ASSISTANCE NUMBERS (CFDA) ARE TO BE USED

THE FOLLOWING CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC

GRANT PROGRAM.

HANOVER, ONSLOW, PAMlico, AND PENDER

AREAS OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA TO

HAVE BEEN AFFECTED ADVERSELY BY THIS

DISASTER.

THE COUNCIL OF FEDERAL AGENCIES APPONISED TO

ACT AS THE FEDERAL COORDINATING OFFICER FOR THIS

DECLARED DISASTER.

I DO HEREBY DETERMINE THE FOLLOWING

CATEGORIES OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA TO

HAVE BEEN AFFECTED ADVERSELY BY THIS

DECLARED DISASTER:

THE COUNTIES OF BRUNSWICK, CARTERET,

CRAVEN, DARE, HYDE, JONES, NEW

HANOVER, ONISLOW, PAMLICO, AND PENDER

FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

ALL COUNTIES WITHIN THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA ARE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR ASSISTANCE UNDER THE HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM.

THE FOLLOWING CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE NUMBERS (CFDA) ARE TO BE USED FOR REPORTING AND DRAWING FUNDS: 97.030, COMMUNITY DISASTER LOANS; 97.031, CORA BROWN FUND PROGRAM; 97.032, CRISIS COUNSELING; 97.033, DISASTER LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM; 97.034, DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE (DUA); 97.046, FIRE MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE; 97.048, INDIVIDUAL AND HOUSEHOLDS HOUSING; 97.049, INDIVIDUALS AND HOUSEHOLDS DISASTER HOUSING OPERATIONS; 97.050, INDIVIDUALS AND HOUSEHOLDS PROGRAM—OTHER NEEDS; 97.036, PUBLIC ASSISTANCE GRANTS; 97.039, HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM.

R. DAVID PAULISON,

ACTING UNDER SECRETARY, EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

[FR DOC. 05–21336 FILED 10–21–05; 8:45 AM]

BILLING CODE 9110–10–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

AVAILABILITY OF A PROPOSED SAFE HARBOR AGREEMENT FOR THE CALIFORNIA RED-LEGGED FROG AND VALLEY ELDERBERRY LONGHORN BEETLE FOR THE BURROWS AND BIG BLUFF RANCHES IN TEHAMA COUNTY, CA

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability; receipt of application.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the owners of the Burrows Ranch and Big Bluff Ranch (Applicants) have applied to the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for an enhancement of survival permit pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) (Act). The permit application includes a proposed Safe Harbor Agreement (Agreement) between the Applicants and the Service for the threatened California red-legged frog (CRLF, Rana aurora draytonii) and the valley elderberry longhorn beetle (VELB, Desmocerus californicus dimorphus). The Agreement and permit application are available for public comment.

DATES: Written comments may be received on or before November 23, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to Catrina Martin, Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office, 2800 Cottage Way, W-2605, Sacramento, California 95825. Written comments may be sent by facsimile to (916) 414–6711.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Catrina Martin, Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office (see ADDRESSES); telephone: (916) 414–6600.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS

YOU MAY OBTAIN COPIES OF THE DOCUMENTS FOR REVIEW BY CONTACTING THE INDIVIDUAL NAMED ABOVE. YOU MAY ALSO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT TO VIEW THE DOCUMENTS AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS DURING NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS.

BACKGROUND

UNDER A SAFE HARBOR AGREEMENT, PARTICIPATING LANDOWNERS VOLUNTARILY UNDERTAKE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES ON THEIR PROPERTY TO ENHANCE, RESTORE, OR MAINTAIN HABITAT BENEFITING SPECIES LISTED UNDER THE ACT. SAFE HARBOR AGREEMENTS ENCOURAGE PRIVATE AND OTHER NON-FEDERAL PROPERTY OWNERS TO IMPLEMENT CONSERVATION EFFORTS FOR LISTED SPECIES BY ASSURING PROPERTY OWNERS THEY WILL NOT BE SUBJECT TO INCREASED PROPERTY USE RESTRICTIONS AS A RESULT OF THEIR EFFORTS TO ATTRACT LISTED SPECIES TO THEIR PROPERTY OR INCREASE THE NUMBERS OR DISTRIBUTION OF LISTED SPECIES ALREADY ON THEIR PROPERTY. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND ISSUANCE CRITERIA FOR ENHANCEMENT OF SURVIVAL PERMITS THROUGH SAFE HARBOR AGREEMENTS ARE FOUND IN 50 CFR 17.22(c). WE HAVE WORKED WITH THE APPLICANTS TO DEVELOP THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT FOR THE CONSERVATION OF COVERED SPECIES ON THEIR RANCHES IN TEHAMA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA.

