Total Estimated Burden Hours: 425.  
Status: New Collection.  
Wayne Eddins,  
Departmental Reports Management Officer,  
Office of the Chief Information Officer.  
[FR Doc. 00–7260 Filed 3–23–00; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 4210–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
Notice of Submission of Proposed Information Collection to OMB; Multifamily Mortgage Insurance Benefits Claim  
AGENCY: Office of the Chief Information Officer, HUD.  
ACTION: Notice.  
SUMMARY: The proposed information collection requirement described below has been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act. The Department is soliciting public comments on the subject proposal.  
DATES: Comments Due Date: April 24, 2000.  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of respondents</th>
<th>Frequency of response</th>
<th>Hours per response</th>
<th>Burden hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>2</td>
<td>0.68</td>
<td>425</td>
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Total Estimated Burden Hours: 411.  
Status: Reinstatement, without change.  
Wayne Eddins,  
Departmental Reports Management Officer,  
Office of the Chief Information Officer.  
[FR Doc. 00–7261 Filed 3–23–00; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 4210–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
Availability of an Environmental Assessment and Receipt of an Application for an Incidental Take Permit for the Coastal California Gnatcatcher Associated With Residential Development in the City of Fullerton, County of Orange, California  
AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, DOI.  
ACTION: Notice of availability.  
SUMMARY: Van Daele Development Corporation of Riverside, California (Van Daele), has applied to the Fish and Wildlife Service for an incidental take permit pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act, 1973, as amended. Van Daele seeks a permit for a period of 3 years that would authorize incidental take of a bird, the threatened coastal California gnatcatcher (Polioptila californica californica), associated with single-family residential development and occupancy of 35 acres of habitat within the City of Fullerton, County of Orange, California. The permit application includes a Habitat Conservation Plan and an Implementation Agreement, both of which are available for public review and comment. We also request
comments on our Environmental Assessment for the proposed issuance of the incidental take permit. We provide this notice pursuant to section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act and National Environmental Policy Act regulations (40 CFR 1506.6). All comments on the Environmental Assessment and permit application will become part of the administrative record and will be available to the public.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before April 24, 2000.

ADDRESSES: You should address written comments to Mr. Ken Berg, Field Supervisor, Fish and Wildlife Service, 2730 Loker Avenue West, Carlsbad, California 92008. You also may send comments by facsimile to telephone (760) 431-9624.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Karen Evans, Division Chief, Los Angeles and Orange Counties, at the above address or call (760) 431-9440.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Availability of Documents

You may obtain copies of the documents for review by calling our Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office at the above referenced telephone number. You also may make an appointment to review the documents during normal business hours at the above address.

Background

Section 9 of the Endangered Species Act and Service regulations prohibit the “take” of threatened or endangered wildlife. Take means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture or collect listed animal species, or attempt to engage in such conduct (16 USC 1538). Harm may include significant habitat modification that actually kills or injures wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding, and sheltering [50 CFR 17.3(c)]. The Service, however, may issue permits to take endangered and/or threatened wildlife incidental to, and not the purpose of, otherwise lawful activities. Regulations governing permits for endangered and threatened species are found at 50 CFR 17.22 and 17.32.

We propose to issue a permit to Van Daele authorizing take of the threatened coastal California gnatcatcher incidental to otherwise lawful construction, development, and occupancy of a residential subdivision. This project would directly impact the gnatcatcher by removing 4.65 acres of suitable habitat from 35-acre parcel. The permit application includes a Habitat Conservation Plan and an Implementation Agreement that define the responsibilities of all parties under the Plan. Van Daele’s Habitat Conservation Plan describes alternatives to the action and includes measures to minimize and mitigate impacts to the gnatcatcher.

To minimize impacts, Van Daele proposes in its Habitat Conservation Plan to flush coastal California gnatcatchers prior to grading operations and to monitor the site during clearing and grubbing operations (brushing). To mitigate for the permanent loss of occupied habitat due to the proposed subdivision development, Van Daele proposes to permanently protect coastal sage scrub habitat off site that has high long-term conservation value for the coastal California gnatcatcher. Van Daele has agreed with the Service to mitigate for the entire habitat area that supports coastal California gnatcatchers on site, which includes not only the coastal sage scrub but also the grassland ecotone (transition zone between habitat types) and the mulefat scrub on the property, for a combined total of 4.65 acres.

The mitigation plan contains four options that include acquisition or restoration, preservation, and management of high-quality habitat to support coastal California gnatcatchers (in order of priority):

1. Contribute funds to the purchase of lands within the Coal Canyon wildlife corridor.
2. Purchase coastal California gnatcatcher occupied habitat adjacent to, and for incorporation into, Chino Hills State Park.
3. Purchase land within the conditional sale area of the previously approved Shell Oil/Metropolitan Water District Habitat Conservation Plan, for incorporation into the Chino Hills State Park.
4. Purchase land within the conditional sale area of the previously approved Shell Oil/Metropolitan Water District Habitat Conservation Plan, for incorporation into the Chino Hills State Park.

Under the no Action Alternative, the Service would not issue an incidental take permit. Van Daele would either proceed with a reduced residential development, select an alternative site, or abandon the project.

