

ACTION: Redelegation of Authority.

SUMMARY: This notice amends the field reorganization Revocation and Redelegation of Authority for the Office of Housing, published on December 6, 1994, at 59 FR 62739, which was amended by the Revocation and Redelegation of Authority published on June 26, 1996, at 59 FR 33130. This notice redelegates certain Multifamily Housing program functions to the Director, Office of Housing, and the Director, Multifamily Housing Division, in the Atlanta, Georgia and Fort Worth, Texas field offices.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 22, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William H. Melvin, Chief, Multifamily Real Estate Owned Branch, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Georgia State Office, Richard B. Russell Federal Building, Room 572, 75 Spring Street, S.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3388, (Telephone (404) 331-5001, Ext. 2187), (TTY (404) 730-2654), or Alvin E. Braggs, Chief, Multifamily Real Estate Owned Branch, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Texas State Office, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 12th Floor, 1600 Throckmorton Street, Post Office Box 2905, Fort Worth, Texas 76113-2905, (Telephone (817) 978-9044), (TTY (817) 885-5447). All telephone and TTY numbers listed are not toll-free numbers.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In November of 1993, the Secretary announced the reorganization of HUD's field structure to improve performance and provide HUD's customers—members of the public and program beneficiaries—more efficient service and less bureaucracy by empowering HUD's employees to more effectively serve these customers. As part of that ongoing process, on December 6, 1994, at 59 FR 62739, the Department published a Notice of Revocation and Redelegation of Authority pertaining to authority in the field over Office of Housing programs, which was amended by the Revocation and Redelegation of Authority published on June 26, 1996, at 61 FR 33130.

With the decline of the Multifamily Property Disposition inventory, many of the offices with authority to administer Multifamily Property Disposition inventory are managing only a small number of projects. To maximize staff resources, the Assistant Secretary for Housing-Federal Housing Commissioner determined to consolidate the Multifamily Property Disposition inventory into two "HUB" offices which would have nationwide authority to

perform Multifamily Property Management and Disposition functions.

In June, 1996, the Assistant Secretary for Housing-Federal Housing Commissioner selected the Atlanta, Georgia and Fort Worth, Texas field offices to serve as the two "HUB" offices for certain Multifamily Housing program functions. Implementation of these HUBs will serve to free field office staff, currently performing real estate owned processing, to focus on loss mitigation and servicing of troubled properties to avoid future foreclosures, as well as other critical field office priorities.

As the Department strives to provide increasingly efficient service, the ability to do more with less is of crucial importance. Through this Redelegation of Authority, the Department seeks to shift certain powers and authorities in order to best utilize its finite resources to the benefit of the customer. Implementation of the two HUBs will ensure that as staff resources continue to decline, the Department will have staff available to manage and dispose of defaulted FHA-insured multifamily properties that have reverted to HUD.

Accordingly, the Assistant Secretary for Housing-Federal Housing Commissioner redelegates authority as follows:

Section A. Authority Redelegated

The Assistant Secretary for Housing—Federal Housing Commissioner redelegates to the Director, Office of Housing, and the Director, Multifamily Housing Division, in the Atlanta, Georgia, and Fort Worth, Texas field offices, nationwide authority over those functions listed in the Revocation and Redelegation of Authority published December 6, 1994, at 59 FR 62739 at the following sections:

- B., III., (a), (iii), A., 31; and
- B., III., (a), (iv).

Section B. Authority to Further Redelegate

The authority redelegated above, in Section A of the instant document, may be further redelegated in writing to appropriate field office staff so as to maximize efficiency. In cases where authority is redelegated to staff not reporting to the redelegating field office official, prior concurrence of the Assistant Secretary for Housing-Federal Housing Commissioner, or appropriate Deputy Assistant Secretary, is required.

Authority: Section 7(d), Department of Housing and Urban Development Act, 42 U.S.C. § 3535(d).

