

about the life history of the species, including how forest structures affect population dynamics.

Potential taking incidental to the Applicant's proposed land management activities is largely associated with forest management in the permit area. There are, however, a variety of other potential effects associated with ownership and management which could also result in an incidental taking of the ABB. The following forest and land management activities are included for permit coverage: (1) Timber harvest, logging decks and pushout roads for access; (2) Site preparation activities; (3) tree planting; (4) thinning and pruning of trees; (5) pesticide use and prescribed burning; (6) food plot creation and other wildlife management activities; (7) leasing, exploration, and mining of minerals, oils, gas, and other natural resources; (8) right of way, road easements, and pipelines; (9) livestock grazing and fencing; (10) pond construction and maintenance; (11) road construction and maintenance; (12) fire lanes and helicopter pads; (13) hunting/recreational use activities; and, (14) miscellaneous activities which may cause minor ground disturbances. To address the effects of these activities on the ABB, the Applicant proposes to initiate a strategy which focuses on addressing research and management needs of the ABB on a landscape scale. This includes a baseline survey of ABB abundance and distribution, a research and monitoring program, restrictions on pesticide use, limiting ground disturbance activities during certain periods of the year, and an adaptive management approach to forest practices that incorporates new information on the ABB's needs and requirements as elucidated by the aforementioned research/monitoring plan. The Applicant will provide funding for the HCP over its 35-year life.

The EA considers the environmental consequences of several alternatives; issue the requested permit as conditioned by the HCP, issue a permit predicated on a different mitigation/minimization strategy for the ABB, or take no action (deny permit). The Service finds the greatest conservation benefits accompany the HCP and proposed permit. The Service's proposed alternative is to issue the requested incidental take permit, based upon the submitted HCP. The principal environmental consequence of permit issuance, in the Service's assessment, is to sustain or enhance the status of the ABB, via implementation and funding the mitigation and minimization measures as outlined above.

Dated: December 1, 1995.
Noreen K. Clough,
Regional Director.
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Availability of an Environmental Assessment/Habitat Conservation Plan and Receipt of Application for Incidental Take Permit for Construction and Operation of a Mixed Use and Residential Development in Austin, Travis County, TX

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: P-WB Joint Venture (Applicant) has applied to the Fish and Wildlife Service for an incidental take permit pursuant to Section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act. The Applicant has been assigned permit number PRT-808694. The requested permit, which is for a period of 10 years, would authorize the incidental take of the endangered golden-cheeked warbler (*Dendroica chrysoparia*), Tooth Cave ground beetle (*Rhadine persephone*), and Bone Cave harvestman (*Texella reyesi*). The proposed take would occur as a result of the construction and operation of 138 acres of mixed use and residential development in Austin, Travis County, Texas.

The Service has prepared the Environmental Assessment/Habitat Conservation Plan for the incidental take applications. A determination of jeopardy to the species or a Finding of No Significant Impact will not be made before 30 days from the date of publication of this notice. This notice is provided pursuant to Section 10(c) of the Act and National Environmental Policy Act regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

DATES: Written comments on the application should be received by January 8, 1996.

ADDRESS: Persons wishing to review the application or the EA/HCP may obtain a copy by contacting Joseph E. Johnston or Sybil Vosler, Ecological Services Field Office, 10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78758 (512/490-0063). Documents will be available for public inspection during normal business hours (9 to 4:30) U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Austin, Texas. Written data or comments concerning the application(s) and EA/HCPs should be submitted to the Acting Field Supervisor, Ecological Field Office, Texas (see **ADDRESS** above). Please refer to permit number PRT-808694 when submitting comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Joseph E. Johnston or Sybil Vosler at the above Austin Ecological Service Field Office.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 9 of the Act prohibits the "taking" of endangered species such as the golden-cheeked warbler and cave invertebrates. However, the Service, under limited circumstances, may issue permits to take endangered wildlife species incidental to, and not the purpose of, otherwise lawful activities. Regulations governing permits for endangered species are at 50 CFR 17.22.

APPLICANT: P-WB Joint Venture plans to construct and operate 138 acres of mixed use and residential development on 333 acres in Austin, Travis County, Texas. This action will eliminate the habitat for 13 pairs of golden-cheeked warblers. The applicant proposes to compensate for this incidental take of golden-cheeked warbler habitat by preserving 135 acres of golden-cheeked warbler habitat and the preservation and maintenance of 52 acres with 5 caves containing the Tooth Cave ground beetle and the Bone Cave harvestman for the conservation of the golden-cheeked warbler and the cave invertebrates.

Alternatives to this action were rejected because selling or not developing the subject property with federally listed species present was not economically feasible.

Nancy M. Kaufman,
Regional Director, Region 2, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

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Bureau of Land Management

[UT-912-06-0777-52]

Meeting of the Utah Resource Advisory Council

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Utah.

SUMMARY: The Utah Resource Advisory Council will meet on January 5-6, 1996 at the Howard Johnson Hotel, Salt Lake Conference Room, 122 West South Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah. Council members will meet from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, January 5. The entire first day will be devoted to a training session on rangeland ecology. The Council will reconvene at 8 a.m. on Saturday, January 6. A discussion of the planning process to develop standards and guidelines will be the primary topic the second day. A public comment, period where members of the public may address the Council, is scheduled for 12:00 noon on the 6th. The meeting will conclude at 1 p.m. All sessions of the