to the chemical composition of the shot. This shot has a density of approximately 7.29 g/cm³. The shot is 99.97 percent tin, with a low level of iron pickup due to the steel production equipment.

The application includes a statement of proposed use, a description of the new shot, a statement of expected variability of shot during production, an estimate of yearly production, and a 5-pound sample of shot. It also includes a discussion on the toxicity of elemental tin to wildlife and man and the fate of discharged tin shot in the environment (Tier 1). ITRI's discussion incorporates the following toxicity information: a synopsis of toxicity data for wild mammals (including man) and birds; secondary toxicosis of avian predators; potential dissolution and absorption of ingested tin shot; effect of one shot absorbed in 24 hours; toxicity to fish, amphibians, and reptiles; effects of firing tin shot; chemical transformation of tin shot in the environment; and information on environmental fate and transport.

References available upon request.**Authorship**

The primary author of this notice of application is Carol Anderson, Wildlife Biologist, Office of Migratory Bird Management.

Dated: January 30, 1998.

Jamie Rappaport Clark,

Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 98-3253 Filed 2-9-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Geological Survey**Technology Transfer Act of 1986**

AGENCY: U.S. Geological Survey, Interior.