Dated: January 22, 1997.

Stephanie A. Smith,
General Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Housing-Federal Housing Commissioner.
[FR Doc. 97-2595 Filed 1-31-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210-27-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Endangered and Threatened Species Permit Applications

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

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(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531, *et seq.*).

Permit No. 821962

Applicant: Mark E. Angelos, Torrance, California

The applicant requests a permit to take (harass by survey, capture and release, collect voucher specimens) the Riverside fairy shrimp (*Streptocephalus wootoni*) in Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Diego Counties, California in conjunction with presence or absence surveys and aquatic insect research for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

Permit No. 807055

Applicant: Justine Gibb, La Mesa, California

The applicant requests an amendment of her permit to include take (locate and monitor nests) of the least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Diego, and San Bernardino Counties, California in conjunction with conducting surveys and nest monitoring for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

Permit No. 810313

Applicant: Stephen Eugene Leach, Oakland, California

The applicant requests a permit to take (harass by survey, capture and release, collect voucher specimens) the Conservancy fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta conservatio*), longhorn fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta longiantenna*), and vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardii*) in Shasta, Tehama, Butte, Glenn, Colusa, Sutter, Yuba, Placer, Yolo, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Madera, Fresno, Contra Costa, Alameda, and Solano Counties, California in conjunction with presence or absence surveys for the purpose of enhancing their survival.

Permit No. 815144

Applicant: Rosemary Ann Thompson,
Santa Barbara, California

The applicant requests an amendment of her permit to extend the area authorized to take (harass by survey, capture and release) the tidewater goby (*Eucyclogobius newberryi*) to include its entire range in California in conjunction with presence or absence surveys for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

Permit No. 821967

Applicant: J. Paul Galvin, Newport
Beach, California

The applicant requests a permit to take (harass by survey, locate and monitor nests) the least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) and southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) throughout the range of the species in California in conjunction with surveys and nest monitoring for the purpose of enhancing their survival.

Permit No. 821229

Applicant: David Guy Crawford,
Camarillo, California

The applicant requests a permit to take (harass by survey, capture and release) the unarmored threespine stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus williamsoni*) in Ventura and Los Angeles Counties, California in conjunction with surveys for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

Permit No. 822468

Applicant: Redwood National and
State Parks, Orick, California

The applicant requests a permit to take (harass by survey, capture and release) the tidewater goby (*Eucyclogobius newberryi*) in Humboldt County, California in conjunction with presence or absence surveys and long term monitoring for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

Permit No. 820805

Applicant: Philip Leitner, Orinda,
California

The applicant requests a permit to take (capture and release) the salt marsh harvest mouse (*Reithrodontomys raviventris*) throughout the range of the species in California in conjunction with population monitoring for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

Permit No. 812740

Applicant: Ingri S. Quon, San Diego,
California

The applicant requests an amendment to her permit to include take (locate and monitor nests) of the southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) in San Diego County, California in conjunction with population monitoring for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

Permit No. 802445

Applicant: Elaine K. Harding-Smith,
Santa Cruz, California

The applicant requests an amendment to her permit to take (tag) the salt marsh harvest mouse (*Reithrodontomys raviventris*) during an extended trapping period and to extend the area authorized to include the range of the species in California in conjunction with population studies for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

Permit No. 823795

Applicant: Theresa Ann Cabrera,
Honolulu, Hawaii

The applicant requests a permit to take (capture, band, radio-tag, and release) the Hawaiian hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus semotus*) in Hawaii County, Hawaii in conjunction with scientific research for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

Permit No. 778195

Applicant: Sweetwater Environmental
Biologists, Inc., San Diego,
California

The applicant requests an amendment of his permit to include take (harass by survey, capture and release, collect voucher specimens) of the Riverside fairy shrimp (*Streptocephalus woottoni*) in Riverside, Orange, and San Diego Counties, California in conjunction with presence or absence surveys for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

Permit No. 820658

Applicant: EDAW, Sacramento,
California

The applicant requests a permit to take (harass by survey) the southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*), to take (locate and monitor nests) the least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), and to take (harass by survey; capture and release; collect voucher specimens) the conservancy fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta conservatio*), longhorn fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta longiantenna*), vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardii*), and Riverside fairy shrimp (*Streptocephalus woottoni*) throughout the range of the species in California in conjunction with presence or absence surveys and scientific research for the purpose of enhancing their survival.