THIS AGREEMENT ALLOWS FOR MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION OF THE CRLF AND VELB (COVERED SPECIES) ON 7,450 ACRES OF PRIVATE LAND, OWNED BY THE APPLICANTS IN TEHAMA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA. THE PROPOSED DURATION OF THE AGREEMENT IS 15 YEARS, AND THE PROPOSED TERM OF THE ENHANCEMENT OF A SURVIVAL PERMIT IS 17 YEARS. THE PERMIT WOULD RUN THE ADDITIONAL 2 YEARS UPON A DETERMINATION BY THE SERVICE THAT THE ACTIONS IDENTIFIED IN THE AGREEMENT WERE IMPLEMENTED PRIOR TO ITS 15 YEAR EXPIRATION. THIS AGREEMENT WILL ALLOW THE APPLICANTS TO RETURN TO BASELINE CONDITION AFTER 15 YEARS, IF SO DESIRED BY THE APPLICANTS.

THE APPLICANTS ALSO WILL RECEIVE INCIDENTAL TAKE AUTHORIZATION, SHOULD TAKE OF THE COVERED SPECIES OCCUR WHILE CONDUCTING OTHERWISE LAWFUL ACTIVITIES. WHILE UNLIKELY, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT IN THE COURSE OF NORMAL ACTIVITIES, THE APPLICANTS COULD TAKE A COVERED SPECIES. THE AGREEMENT FULLY DESCRIBES THE PROPOSED PROJECT, MANAGEMENT ACTIONS, AND THE CONSERVATION BENEFITS THAT WILL BE GAINED FOR THE CRLF AND VELB.

THE SERVICE HAS MADE A PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION THAT THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT AND PERMIT APPLICATION ARE ELIGIBLE FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION UNDER THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT OF 1969 (NEPA). WE EXPLAIN THE BASIS FOR THIS DETERMINATION ORIGINALLY IN THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT AND APPENDIXES.

THE SERVICE ASKS FOR PUBLIC COMMENT TO DETERMINE IF ENHANCEMENT OF SURVIVAL PERMITS THROUGH SAFE HARBOR AGREEMENTS SHOULD BE ALLOWED. THIS NOTICE PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT PRIOR TO ITS ISSUANCE.
would issue a permit to the Applicants
June 17, 1999 (64 FR 32717), the Service
the Applicants.
elderberry bushes in areas amenable to
and once funding is secured, plant
Service to identify suitable habitat areas
feet of existing elderberry plants to grow
communities by allowing all newly
of elderberry plants within riparian
activity around the elderberry plants
propose to: (1) Manage vegetation and
agreement with the Service
developed through a cooperative
Ranch has created approximately 5.7
livestock. In addition to this, Burrows
newly created ponds to exclude
Applicants and where it does not
where practical and feasible for the
practical and feasible for the Applicants
vegetation to benefit CRLF; (2) where
livestock from the reservoirs. The
Applicants propose to: (1) Manage
benefit the VELB the Applicants
would or have undertaken activities to
CRLF. The Applicants have
six newly created ponds and installed
watering troughs in order to exclude livestock from the reservoirs. The
Applicants propose to: (1) Manage
existing wetlands (through the use of
practical and feasible for the Applicants
and where it does not interfere with the
operation of the Ranches, undertake
cullfrog eradication efforts in ponds
where bullfrogs are present; and (3) where practical and feasible for the
Applicants and where it does not interfere with the operation of the
Ranches, fence additional reservoirs and
newly created ponds to exclude livestock. In addition to this, Burrows
Ranch has created approximately 5.7
acres of ponds. These ponds were
developed through a cooperative agreement with the Service’s Partners for
Fish and Wildlife program.

