within the National Wildlife Refuge System managed in accordance with an approved comprehensive conservation plan. The plan guides management decisions and identifies refuge goals, objectives and strategies for achieving refuge purposes. Public input into this planning process is encouraged. The plan will provide other agencies and the public with a clear understanding of the desired conditions of the refuge and how the Service will implement management strategies. Some of the issues to be addressed in the plan include the including:

(a) Habitat management;

(b) Public use management;

(c) Wildlife population management;

(d) Wilderness management;

(e) Industrial facilities management; and

(f) Cultural resource identification and protection.

The environmental assessment will include several alternatives that address the issues and management strategies with these topics.

Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge was established on August 5, 1947, by Public Law 80–361. This Act of Congress transferred certain Federal lands acquired in connection with the Crab Orchard Creek project and the Illinois Ordnance Plant to the Secretary of the Interior. This legislation mandated these lands be administered by the Secretary through the Service ''for the conservation of wildlife, and for the development of the agricultural, recreational, industrial, and related purposes specified in this Act.''

The 43,890-acre refuge contains three large manmade lakes totaling 8,700 acres; 21,000 acres of forestland, 5,000 acres of cropland, and 2,000 acres of grassland. The refuge supports an extensive variety of plant and animal species, hosts 1.2 million recreational visitors per year, provides facilities for industrial tenants who generate $100 million in annual revenue, and sponsors cooperative farmers and permittee graziers. The 4,050-Crab Orchard Wilderness, the first wilderness area designed in the State of Illinois, is within the refuge.

Dated: February 15, 2000.

William F. Hartwig,

Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 00–4330 Filed 2–23–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–55–M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Availability of Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Ouray National Wildlife Refuge. Vernal, UT

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Refuge Improvement Act of 1997, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has published the Ouray National Wildlife Refuge Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan. This Plan describes how the FWS intends to manage the Ouray NWR for the next 10–15 years.

ADDRESSES: A copy of the Plan may be obtained by writing to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 266 West 100 North, Suite 2, Vernal, UT 84078; or download from http://www.r6.fws.gov/larp/.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Allison Banks, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 25486 DFC, Denver, CO 80225, 303/236-8145 extension 626; fax

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Ouray NWR is located in northeast Utah. Implementation of the Plan will focus on adaptive resource management of wetland, grassland, and semidesert shrubland habitats. restoration and improved management of riparian bottomlands, recovery of endangered fish species of the Upper Colorado River Ecosystem, and opportunities for compatible wildlife-dependent recreation. Habitat monitoring and evaluation will be emphasized as the Plan is implemented. Opportunities for compatible wildlife-dependent recreation will continue to be provided.

Dated: February 16, 2000.

Terry T. Terell,

Deputy Regional Director, Denver, Colorado.

[FR Doc. 00–4332 Filed 2–23–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–55–M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Endangered and Threatened Species Permit Applications

ACTION: Notice of receipt of applications.

SUMMARY: The following applicants have applied for a permit to conduct certain activities with endangered species. This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531, *et seq.*).

PERMIT NO. TE—797466

Applicant: Champion International Corporation, Huntsville, Texas.

Applicant requests authorization to conduct endangered species activities for the red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*) and the Houston toad (*Bufo houstonensis*) in Texas.

PERMIT NO. TE—22749

Applicant: SWCA, Phoenix, Arizona.

Applicant requests authorization to conduct presence/absence surveys for the southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*), cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl (*Glaucidium basilianum cactorum*), and Yuma clapper rail (*Rallus longirostris yumanensis*) in Maricopa, Pima, and Pinal Counties, Arizona.

PERMIT NO. TE—837751

Applicant: Bureau of Reclamation, Phoenix Area Office, Phoenix, Arizona.

Applicant requests authorization for recovery purposes to conduct activities for the Pima pineapple cactus (*Coryphantha scheeri var. robustispina*) in the San Javier District of the Tohono O'Odham Reservation and the Tucson metropolitan area of Arizona.

PERMIT NO. TE—814841

Applicant: Desert Botanical Garden, Phoenix, Arizona.

Applicant requests authorization for research and recovery purposes to collect seeds and voucher specimens from the Pima pineapple cactus (*Coryphantha scheeri var. robustispina*) in El Paso, Texas.

PERMIT NO. TE—23152

Applicant: Michael Baker Jr., Inc., Midvale, Utah.

Applicant requests authorization to conduct presence/absence surveys for the cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl (*Glaucidium brasilianum cactorum*) in Pima and Maricopa Counties, Arizona.

PERMIT NO. TE—23159

Applicant: Southwestern Ornithological Research and Adventures, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Applicant requests authorization to conduct presence/absence surveys for the southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) within New Mexico.

PERMIT NO. TE 822998

Applicant: Coronado National Forest, Tucson, Arizona.

Applicant requests authorization to conduct presence/absence surveys for the Yaqui chub (*Gila purpurea*) within lands of the Coronado National Forest.