

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Applicant: Robert Brian Pate, Clemson, South Carolina, TE009025-0.

The applicant requests authorization to take (harass during nest monitoring and augmentation) the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker, *Picoides borealis*, throughout the species range in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Tennessee, and Kentucky for the purpose of enhancement of survival of the species.

Applicant: James D. Kiser, Appalachian Technical Services, Inc., Whitesburg, Kentucky, TE009638-0.

The applicant requests authorization to take (capture, tag, radio-track) the endangered gray bat, *Myotis grisescens*, Indiana bat, *Myotis sodalis*, and Virginia big-eared bat, *Corynorhinus townsendii ingens*, throughout the species' ranges in North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia for the purpose of enhancement of survival of the species.

Applicant: John J. Bernard, Natchitoches, Louisiana, TE009310-0.

The applicant requests authorization to take (harass during nest augmentation) the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker, *Picoides borealis*, throughout the species range in Louisiana for the purpose of enhancement of survival of the species.

Dated: March 29, 1999.

H. Dale Hall,

Deputy Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 99-8206 Filed 4-2-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service****Availability of a Draft Recovery Plan for the Golden Paintbrush 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 Golden Paintbrush (*Castilleja levisecta*). This threatened herb, native to grasslands in the Puget Sound region of Washington and adjoining British Columbia, is known from only 11 small populations and requires site-specific habitat conservation measures and reintroduction to assure its recovery.

DATES: Comments on the draft recovery plan received by June 4, 1999 will be considered by the Service.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the draft recovery plan are available for inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the following location: Western Washington Office, North Pacific Coast Ecoregion, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 510 Desmond Drive SE, Suite 102, Lacey, Washington 98501. Requests for copies of the draft recovery plan and written comments and materials regarding this plan should be addressed to Nancy Gloman, Acting Supervisor, at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ted Thomas, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, at the above Lacey address (phone: 360/753-4327).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

Restoring endangered or threatened animals and plants to the point where they are again secure, self-sustaining organisms within their ecosystem 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, establish criteria for the recovery levels for downlisting or delisting them, and estimate time and cost for implementing the recovery measures needed.

The Endangered Species Act, 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 public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment be provided during recovery plan development. The Service will consider all information presented during the public comment period prior to approval of each new or revised recovery plan. Substantive technical comments will result in changes to the plans. Substantive comments regarding recovery plan implementation may not necessarily result in changes to the recovery plans, but will be forwarded to appropriate Federal or other entities so that they can take these comments into account during the course of implementing recovery actions. Individualized responses to comments will not be provided.

This perennial herb is listed as threatened. It is native to grasslands within the Puget Lowlands of western Washington, as well as the southern tip of Vancouver Island, British Columbia. Only 11 populations, all of them small, are known to exist. Five of the

populations are on public lands and generally enjoy some degree of protection. The main threat to this plant is loss or degradation of its habitat. Most of the Puget Sound grasslands have been developed for commercial, residential, or agricultural purposes. Additional loss has been caused by encroachment of woody plants and weeds into the grasslands.

The objective of this plan is to conserve the plant so that protection by the Act is no longer necessary. Actions necessary to accomplish this objective include ensuring effective management for all state and Federally-managed sites, securing formal protection for privately-owned sites, where possible, monitoring protected sites, reintroducing the plant to suitable or restored habitat, including habitat within the species' historic range, and storing seed as a hedge against accidental loss of any of the populations.

Public Comments Solicited

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

Authority

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

Dated: March 30, 1999.

Anne Badgley,

Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.

[FR Doc. 99-8177 Filed 4-2-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service****Availability of Draft Revised Recovery Plan for MacFarlane's Four-O'Clock (*Mirabilis macfarlanei*) 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 revised recovery plan for MacFarlane's four-o'clock (*Mirabilis macfarlanei*). This plant occurs in grassland habitats in Idaho County, Idaho, and Wallowa County, Oregon.

DATES: Comments received on the draft recovery plan by June 4, 1999 will be considered by the Service.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the draft revised recovery plan are available for inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the following locations: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1387 South Vinnell Way, Room 368, Boise, Idaho 83709 (phone: 208/378-5243). Requests for copies of the draft revised recovery plan and written comments and materials regarding this plan should be addressed to the Supervisor at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Edna Rey-Vizgirdas, botanist, at the above address.