Under this no take scenario, Van Daele would proceed with a residential development project within the same 35-acre parcel but with a reduced construction area configuration, so as to avoid physically disturbing the on-site coastal California gnatcatcher habitat. The residential development would be reduced by approximately 5 residences compared to the proposed project.

Under a second no take scenario, Van Daele could proceed with a residential development project that does not support any listed species. Therefore, the project would not result in the incidental take of a listed species.
and issuance of an incidental take permit would not be required.

Under a third no take scenario, Van Dale could abandon the project. The site would remain relatively vacant with the exception of the continued operation of up to 19 oil wells. Under this scenario, there is no assurance that site remediation and abandonment of the approximately 16 wells formerly in use at the site would occur in a timely fashion. Hazardous residuals from prior site use could remain indefinitely in the subsurface soils.

We provide this notice pursuant to section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act and Service regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (40 CFR 1506.6). We will evaluate the permit application, Habitat Conservation Plan, Implementation Agreement, Environmental Assessment, associated documents, and comments submitted thereon to determine whether the application meets the requirements of section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act. If we determine that the requirements are met, we will issue a permit for the incidental take of the coastal California gnatcatcher. We will make a decision on permit issuance no sooner than 30 days from the date of this notice.

Elizabeth H. Stevens,
Deputy Manager, California/Nevada Operations Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento, California.

[FR Doc. 00–7304 Filed 3–23–00; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310–55–M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service
Notice of Availability, Draft Natural Resource Restoration Plan

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), on behalf of the Department of the Interior (DOI), as a natural resource trustee, announces the release for public review of the Draft Natural Resource Restoration Plan (NRRP) for the Saegertown Industrial Area National Priorities List Superfund Site (Saegertown Site). The Draft NRRP describes the DOI’s proposal to restore natural resources injured as a result of chemical contamination at the Saegertown Site.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before April 15, 2000.


Written comments or materials regarding the Draft NRRP should be sent to the same address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mark Roberts, Environmental Contaminants Branch, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pennsylvania Field Office, 315 South Allen Street, Suite 322, State College, Pennsylvania 16801. Interested parties may also call (814) 234–4090 or send e-mail to mark_robinis@fws.gov for further information.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the authority of the Comprehensive Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, as amended (CERCLA), “natural resource trustees may assess damages to natural resources resulting from a discharge of oil or a release of a hazardous substance * * * and may seek to recover those damages.” Natural resource damage assessments are separate from the cleanup actions undertaken at a hazardous waste site, and provide a process whereby the natural resource trustees can determine the proper compensation to the public for injury to natural resources. At the Saegertown Site in the Borough of Saegertown, Crawford County, Pennsylvania, DOI was the sole natural resource trustee involved in the federal government’s settlement with the GATX Corporation (GATX). GATX owns a portion of the site. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determined that contamination on the GATX portion of the site had degraded habitat and injured trust resources (migratory birds). The injuries resulted from the exposure of migratory birds (such as kildeers, red-winged blackbirds, mourning doves, and waterflow) to mercury, lead, and PCB contamination in a 2.3-acre pond/wetland complex on the site.

As part of a Consent Decree requiring remedial actions at the Saegertown site, DOI agreed to a monetary settlement with GATX for natural resource damages. The settlement of $94,510 was designated for restoration, replacement, or acquisition of the equivalent natural resource injured by the release of contaminants at the site, and included reimbursement for costs related to assessing the damages. The Draft NRRP is being released in accordance with the Natural Resource Damage Assessment Regulations found at Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulation Part II. The Draft NRRP describes several habitat restoration, acquisition, and protection alternatives identified by the DOI, and evaluates each of the possible alternatives based on all relevant considerations. The DOI’s Preferred Alternative is to use the settlement funds to purchase and restore fish and wildlife habitat within the French Creek watershed, in cooperation with several identified partners. The Pennsylvania Game Commission will accept title of the property and manage it for the perpetual protection of fish and wildlife resources. Details regarding the proposed projects are contained in the Draft NRRP.

The Final Revised Procedures for the Service in implementing the National Environmental Policy Act were published in the Federal Register on January 16, 1997. That publication provides for a categorical exclusion for natural resource damage assessment restoration plans prepared under CERCLA when only minor or negligible change in the use of the affected areas is planned. The DOI has determined that the Preferred Alternative will result in only a minor change in the use of the affected area. Accordingly this Draft NRRP qualifies for a categorical exclusion under NEPA.

Interested members of the public are invited to review and comment on the Draft NRRP. Copies of the Draft NRRP are available from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Pennsylvania Field Office at 315 South Allen Street, Suite 322, State College, Pennsylvania 16801. Additionally the Draft NRRP is available for review at the Saegertown Area Library, 320 Broad Street, Saegertown, Pennsylvania 16433. All comments received on the Draft NRRP will be considered and a response provided either through revision of this Draft NRRP and incorporation into the Final Natural Resource Restoration Plan, or by letter to the commentor.

Author: The primary author of this notice is Mark Roberts, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pennsylvania Field Office, 315 South Allen Street, Suite 322, State College, Pennsylvania 16801.

Authority: The authority for this action is the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, as amended (“CERCLA”), 42 U.S.C.


M.A. Parker,
Assistant, Regional Director, Region 5, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 00–7286 Filed 3–23–00; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310–55–M