

biological systems, especially those produced by the generation, transmission, and use of electric energy. The RAPID Program requires the NIEHS to report on the extent to which exposure to electric and magnetic fields adversely affects human health. Additional details of this program are found in **Federal Register** December 16, 1997, (Volume 62, 241, pp. 65814-65815).

Science Review Symposium on Clinical and In Vivo Laboratory Findings: Open to the Public

In its series of science review symposia on EMF health effects research, the third EMF Science Review Symposium is scheduled for April 6-9, 1998, at the Hyatt Regency at Civic Plaza, Phoenix, Arizona. The program includes plenary overview talks on cancer mechanisms and risk assessment as well as summaries of the proceedings from the first two symposia. Breakout group sessions are planned for in-depth discussions of research findings from clinical and in vivo laboratory studies covering topics including breast cancer, leukemia, electromagnetic hypersensitivity, tissue healing, and neurobehavior. This meeting is open to the public and the registration fee is \$85; for registration information contact t:919-541-7534, f:919-541-0144, or the world-wide-web site: www.niehs.nih.gov/emfrapid/home.htm.

Dated: February 26, 1998.

Samuel H. Wilson,

Deputy Director, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants: Reopening of Comment Period for Availability of an Environmental Assessment/Habitat Conservation Plan and Receipt of Application for Incidental Take Permit for Ranching and Related Activities on El Coronado Ranch (PRT-837858), Cochise County, Arizona

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice: reopening of comment period.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) provides notice that the public comment period is reopened

for an application for an incidental take permit under Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act. The El Coronado Ranch (Applicant) has also requested unlisted-species provisions in an Implementing Agreement to cover a species of concern found in the planning area. The Applicant has been assigned permit number PRT-837858. The requested permit, which is for a period of 25 years, would authorize incidental take of the endangered Yaqui chub (*Gila purpurea*) and the threatened Yaqui catfish (*Ictalurus pricei*). The unlisted species provision covers the issuance of permits for the incidental take of the Yaqui form of longfin dace (*Agosia chrysogaster*), a species not presently listed under the Act, but which might become listed during the term of the proposed permit. The proposed take is on the 1,920 acres of private land and would occur from ranching and related activities on the El Coronado Ranch, Cochise County, Arizona.

The Service has prepared the Environmental Assessment/Habitat Conservation Plan (EA/HCP) for the incidental take application. A public comment period on the EA/HCP was open from January 5, 1998, through February 4, 1998. However, the Service determines that there is significant public interest in this proposed action, and finds good cause to reopen the comment period for 15 days following the date of this publication. Thus, a determination of whether jeopardy to the species is likely to occur, or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), will not be made before 15 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 on or before March 25, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the application may obtain a copy by writing to the Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103. Persons wishing to review the EA/HCP may obtain a copy by contacting Doug Duncan, Tucson Suboffice, Arizona Ecological Services Field Office, 300 West Congress, Room 4D, Tucson, Arizona 85701 (520-670-4860), or Angie Brooks, Arizona Ecological Services Field Office, 2321 West Royal Palm Road, Suite 103, Phoenix, Arizona 85021, (602-640-2720; Fax 602-640-2730). Documents will be available for public inspection by written request, by

appointment only, during normal business hours (7:30 to 4:30), at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Tucson or Phoenix offices listed above. Written data or comments concerning the application and EA/HCP should be submitted to the Field Supervisor, Ecological Services Field Office, Phoenix, Arizona (see address above). Please refer to permit number PRT-837858 when submitting comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Doug Duncan at the above Tucson Suboffice.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 9 of the Act prohibits the "taking" of threatened and endangered species such as the Yaqui catfish and Yaqui Chub. However, the Service, under limited circumstances, may issue permits to take threatened or endangered wildlife species when such taking is incidental to, and not the purpose of, otherwise lawful activities. Regulations governing permits for endangered species are at 50 CFR 17.22.

The EA considers the environmental consequences of two alternatives, including the proposed action. Three other alternatives were explored, but were rejected as unworkable. The proposed action alternative is issuance of the incidental take permit and implementation of the HCP as submitted by the Applicant. The other alternative is to take no action. The HCP provides for a strategy to conserve the listed and unlisted species and to restore watershed health in the West Turkey Creek drainage. The HCP is designed to provide a net benefit to the species. The HCP has stipulations for monitoring of species populations and habitats and functioning of the HCP. The HCP also provides for funding the mitigation measures and monitoring.

Applicant

El Coronado Ranch plans to pursue ranching and related activities on 1,920 acres of private land and 13,284 acres of leased grazing allotments. The anticipated incidental take will occur on ponds, ditches, and associated structures on private land. El Coronado Ranch is located in the West Turkey Creek watershed of the Chiricahua Mountains, Cochise County, Arizona.

Dated: February 23, 1998.

Renne Lohofener,

Acting Regional Director, Region 2, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

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