

determined by Interior. Interior will give preference to those entities that qualify as preference entities (as defined under PROPOSAL CONTENT GUIDELINES, item A.) provided that their proposal is at least as well-adapted to developing, conserving, and utilizing the water and natural resources as other submitted proposals and that the preference entity is well qualified. Preference entities would be allowed 90 days to improve their proposals, if necessary, to be made at least equal to a proposal(s) that may have been submitted by a non-preference entity.

Power Purchasing and/or Marketing Considerations

Western would have the first opportunity to purchase and/or market the power that would be generated by the project under a lease(s) of power privilege. Western will consult with Interior on such power purchasing and/or marketing considerations.

Western may market the power available from the project as part of its Salt Lake City Area Integrated Projects (SLCA/IP) or on a stand-alone basis, first to preference entities qualified under criteria established by Western and second to non-preference entities, by developing an individual marketing plan for this power. This marketing plan would be developed through a separate subsequent public process beginning with a notice in the **Federal Register** of Western's intent to market the power. The marketing plan would include all aspects of marketing the power, including assignment of power to qualified preference and/or non-preference entities, pricing, transmission, and delivery of power. Western would recover the costs it would incur in purchasing and/or marketing the power through the rates charged for the power. Firm power rates would be established through a public process, initiated by a notice in the **Federal Register**, separate from the marketing plan.

In the event Western elects to not purchase and/or market the power generated by the hydropower development or such a decision cannot be made prior to execution of the lease of power privilege, the lessee(s) would be responsible for marketing the power generated by the Project with priority given to preference entities as heretofore defined in PROPOSAL CONTENT GUIDELINES, item A.

Notice and Time Period To Enter Into Lease of Power Privilege

Interior will notify, in writing, all entities submitting proposals of Interior's decision regarding selection of

the potential lessee(s). The selected potential lessee(s) will have five years from the date of such notification to enter into a lease(s) of power privilege for the site or sites identified in the proposal. Such lease(s) of power privilege will state whether and how Western will be involved in purchasing and/or marketing the power. Any excessive delay resulting from compliance with the provisions of Federal environmental laws or administrative review by a Federal agency, pertaining to the project, may extend the five year time period for a period equal to that of the delay. In the event of litigation related to the proposed project, the five year time period will be extended for a period equal to that of the delay, provided such litigation was initiated by parties other than the selected potential lessee(s) or its employees, officers, agents, assigns, shareholders, customers or persons or groups served by or in privity with the potential lessee(s).

Dated: June 28, 1999.

Ronald Johnston,

CUPCA Program Director, Department of the Interior.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Endangered Species Permit Applications

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

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 USC 1531 et seq.).

Permit No. TE-011504-0

Applicant: Fred T. Sproul, Ramona, California.

The applicant requests a permit to take (collect; sacrifice) the San Diego fairy shrimp (*Brachinecta sandiegoensis*) and Riverside fairy shrimp (*Streptocephalus wootoni*) and remove and reduce to possession the San Diego mesa mint (*Pogogyne abramsii*), Otay mesa mint (*Pogogyne nudiscula*), San Diego button celery (*Eryngium aristulatum* var. *parishii*), Del Mar manzanita (*Arctostaphylos glandulosa* ssp. *crassifolia*), Orcutt's

spineflower (*Chorizanthe orcuttiana*), slender-horned spineflower (*Dodecahema leptoceres*), and Santa Ana woolly-star (*Eriastrum densifolium* ssp. *sanctorum*) in conjunction with presence or absence surveys and scientific studies throughout each species range in California, Arizona, and Nevada, for the purpose of enhancing their survival.

Permit No. TE-816204-0

Applicant: Douglas Kelt, University of California, Davis, California.

The permittee requests a permit amendment to take (radio collar, track with thread) the Stephen's kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys stephensi*) at the Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve, Riverside County, California, in conjunction with scientific research for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

Permit No. TE-012137-0

Applicant: Department of the Army, Fort Hunter Liggett, California.

The applicant requests a permit to take (collect, sacrifice) Conservancy fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta conservatio*), longhorn fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta longiantenna*), and vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardii*) in conjunction with surveys located at Fort Hunter Liggett, California, for the purpose of enhancing their survival.

