Fish and Wildlife Service

Endangered and Threatened Species Permit Applications

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of applications.

The following applicants have applied for permits to conduct certain activities with endangered species. 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.).

PRT-838713

Applicant: Zambrana Engineering, Inc., St. Louis, Missouri; Paul T. Raibley, Senior Aquatic Scientist.

The applicant requests a permit to take (capture and release) pallid sturgeon (Scaphirhynchus albus), fanshell (Cyprinoides stegaria (=irrorata)), fat pocketbook (Potamilus (=Proptera) capax), and Higgins’ eye pearlymussel (Lampsilis higginsi) from the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers and their tributaries bordering or occurring in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin. Activities are proposed to document presence or absence of the species for the purpose of survival and enhancement of the species in the wild.

PRT-838714

Applicant: University of Minnesota, Raptor Center, St. Paul, Minnesota; Patrick Redig, Director.

The applicant requests a permit to take (capture, fit with radio tracking units, and release) bald eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus) in Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Activities are proposed for the purpose of scientific research aimed at survival and enhancement of the species in the wild.

PRT-838715

Applicant: The Nature Conservancy, Oak Openings Project Office, Swanton, Ohio; David Weekes, Executive Director.

The applicant requests a permit to take (harass and kill through habitat management) Karner blue butterfly (Lacis melissa samuelis) at the Kitty Todd Nature Preserve in Swanton, Ohio. Activities are proposed to maintain and increase habitat for a reintroduced population of this species for the purpose of survival and enhancement of the species in the wild.

The following applicants have applied for permits to conduct certain activities with endangered species. 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.).

PRT-838716

Applicant: University of Minnesota, Raptor Center, St. Paul, Minnesota; Patrick Redig, Director.

The applicant requests a permit to take (capture, fit with radio tracking units, and release) bald eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus) in Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Activities are proposed for the purpose of scientific research aimed at survival and enhancement of the species in the wild.

PRT-838717

Applicant: The Nature Conservancy, Oak Openings Project Office, Swanton, Ohio; David Weekes, Executive Director.

The applicant requests a permit to take (harass and kill through habitat management) Karner blue butterfly (Lacis melissa samuelis) at the Kitty Todd Nature Preserve in Swanton, Ohio. Activities are proposed to maintain and increase habitat for a reintroduced population of this species for the purpose of survival and enhancement of the species in the wild.
population. Population biologists
(Ehrlich and Murphy 1982) assert that
random population changes due to
stochastic events are more likely to
cause the loss of small populations than
are genetic changes.

Recovery Objectives: To protect and
maintain through proper vegetation
management, all of the defined skipper
habitat on public land in the South
Platte River drainage so that
fragmentation of habitat is avoided and
skippers are distributed throughout the
range.

Recovery efforts will concentrate on
creation of Memoranda of
Understanding between land
management agencies to provide for
maintenance and enhancement of
habitat; monitoring skipper presence;
monitoring skipper habitat quality and
trends, determination of management
criteria for habitat maintenance; and
education of private landowners and
seeking opportunities for conservation
agreements to allow enhancement of
skipper habitat on private lands.

Public Comments Solicited

The Service solicits written comments
on the recovery plan described above.
All comments received by the date
specified in the DATES section above
will be considered prior to approval of
the recovery plan.

Authority

The authority for this action is section
4(f) of the Endangered Species Act, 16

Terry Terrell,
Deputy Regional Director, Denver, Colorado.
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BILLING CODE 4310±55±M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service

North American Wetlands
Conservation Act: Request for Small
Grants Proposals for 1998

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service,
Interior.

ACTION: Notice of request for proposals.

SUMMARY: The purpose of this notice is
to advise the public that the U.S. Fish
and Wildlife Service (Service) is
currently entertaining proposals that
request match funding for wetland
conservation projects under the Small
Grants Program. Projects must meet
the purposes of the North American
Wetlands Conservation Act of 1989, as
amended. Funding priority will be given
to projects from new grant applications
with new partners, where the project
ensures long-term conservation benefits.