Permit No. 799561

Applicant: Entrix, Inc., Walnut Creek,
California

The applicant requests an amendment to his permit to take (harass by survey, locate and monitor nests, conduct habitat studies) for the southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*), California least tern (*Sterna albifrons browni*) and least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) throughout the

range of the species in California in conjunction with population and habitat studies for the purpose of enhancing their survival.

Permit No. 823990

Applicant: BioResources, Los Osos,
California

The applicant requests a permit to take (harass by survey, locate and monitor nests) the California least tern (*Sterna albifrons browni*) along the central California coast in conjunction with surveys and population monitoring for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

Permit No. 787376

Peter Bloom, Camarillo, California

The applicant requests an amendment to his permit to take (capture, band, radio-tag, and release) the peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) and to take (harass by disturbance while conducting trapping activities) the California least tern (*Sterna albifrons browni*) and western snowy plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*) along the California coast from (and including) San Luis Obispo County south to the Mexican border, including the Channel Islands, in conjunction with scientific research on peregrine falcons, especially with regard to their interactions with California least tern colonies and western snowy plovers, for the purpose of enhancing their survival.

Permit No. 823806

Applicant: Pacific Estuarine Research
Laboratory, San Diego, California

The applicant requests a permit to remove and reduce to possession specimens of *Cordylanthus maritimus* ssp. *maritimus* (salt marsh bird's beak) from Sweetwater Marsh National Wildlife Refuge and Tijuana Estuary, San Diego County, California in conjunction with scientific research for the purpose of enhancing its propagation and survival.

Permit No. 824105

Applicant: Burl L. Mostul, Portland,
Oregon

The applicant requests an interstate commerce permit to sell artificially propagated *Brighamia insignis* ('Olulu) and *Manihot walkeri* (Walker's manioc) in order to enhance their propagation and survival.

Permit No. 799558

Applicant: Idaho Power Company,
Boise, Idaho

The applicant requests an amendment of their permit to extend the area authorized to take (collect, release, sacrifice voucher specimens) the Snake River physa snail (*Physa natricina*), Idaho springsnail (*Fontelicella idahoensis*), Utah valvata snail (*Valvata*

utahensis), and Banbury Springs Limpet (*Lanx* n. sp.) in the Snake River, Idaho, and its tributaries to (and including) river mile 458 (Swan Falls) while conducting presence or absence surveys and various life history and ecological studies for the purpose of enhancing their survival.

DATES: Written comments on these permit applications must be received on or before March 5, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Written data or comments should be submitted to the Chief, Division of Consultation and Conservation Planning, Ecological Services, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 911 N.E. 11th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97232-4181. Please refer to the respective permit number for each application when submitting comments. All comments, including names and addresses, received will become part of the official administrative record and may be made available to the public. 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 within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice, to the above office. Please refer to the respective permit number for each application when requesting copies of documents.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jennifer Frie, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, at the above address; telephone (503) 231-6125.

Dated: January 22, 1997.