Permit No. TE-802094-0

Applicant: Carl J. Page, Cotati, California

The permittee requests an amendment to take (collect) the tidewater goby (*Eucyclogobius newberryi*) for age-class analysis throughout the species range for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

Permit No. TE-013717-0

Applicant: Marco Metzger, Riverside, California

The applicant requests a permit to take (survey by pursuit) the Quino checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha quino*) and the Delhi Sands flower-loving fly (*Rhaphiomidas terminatus abdominalis*) in conjunction with presence or absence surveys throughout each species' range for the purpose of enhancing their survival.

Permit No. TE-012929-0

Applicant: James R. Malcolm, Redlands, California

The applicant requests a permit to take (harass by survey, collect for captive propagation, handle, and release) the unarmored threespine stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus williamsoni*) in conjunction with presence and absence surveys and scientific research throughout the

species' range for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

Permit No. TE-787645-0

Applicant: Thomas Olsen Associates, Hemet, California.

The permittee requests a permit amendment to take (harass by survey) the southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) in conjunction with presence and absence surveys throughout the species' range in Arizona for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

Permit No. TE-807073-0

Applicant: Shiela Conant, Honolulu, Hawaii.

The applicant requests a permit to: take (capture, band, measure, draw blood, remove feathers, and release) the Layson finch (*Telespyza cantans*); take (capture, band, measure, draw blood, and release) the Nihoa millerbird (*Acrocephalus familiaris kingi*); and take (capture, band, measure, and release) the Nihoa finch (*Telespyza ultima*) in conjunction with scientific studies throughout each species' range for the purpose of enhancing their survival. Some of these activities were previously authorized under subpermit CONAS-10.

Permit No. TE-012136-0

Applicant: Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Portland, Oregon.

The applicant requests a permit to take (harass by survey, electroshock) the Oregon chub (*Oregonichthys crameri*) in conjunction with monitoring programs throughout the species range in Oregon for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

Permit No. TE-012632-0

Applicant: Gwynne Corrigan, University of California, Santa Cruz, California.

The applicant requests a permit to take (capture, collect tissue samples) the blunt-nosed leopard lizard (*Gambelia silus*) in conjunction with genetic research in the San Joaquin Valley, California, for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

DATES: Written comments on these permit applications must be received on or before August 2, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Written data or comments should be submitted to the Chief—Endangered Species, 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 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:

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 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: June 28, 1999.

Thomas Dwyer,

Acting Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Availability of Draft Recovery Plan for the Giant Garter Snake 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 the Draft Recovery Plan for the Giant Garter Snake. This recovery plan includes the threatened giant garter snake (*Thamnophis gigas*). Additional species of concern that will benefit from recovery actions taken for the giant garter snake are also discussed in the draft recovery plan. The draft plan includes recovery criteria and measures for the giant garter snake.

DATES: Comments on the draft recovery plan must be received on or before August 31, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the draft recovery plan are available for inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the following location: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office, 3310 El Camino Avenue, Suite 130, Sacramento, California (telephone (916) 979-2710). Requests for copies of the draft recovery plan and written comments and materials regarding this plan should be addressed to the Field Supervisor, Ecological Services, at the above Sacramento address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karen Miller, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, at the above Sacramento 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 downlisting or delisting listed species, 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 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 plan. Substantive comments regarding recovery plan implementation may not necessarily result in changes to the recovery plan, 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.

The giant garter snake is an endemic species of wetlands in the Central Valley of California. Historically, giant garter snakes were found in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys from the vicinity of Butte County southward to Buena Vista Lake, near Bakersfield in Kern County. Today, populations of the giant garter snake are found in the Sacramento Valley and isolated portions of the San Joaquin Valley. They historically inhabited natural wetlands and now occupy a variety of agricultural, managed, and natural wetlands including their waterways and adjacent uplands. This species is threatened by historic wetland habitat loss and resulting habitat fragmentation, and by continuing urban expansion.

The objective of this recovery plan is to delist the giant garter snake through implementation of a variety of recovery measures including (1) habitat protection; (2) public participation,