

News Release

Southern Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Service Seeks Public Comment on NDOW's Permit Application and Proposed Conservation Agreement for Relict Leopard Frog

LAS VEGAS — The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is seeking public comment on an Enhancement of Survival Permit application submitted by the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW). The permit would authorize the take of relict leopard frogs (*Lithobates onca*) resulting from certain land use and conservation activities, should the species be listed as endangered or threatened in the future. Land use and conservation activities include improving or creating habitat, as described in the associated proposed Programmatic Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA). Under the Endangered Species Act, the term 'take' means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct.

The planning area for the CCAA includes approximately 275,300 acres of non-federal lands in Clark County, of which a small portion is considered suitable aquatic/riparian habitat for relict leopard frogs. However, the lands support a significant proportion of the total riparian and aquatic habitats that occur within the county including areas of known historic occurrence and distribution for the frog. Under the proposed permit and CCAA, landowners who enroll their property under the CCAA and implement conservation measures to reduce threats to the frog will be covered under NDOW's permit, and would not be subjected to increased property use restrictions if the species is listed as endangered or threatened in the future.

The Service is accepting comments on the permit application, proposed Programmatic CCAA and draft National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance documentation. A notice of availability of the permit application and other documents is scheduled to be published in the July 20, 2015, edition of the *Federal Register*, opening a 30-day public comment period. Written comments on the permit application, proposed Programmatic CCAA, and draft NEPA compliance documentation must be received on or before August 19, 2015.

—More—

Persons wishing to review the application, the proposed CCAA, the draft NEPA compliance documentation, or other related documents may obtain copies by written or telephone request to Jeri Krueger, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Reno Fish and Wildlife Office, 1340 Financial Boulevard, Suite 234, Reno, NV 89502, or by phone at 775-861-6300. Copies of the documents are also available on the internet

at www.fws.gov/nevada/protected_species/amphibians/species/relict_leopard_frog.html

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov/cno. Connect with our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/usfwspacificsouthwest, follow our tweets at <http://twitter.com/USFWSPacSWest>, watch our YouTube Channel at www.youtube.com/usfws and download photos from our Flickr page at www.flickr.com/photos/usfws_pacificsw/.

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