DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Endangered and Threatened Species Permit Application

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of permit application.

SUMMARY: The following applicant has applied for a scientific research permit to conduct certain activities with endangered species pursuant to sections 10(a)(1)(A) and 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531, et seq.).

DATES: Written comments on this permit application must be received on or before May 19, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Written data or comments should be submitted to the Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services, 1 Federal Drive, Fort Snelling, Minnesota 55111–4056.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Peter Fasbender, Regional Permits Coordinator, (612) 713–5343.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Permit Number TE069282

Applicant: Theresa Sydney Burke

The applicant requests a permit to take (capture, handle, and harass) the Indiana bat (Myotis sodalis), gray bat (M. grisescens), and Virginia big-eared bat (Corynorhinus townsendii virginianus) throughout the States of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin. The scientific research is aimed at enhancement of survival of the species in the wild.

Documents and other information submitted with this application are available for review by any party who requests a copy from the following office within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services, 1 Federal Drive, Fort Snelling, Minnesota 55111–4056, peter_fasbender@fws.gov, telephone (612) 713–5343, or FAX (612) 713–5292. Documents and other information submitted with these applications are available for review, subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act, by any party who submits a written request for a copy of such documents. Please refer to the respective permit number when submitting comments.


Robert J. Kraska,
Acting Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, Region 3, Fort Snelling, Minnesota.

[FR Doc. 03–9572 Filed 4–17–03; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4210–29–M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service


AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces availability of the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIS/R) for the San Francisco Estuary Invasive Spartina Project: Spartina Control Program. The Draft EIS/R will be available for public comment for a period of 45 days after publication of this Notice of Availability in the Federal Register. The Service and the California State Coastal Conservancy jointly prepared the Draft EIS/R to address environmental impacts and benefits of alternatives for the Spartina Control Program and provide for early-stage public involvement, as required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Spartina Control Program would attempt to eradicate four species of non-native, invasive perennial cordgrass (genus Spartina) in the San Francisco Bay Estuary (Estuary), including the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

DATES: Public meetings will be held:

1. April 22, 2003, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Fremont, California.
2. April 23, 2003, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Oakland, California.

The public comment period for the Draft EIS/R will end June 2, 2003.

ADDRESSES:

Meeting locations are:
1. Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge, 1 Marshlands Road, Fremont, CA 94536.
2. Association of Bay Area Governments Offices, Room 171, Oakland, CA 94607.


Comments and requests can alternatively be sent via electronic mail to spartina@fws.gov, or via facsimile to (916) 414–6713.

The California State Coastal Conservancy is located at 1330 Broadway, 11th Floor, Oakland, CA 94612.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: NEPA Information: Mr. Mark Littlefield, Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office, (916) 414–6600.

CEQA Information: Ms. Maxene Spellman, California State Coastal Conservancy, (510) 286–0332.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Comments must be received by the end of the comment period to be considered during preparation of the Final EIS/R and finalization of the Spartina Control Program. All comments, including names and addresses, will become part of the public record.

The programmatic EIS/R analyzes potential effects of implementing Spartina treatment methods at a generalized, region-wide program level rather than a detailed, individual project level. The purpose of the Spartina Control Program is to arrest and reverse the spread of invasive, non-native cordgrasses (S. alterniflora, S. anglica, S. densiflora, and S. patens) in the Estuary to preserve and restore the ecological integrity of its intertidal habitats and estuarine ecosystem.

The Estuary supports a diverse array of native plants and animals, including several Federal and State listed species. Many non-native species of plants and animals have been introduced to the Estuary, and some now threaten to cause fundamental changes in the structure, function, and ecological value of the Estuary’s tidal lands. In recent