Applicant: Copperhead Environmental Consulting, Inc., Paint Lick, Kentucky, TE171516

The applicant requests amendment of existing authorization to add authority to capture, handle, and release 31 species of freshwater mussel for presence surveys throughout the species ranges in the eastern United States.

Applicant: South Carolina Parks, Recreation and Tourism, Columbia, South Carolina TE207117

The applicant requests authorization to harass, inspect nest cavities, and conduct other management activities with the red-cockaded woodpecker (Picoides borealis) throughout South Carolina.

Applicant: Fort Benning Conservation Branch, Fort Benning, Georgia TE016270

The applicant requests renewal of existing authorization to collect leaves and flowers of the pitcher plant (Sarracenia spp.) and the red-cockaded woodpecker through the southeastern United States. The applicant requests renewal of existing authority to collect seeds of the fireweed (Erechtites hieracifolia), eastern dewberry (Rubus allegheniensis), and mountain sweet pitcher-plant (Sarracenia rubra). To be sold throughout the United States from specimens cultivated at the University of California, Davis, California.

Applicant: Danny Gustafson, The Citadel, Charleston, South Carolina, TE117645

The applicant requests renewal of existing authorization to collect leaves of pondberry (Lindera melissifolia) from throughout South Carolina.

Applicant: North Carolina Botanical Garden, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, TE091705

The applicant requests renewal of existing authorization to collect seeds, spores, cuttings, and vegetative material of the pitcher plant (Sarracenia spp.).

Applicant: The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, TE022690

The applicant requests renewal of existing authorization to sell in interstate commerce cultivated seeds of green pitcher-plant (Sarracenia oreophila), Alabama canebreak pitcher-plant (Sarracenia rubra spp. alabamensis), mountain sweet pitcher-plant (Sarracenia rubra spp. jonesii), and godfrey’s butterwort (Pinguicula ionantha). To be sold throughout the United States from specimens cultivated at Woodford, Virginia.

Applicant: Meadowview Biological Research Station, Woodford, Virginia, TE022690

The applicant requests renewal of existing authorization to sell in interstate commerce cultivated specimens of green pitcher-plant, Alabama canebreak pitcher-plant, and mountain sweet pitcher-plant. To be sold throughout the United States from specimens cultivated at Woodford, Virginia.


Jacquelyn B. Parrish, Acting Regional Director.

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BILLING CODE 4310–55–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service


Wind Turbine Guidelines Advisory Committee; Announcement of Public Meeting

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), will host a Wind Turbine Guidelines Advisory Committee (Committee) meeting on March 24–26, 2009. The meeting is open to the public. The meeting agenda will include reports from the Subcommittees on Incentives, Legal, Science Tools & Procedures, and Synthesis, and discussion of the draft Recommendations to the Secretary.

DATES: The meeting is scheduled for March 24–26, 2009, from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on March 24, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on March 25, and 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on March 26.

ADDRESSES: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Rooms 200 A & B, Arlington, VA 22203. For more information, see “Meeting Location Information.”


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On March 13, 2007, the Department of the Interior published a notice of establishment of the Committee and call for nominations in the Federal Register (72 FR 11373). The Committee’s purpose is to provide advice and recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) on developing effective measures to avoid or minimize impacts to wildlife and their habitats related to land-based wind energy facilities. The Committee is expected to exist for 2 years and meet approximately four times per year, and its continuation is subject to biennial renewal. All Committee members serve without compensation. In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.), a copy of the Committee’s charter has been filed with the Committee Management Secretariat, General Services Administration; Committee on Environment and Public Works, U.S. Senate; Committee on Natural Resources, U.S. House of Representatives; and the Library of Congress. The Secretary appointed 22 individuals to the Committee on October 24, 2007, representing the varied interests associated with wind energy development and its potential impacts to wildlife species and their habitats. The Service held five Committee meetings in 2008, and has held one meeting in January of 2009. All Committee meetings are open to the public. The public has an opportunity to comment at all Committee meetings.