DATES: Proposals must be postmarked
no later than Friday, May 1, 1998.

ADDRESS: Proposals should be
addressed to: North American
Waterfowl and Wetlands Office, U.S.
Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North
Fairfax Drive, Suite 110, Arlington,
Virginia 22203, Attn: Small Grants
Coordinator.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Dr. Keith A. Morehouse, Small Grants
Coordinator, or Ms. Pat Bond, Secretary,
North American Waterfowl and
Wetlands Office, 703/358-1784;
facsimile 703/358-2282.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The
purpose of the 1989 North American
Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA),
as amended, is to promote long-term
conservation of North American
wetland ecosystems and the waterfowl
and other migratory birds, fish and
wildlife that depend upon such habitat
through partnerships. Principal
conservation actions supported by
NAWCA are acquisition, creation,
enhancement and restoration of
wetlands and wetlands-associated
habitat.

In 1996 and 1997, the North American
Wetlands Conservation Council
(Council) initiated a pilot Small Grants
program with an allocation of $250,000
per year. The objective was to promote
long-term wetlands conservation
activities through encouraging
participation by new grantees and
partners who may not otherwise be able
to complete in the regular grants
program. It was also hoped that
successful participants in the Small
Grants program would be encouraged to
participate in the NAWCA-based
Regular Grants program. Over the first
two years, about 220 proposals
requesting a total of approximately $6.4
million competed for funding.

Ultimately, 19 projects were funded. For
1998, with the approval of the Migratory
Bird Conservation Commission, the
Council has made the Small Grants
program operational with a $500,000
allocation.

To be considered for funding in 1998,
proposals must have a grant request no
greater than $50,000. All wetland
conservation proposals with be accepted
that meet the requirements of the Act.
However, funding priority will be given
to projects from new grant applicants
(individuals or organizations who have
never received a NAWCA grant) with
new partners, where the project ensures
long-term conservation benefits.

In addition, proposals must represent
on-the-ground projects, and any
overhead in the project budget may be
no greater than 10 percent of the grant
amount. The anticipated magnitude of
wetlands and wildlife resources benefits
that will result from project execution is
an important factor to be considered in
proposal evaluation, and there should
be a reasonable balance between
acreages of wetlands and wetland-
associated uplands.

Please keep in mind that NAWCA and
matching funds may only be used for
wetlands acquisition, creation,
enhancement, and/or restoration, they
may not be used for signage, displays,
trails or other education features,
materials and equipment, even though
the goal of the project may ultimately be
to support wetland conservation
education curricula. Projects oriented
toward education are not ordinarily
e ligible for NAWCA funding because
education is not a primary purpose of
the Act. However, useful project
outcomes can include educational
benefits resulting from conservation
actions. Research is also not a primary
purpose of the Act, and research
proposals will not be considered for
funding.

Even though requiring less total
information than those submitted for the
regular grants program, Small Grant
proposals must still be clearly explained
and meet the basic purposes given
above and the 1:1 or greater non-Federal
matching requirements of the NAWCA.
Small Grants projects must also be
consistent with Council guidelines,
objectives and policies. All non-Federal
matching funds and proposed
expenditures of grant funds must be
consistent with Appendix A of the
Small Grants instructions, “Eligibility
Requirements for Match of NAWCA
Grant and Non-Federal Funds.”

Small Grants proposals may be
submitted at any time prior to the due
date but must be postmarked no later
than Friday, May 1, 1998. Address
submitted proposals as follows: North
American Waterfowl and Wetlands
Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
4401 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 110,
Arlington, VA 22203, Attn: Small Grants
Coordinator.

It is essential that grant request
packages be complete when they are
received in the North American
Waterfowl and Wetlands Office,
including all of the documentation of
partners (partner letters) with funding
pledge amounts. Information of funding
in partner letters, i.e., amounts and
description regarding use, must
 correspond with budget amounts in the