

The applicant requests a permit to take the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) throughout Missouri. The scientific research is aimed at enhancement of survival of the species in the wild.

**Permit Number TE120231**

**Applicant:** John Timpone, Ballwin, Missouri

The applicant requests a permit to take the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) throughout Maryland, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. The scientific research is aimed at enhancement of survival of the species in the wild.

**Authority:** 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.*).

Dated: April 28, 2006.

**Wendi Weber,**

Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, Region 3, Fort Snelling, Minnesota.  
[FR Doc. E6-7728 Filed 5-19-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-55-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Fish and Wildlife Service**

**Proposed Programmatic Statewide Red-Cockaded Woodpecker Safe Harbor Agreement, North Carolina**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** This notice advises the public that the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC, or Applicant) has applied to the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for an enhancement of survival permit (ESP) under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). The ESP application includes a proposed Safe Harbor Agreement (SHA) for the endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*) (RCW) for a period of 99 years, along with a supporting Environmental Assessment (EA). We announce the opening of a 30-day comment period and request comments from the public on the proposed SHA and the supporting EA.

**DATES:** Written comments should be sent to the Service's Regional Office (see **ADDRESSES**) and must be received on or before June 21, 2006.

**ADDRESSES:** To obtain copies of the proposed SHA and the supporting EA for review, write to the Service's Southeast Regional Office, 1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 200, Atlanta, Georgia

30345 (Attn: Endangered Species Permits). Send your comments to this address as well. For commenting guidelines, see "Public Comments" under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

Documents will also be available for public inspection by appointment during normal business hours at the Regional Office in Atlanta, or at the Field Office at 551-F Pylon Drive, Raleigh, North Carolina, 27636. Do not write to this address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Rick Gooch, Regional Safe Harbor Coordinator, at the Atlanta address above, 404-679-7124 (phone), or 404-679-7081 (facsimile), or John Hammond, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, at the Raleigh address above or 919-856-4556 (phone).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Applicant has applied to the Service for an ESP under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act) (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). The application includes a proposed SHA for the endangered RCW for a period of 99 years, along with a supporting EA. We announce the opening of a 30-day comment period and request comments from the public on the proposed SHA and the supporting EA. If approved, the SHA would allow the Applicant to issue certificates of inclusion throughout certain areas of North Carolina to eligible non-Federal landowners that complete an approved Safe Harbor Management Agreement (SHMA).

**Background**

The EA identifies and describes several alternatives. All comments received, including names and addresses, will become part of the official administrative record and may be made available to the public, subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act. For further information and instructions on reviewing and commenting on this application, see **ADDRESSES** and, in this section, "Public Comments."

Under a SHA, participating property owners voluntarily undertake management activities on their property to enhance, restore, or maintain habitat benefiting species listed under the Act. SHAs encourage private and other non-Federal property owners to implement conservation efforts for listed species by assuring property owners they will not be subjected to increased property use restrictions if their efforts attract listed species to their property or increase the numbers or distribution of listed species already on their property. Application requirements and issuance criteria for

enhancement of survival permits through SHAs are found in 50 CFR 17.22 and 17.32.

NCWRC's proposed Statewide SHA is designed to encourage voluntary RCW habitat restoration or enhancement activities by relieving a landowner who enters into a landowner-specific agreement (*i.e.*, the SHMA) from any additional responsibility under the Act beyond that which exists at the time he or she enters into the program. The SHMA will identify any existing RCWs and any associated habitat (the baseline) and will describe the actions that the landowner commits to take (*e.g.*, hardwood midstory removal, cavity provisioning) or allows to be taken to improve RCW habitat on the property, and the time period within which those actions are to be taken and maintained. A participating landowner must maintain the baseline on his/her property (*i.e.*, any existing RCW groups and/or associated habitat), but may be allowed the opportunity to incidentally take RCWs at some point in the future if above-baseline numbers of RCWs are attracted to that site by the proactive management measures undertaken by the landowner. It is important to note that the SHA does not envision, nor will it authorize, incidental take of existing RCW groups, with one exception. This exception is incidental take related to a baseline shift; in this circumstance, the baseline will be maintained but redrawn or shifted on that landowner's property. Among the minimization measures proposed by the Applicant are no incidental taking of RCWs during the breeding season, consolidation of small, isolated RCW populations at sites capable of supporting a viable RCW population, and measures to improve current and potential habitat for the species. Further details on the topics described above are found in the aforementioned documents available for review under this notice.

The geographic scope of the Applicant's SHA is the State of North Carolina, with the exception of six counties (Cumberland, Harnett, Hoke, Moore, Richmond, and Scotland) located in the Sandhills Region that are already covered in an existing SHA (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Permit Number TE798839-12)). Lands potentially eligible for inclusion include all privately owned lands, State lands, and public lands owned by cities, counties, and municipalities with potentially suitable RCW habitat.