Meeting Location Information

Please note that the meeting location is accessible to wheelchair users. If you require additional accommodations,
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service


Safe Harbor Agreement for East Bay Municipal Utility District Lands in San Joaquin, Amador, and Calaveras Counties, California

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability; receipt of application and proposed safe harbor agreement.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that East Bay Municipal Utility District (applicant) has applied to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for a Safe Harbor Agreement (Agreement) for three Federally threatened species: Valley elderberry longhorn beetle (Desmocerus californicus dimorphus), California red-legged frog (Rana aurora draytonii), and California tiger salamander (Ambystoma californiense). The Agreement is available for public comment.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before April 8, 2009.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to Mr. Rick Kuyper, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office, 2800 Cottage Way, W–2605, Sacramento, CA 95825. Written comments may also be sent by facsimile to (916) 414–6713.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Rick Kuyper, 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 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). Safe Harbor Agreements, and the subsequent enhancement of survival permit that is issued pursuant to Section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act), encourage private and other non-Federal property owners to implement conservation efforts for listed species by assuring property owners that they will not be subjected to increased property use restrictions as a result of their efforts to attract listed species to their property, or to 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 the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 50 CFR 17.22(c).

We have worked with the applicant to develop the proposed Agreement for the conservation of the valley elderberry longhorn beetle, the California red-legged frog, and the California tiger salamander on lands owned and managed by the applicant (Enrolled Property) in San Joaquin, Amador, and Calaveras Counties, California. The 28,000-acre Enrolled Property subject to this Agreement consists of about 19,115 acres of land and 9,034 acres of water surface. The Enrolled Property borders and includes Camanche and Pardee dams and reservoirs. It also includes the lands adjacent to the lower Mokelumne River for approximately 1/2 mile below Camanche Dam. Current and recent land use practices on the enrolled property include management for water supply, flood control, grazing, aquaculture, hydroelectric power, wastewater treatment, facility maintenance, residential use, and recreation. The applicant has proposed that the Agreement provide authorized incidental take of the three Federally listed species for the activities specified above, as well as for any future activities associated with raising the heights of any existing dams.

In order to benefit the valley elderberry longhorn beetle, the California red-legged frog, and the California tiger salamander for the duration of this Agreement, the applicant proposes to create, restore, manage, and maintain suitable breeding and dispersal habitat for the three Federally listed species on the Enrolled Property. We expect that the proposed activities will result in an increase in dispersal opportunities throughout the Enrolled Property, thus resulting in a net conservation benefit for the three Federally listed species. The Enrolled Property has known occurrences of the valley elderberry longhorn beetle and the California tiger salamander. Although California red-legged frogs have not been detected within the Enrolled Property, there is suitable breeding habitat throughout the Enrolled Property, and there is a known occurrence of this species on privately owned property adjacent to the enrolled property. The Agreement includes a monitoring component that will aid the applicant in developing management strategies that will ensure the successful creation, restoration, enhancement, and management of breeding and dispersal habitat for the three Federally listed species.

The proposed duration of the Agreement and the enhancement of survival permit is 30 years. When fully implemented, the Agreement and requested enhancement of survival permit will allow the applicant to return to baseline after the end of the 30-year term of the Agreement and prior to the expiration of the 30-year permit, if so desired by the applicant. The Agreement fully describes the management activities to be undertaken by the applicant, and the net conservation benefits expected to the three Federally listed species.

Upon approval of this Agreement, and consistent with the our Safe Harbor Policy published in the Federal Register on June 17, 1999 (64 FR 32717), we would issue a permit to the applicant authorizing take of the valley elderberry longhorn beetle, the California red-legged frog, and the California tiger salamander incidental to the implementation of the management activities specified in the Agreement, incidental to other lawful uses of the Enrolled Property including normal, routine land management activities, and to return to pre-Agreement conditions (baseline).

Public Review and Comments

We have made a preliminary determination that the proposed Agreement and permit application are eligible for categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act.