Thomas J. Dwyer,

Acting Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon

[FR Doc. 97-2572 Filed 1-31-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

Notice of Receipt of an Application, and Availability of an Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact for an Incidental Take Permit for the Red Hills Salamander by Wilmon Timberlands for Forest Management in Southcentral Alabama

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Wilmon Timberlands seeks an incidental take permit (ITP) from the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), pursuant to Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) (Act), as amended. The ITP would authorize, for a period

of 30 years, the incidental take of a threatened species, the Red Hills salamander (*Phaeognathus hubrichti*). The proposed take is incidental to forest management activities on about 2,970 acres of Red Hills salamander habitat managed by the Applicant in Monroe County, Alabama. The Service also announces the availability of an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for this incidental take permit application. The HCP, which is required by Section 10(a)(2)(A) of the Act, was prepared and submitted by the Applicant with the permit application. Copies of the EA and/or HCP may be obtained by making a request in writing to the Regional Office (see **ADDRESSES**). This notice also advises the public that the Service has made preliminary determinations that issuing an ITP to the Applicant is not a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended. The Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is based on information contained in the EA and HCP. The final determination will be made no sooner than 30 days from the date of this notice. This notice is provided pursuant to Section 10 of the Act and NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

DATES: Written comments on the application, EA and HCP should be sent to the Service's Regional Office (see **ADDRESSES**) and should be received on or before March 5, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the application, HCP, and EA may obtain a copy by writing the Service's Southeast Regional Office, Atlanta, Georgia. Documents will also be available for public inspection by appointment during normal business hours at the Regional Office, 1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 200, Atlanta, Georgia 30345 (Attn: Endangered Species Permits), or at the Jackson, Mississippi, Field Office, 6578 Dogwood View Parkway, Suite A, Jackson, Mississippi 39213. Written data or comments concerning the application, EA, or HCP should be submitted to the Regional Office. Comments must be submitted in writing to be processed. Please reference permit under PRT-824543 in such comments, or in requests for the documents discussed herein. Requests for the documents must be in writing to be adequately processed.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Rick G. Gooch, Regional Permit Coordinator, Atlanta, Georgia (see

ADDRESSES above), telephone: 404/679-7110; or Mr. Will McDearman at the Jackson, Mississippi, Field Office (see **ADDRESSES** above), telephone: 601/965-4900, extension 24.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Red Hills salamander (RHS), *Phaeognathus hubrichti*, is a plethodontid salamander known only from the Red Hills region of southcentral Alabama in portions of Butler, Conecuh, Covington, Crenshaw, and Monroe Counties. This physiographic subdivision of the Gulf Coastal Plain is distinguished by hilly, dissected terrain, frequently with steep side slopes extending 200 feet from the ridge to the base of the lower slope. Natural vegetation of these moist, steep, sheltered slopes and ravines consists of a beech-magnolia forest community. Characteristic woody species in the forest overstory include American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), bigleaf magnolia (*Magnolia macrophylla*), southern magnolia (*M. grandiflora*), white oak (*Quercus alba*), and tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*). Portions of this and closely related forest types in the Red Hills region are underlain by clays, claystones, and siltstones of the Tallahatta and Hatchetigbee formations. RHS occupy subterranean burrows within the fissures and channels of these formations on relatively steep slopes beneath undisturbed and moderately disturbed hardwood and hardwood-pine dominated forests. RHS, which rarely leave their burrows, prey upon ground-dwelling arthropods located within burrows or outside burrows near the burrow entrance. Substrates of the Tallahatta and Hatchetigbee formation apparently are important for maintaining suitable moisture required for these amphibians. Other important factors preventing the desiccation of RHS micro-habitat include loamy soils, leaf litter from deciduous trees, and a well developed overstory canopy of hardwoods that intercepts direct sunlight. Timber management practices that reduce or eliminate the forest canopy, disturb or compact soils, and convert hardwood-dominated forests to pine-dominated forests can incidentally kill, injure, or harm RHS in violation of Section 9 of the Act. Such practices can involve timber harvest, the operation of vehicular logging equipment, timber regeneration, and site preparation in habitat occupied by RHS. Based on RHS surveys conducted by the Applicant, RHS may occur on about 2,970 acres managed by Wilmon Timberlands. This represents about five percent of the range wide total habitat estimated to remain in 1978.