We have evaluated several alternatives to the proposed action, and these are described at length in the accompanying EA. The alternative of our paying landowners for desired

management practices is not being pursued because we are presently unable to fund such a program. An alternative by which interested private or non-Federal property owners would prepare an individual permit application/Agreement with us also was evaluated. Under that alternative, we would process each permit application/Agreement individually. This would increase the effort, cost, and amount of time it would take to provide safe harbor assurances to participating landowners and also cause such benefits to be applied on a piecemeal, individual basis. We have determined the previously identified alternatives, which would result in delays and lack of a coordinated effort, would likely result in a continued decline of the RCWs on private lands due to habitat fragmentation, lack of beneficial habitat management, and the effects of demographic isolation.

A no-action alternative was also explored, but this alternative is not likely to increase the number of RCW groups or RCW habitat, nor would it alleviate landowner conflicts. Instead, the action proposed here, although it authorizes future incidental take, is expected to attract sufficient interest among North Carolina landowners to generate substantial net conservation benefits to the RCW on a landscape level. The proposed SHA was developed in an adaptive management framework to allow changes in the program based on new scientific information, including but not limited to biological needs and management actions proven to benefit the species or its habitat.

#### Public Comments

Written data or comments should be submitted to the Regional Office at the address listed under **ADDRESSES** and must be submitted in writing to be adequately considered in the Service's decision-making process. Please reference the "Proposed Programmatic North Carolina Statewide Red-cockaded Woodpecker Safe Harbor Agreement" in your comments, or in requests for the documents discussed in this notice.

#### Decision

We will not make our final determination until after the end of the 30-day comment period, and we will fully consider all comments received during the comment period. If the final analysis shows the SHA to be consistent with the Service's policies and applicable regulations, the Service will sign the SHA and issue the ESP.

#### Authority

We are providing this notice under section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act and implementing regulations for the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR part 1506).

Dated: May 16, 2006.

**Jackie Parrish,**

*Acting Regional Director, Southeast Region.*

[FR Doc. E6-7731 Filed 5-19-06; 8:45 am]

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#### DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

##### Bureau of Indian Affairs

##### **Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Cowlitz Indian Tribe's Proposed 151.87 Acre Fee-To Trust Transfer, Reservation Proclamation and Casino-Resort Project, Clark County, WA; Correction**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice; correction.

**SUMMARY:** This notice advises the public of three corrections to the Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Cowlitz Indian Tribe's Proposed Fee-to Trust Transfer, Reservation Proclamation and Casino-Resort Project, Clark County, Washington, published in the **Federal Register** on April 12, 2006, 71 FR 18767 (FR Doc. E6-5383). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was erroneously included among the cooperating agencies. EPA is not a cooperating agency for this DEIS. This notice also corrects the name, address and telephone number of the contact person for the DEIS.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Gerald Henrickson, (503) 231-6927.

#### Correction

On page 18767, in the third column under the **SUMMARY** heading, in the first sentence, remove the words "U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)."

On page 18768, in the first column under the **ADDRESSES** heading, correct the last paragraph to read: To obtain a copy of the DEIS, please write to Gerald Henrickson, Northwest Regional Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs, 911 N.E. 11th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97232, or call him at the number provided below.

On page 18768, in the first column under the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** heading, correct the name and telephone number to read: Gerald Henrickson, (503) 231-6927.

Dated: May 16, 2006.

**Michael D. Olsen,**

*Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.*

[FR Doc. E6-7773 Filed 5-19-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-W7-P**

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

##### National Park Service

##### **Notice of Boundary Revision, Big Thicket National Preserve**

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the revision to the boundary of Big Thicket National Preserve to include the parcel of land known as Tract 223-09. The United States will acquire this tract from The Conservation Fund upon the revision of the boundary. The National Park Service has determined that this boundary revision is necessary and that the acquisition of this tract would make a significant contribution to the purposes for which the preserve was created.

**DATES:** The effective date of this boundary revision is the date on which this notice is published in the **Federal Register**.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Superintendent, Big Thicket National Preserve, 6044 Farm Road 420, Kountze, Texas 77625 or by telephone 409-951-6700.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Act establishing Big Thicket National Preserve, as amended in 1993, 16 U.S.C. 698(b), provides that, after notifying the House Committee on Resources and the Senate Committee on Energy and Resources, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to make this boundary revision. This action will add one parcel composed of 200 acres of land to Big Thicket National Preserve. The National Park Service proposes to purchase this parcel from The Conservation Fund. This parcel is bounded on the north, south, and east by the preserve. The acquisition of this parcel is required to maintain the ecology and the present rural character for which the preserve was created.

The above parcel is depicted as tract number 223-09 on land acquisition segment map 223, having drawing number 175-80,010 dated November, 2004. This map is on file at the National Park Service Land Resources Program Center, Intermountain Region, Santa Fe, New Mexico, and at the Office of the