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, establish criteria for the recovery levels for downlisting or delisting them, and estimate time frames and costs for implementing the recovery measures needed.

The Endangered Species Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) (Act), requires the development of a recovery plan 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 an opportunity for public review and comment be provided during recovery plan development. The Service will consider all information presented during the public comment period prior to approval of each new or revised recovery plan. Substantive technical comments will result in changes to the plans. Substantive comments regarding recovery plan implementation may not necessarily result in changes to the recovery plans, but will be forwarded to appropriate Federal or other entities so that they can take these comments into account during the course of implementing recovery actions. Individualized responses to comments will not be provided.

MacFarlane's four-o'clock (*Mirabilis macfarlanei*) is listed as threatened. A member of the four-o'clock family, this plant is found in low to mid-elevation canyon grassland habitats in west-central Idaho and northeastern Oregon. Plants are found on gravelly to loamy

and sandy soils between approximately 300 and 900 meters (1,000 to 3,000 feet) elevation. Grazing by domestic livestock and the invasion of exotic (nonnative) plants are the greatest threats to this species. Other threats include human trampling, off-road vehicle use, construction and maintenance of roads and trails, and herbicide spraying.

The objective of this plan is to provide a framework for the recovery of MacFarlane's four-o'clock so that protection by the Act is no longer necessary. The recovery strategy for this species is focused on protecting habitat and maintaining self-sustaining populations of MacFarlane's four-o'clock throughout its range in Idaho and Oregon, and minimizing or eliminating threats to the populations.

This plan describes an 8-part strategy with specific tasks necessary to maintain suitable grassland ecosystems that provide habitat for MacFarlane's four-o'clock. The tasks, when implemented, will stabilize and maintain populations throughout the range of MacFarlane's four-o'clock by protecting sufficient occupied and adjacent suitable habitat, implementing actions that may be necessary to eliminate or control threats, managing habitat to maintain or enhance viable populations of MacFarlane's four-o'clock, monitoring the status of populations and habitat conditions to ensure that recovery actions are successful, conducting research to determine the population dynamics and ecology of the species to guide management efforts and ensure the conservation of the species, and establishing a long-term seed storage facility for MacFarlane's four-o'clock.

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 this plan.

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

Dated: March 30, 1999.

David L. McMullen,

Acting Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.

[FR Doc. 99-8204 Filed 4-2-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[OR 125-09-6334-05; GP9-0156]

Revised Closure Notice for Public Lands on North Spit

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to 43 CFR 8364.1, the emergency closure of access to public lands and roads administered by the Bureau of Land Management on North Spit of Coos Bay, Oregon is being rescinded for the following area only: that portion within T. 25 S., R. 13 W., Will. Mer., Sec. 8, described as the North Spit Boat Ramp, T. 25 S., R. 13 W., Will. Mer., Sec. 19, T. 25 S., R. 14 W., Will. Mer., Sec. 24 and 25, described as the access road commonly known as the Bayside Road, and all public lands within 100 feet west of the Bayside Road. The closure of all other public lands within T. 25 S., R. 13 W., Will. Mer., Sec. 4, 5, 6, 7, 18, 19, and within T. 25 S., R. 14 W., Will. Mer., remains in effect as described in FR Doc. 99-3723 "Emergency Closure Notice of Public Lands on North Spit", filed February 16, 1999. Any person who fails to comply with the provisions of this order may be subject to a fine not to exceed \$1,000.00, and/or imprisonment not to exceed 12 months, in accordance with 43 CFR 8360.0-7.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The lands reopened by this notice are open to access by foot, horse and licensed street legal vehicles only (no All Terrain Vehicles). Access to the lands continuing in closure are restricted to authorized personnel only. Personnel authorized by the New Carissa Unified Command and Bureau of Land Management, Coos Bay District are exempt from the restrictions.

This restriction is needed for protection of western Snowy Plover nesting habitat, public safety, to alleviate poor access conditions and to keep the area clear for salvage operations to the New Carissa site.

This closure order is under the authority of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (Pub. L. 94-579, 90 Stat. 2743, 43 U.S.C. 1701) and in accordance with 43 CFR, Subpart 8364. Because of immediate potential dangers to the public and the western Snowy Plover habitat, a 30 day comment period is inappropriate and the closure is in effect as of the published date.