To benefit the VELB the Applicants
propose to: (1) Manage vegetation and
activity around the elderberry plants
following the most current guidelines
and measures developed and approved
by the Service; (2) allow for recruitment of elderberry plants within riparian
areas near existing elderberry plant
communities by allowing all newly
established elderberry plants within 50
feet of existing elderberry plants to grow
and mature; and (3) work with the
Service to identify suitable habitat areas
and once funding is secured, plant
derberry bushes in areas amenable to
the Applicants.

Under the Agreement, consistent with
the Service’s Safe Harbor Policy,
published in the Federal Register on
June 17, 1999 (64 FR 32717), the Service
would issue a permit to the Applicants
authorizing incidental take as a result of
normal land management activities on
the Ranches’ 7,450 acres. The properties
subject to this Agreement range in
elevation from approximately 800 feet to
1,760 feet and have traditionally been
used for agricultural production,
including cattle grazing and farming for
dry land crops. Some of the land use
activities that the Applicants have
completed to further their land
stewardship goals and to increase
income from hunting and livestock
grazing include creating wildlife habitat
ponds for waterfowl, amphibians, game
species, and others; fencing existing
reservoirs and installing watering
troughs in order to exclude livestock
from the reservoirs to improve habitat
for waterfowl; maintaining and
monitoring wood duck nest boxes;
clearing decaying brush and reseeding
to annual clovers and perennial grasses
to provide wildlife food and cover;
planting grains and alfalfa for wildlife;
and holding annual Stewardship Days
in which neighbors, college students,
resource agency employees, and others
learn about sustainable ranch
management and wildlife habitat
improvement techniques, conduct
vegetation and wildlife monitoring, and
more.

Public Review and Comments

Individuals wishing copies of the
permit application, copies of our
preliminary Environmental Action
Statement, and/or copies of the full
text of the Agreement, including a map of
the proposed permit area, references,
and legal descriptions of the proposed
permit area, should contact the office
and personnel listed in the ADDRESSES
section above.

If you wish to comment on the permit
application or the Agreement, you may
submit your comments to the address
listed in the ADDRESSES section of this
document. Comments and materials
received, including names and
addresses of respondents, will be
available for public review, by
appointment, during normal business
hours at the address in the ADDRESSES
section above and will become part of
the public record, pursuant to section
10(c) of the Act. Individual respondents
may request that we withhold their
home address from the record, which
we will honor to the extent allowable
by law. There also may be circumstances in
which we would withhold from the
record a respondent’s identity, as
allowable by law. If you wish us to
withhold your name and/or address,
you must do so prominently at the
beginning of your comment.
Anonymous comments will not be
considered. All submissions from
organizations or businesses, and from
individuals identifying themselves as
representatives or officials of
organizations or businesses, are
available for public inspection in their
entirety.

We will evaluate this permit
application, associated documents, and
comments submitted thereon to
determine whether the permit
application meets the requirements of
section 10(a) of the Act and NEPA
regulations. If we determine that
the requirements are met, we will sign the
proposed Agreement and issue an
enhancement of survival permit under
section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Act to the
Applicants for take of the CLRIF and
the VELB incidental to otherwise lawful
activities in accordance with the terms
of the Agreement. We will not make our
final decision until after the end of the
30-day comment period and will fully
consider all comments received during
the comment period.

The Service provides this notice
pursuant to section 10(c) of the Act and
pursuant to implementing regulations
for NEPA (40 CFR 1506.6).

Dated: October 18, 2005.

Ken McDermord,
Deputy Manager, California/Nevada
Operations Office, Sacramento, California.

[FR Doc. 05–21172 Filed 10–21–05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–55–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Geological Survey

Request for Public Comments on
Extension of Existing Information
Collection Submitted to OMB for
Review Under the Paperwork
Reduction Act

A proposal extending information
collection described below has been
submitted to the Office of Management
and Budget for approval under the
provisions of the Paperwork Reduction
Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). Copies of the
proposed collection of information may
be obtained by contacting the Bureau’s
clearance officer at the phone number
listed below. OMB has up to 60 days
to approve or disapprove the
information collection but may respond
after 30 days; therefore, public
comments should be submitted to OMB
within 30 days in order to assure their
maximum consideration. Address your
comments and suggestions on the proposal by fax
(202) 395–6566 or e-mail
clearance_docket@omb.eop.gov to the Office of
Information and Regulatory Affairs,
Office of Management and Budget,