

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Availability for Comments of a Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and Associated Draft Environmental Assessment for Deep Fork National Wildlife Refuge, Okmulgee, OK

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has prepared the Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and associated Draft Environmental Assessment for the Deep Fork National Wildlife Refuge, Okmulgee, Oklahoma, pursuant to the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, and National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and its implementing regulations.

DATES: The Service will be open to written comments through May 30, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Copies may be obtained by writing to: April Fletcher, Refuge Program Specialist, Division of Refuges, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, NM 87103-1306. Comments on the draft documents should be submitted to Mr. Tom Baca, Chief of Refuge Planning, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, NM 87103-1306.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: It is Service policy to have all lands within the National Wildlife Refuge System managed in accordance with an approved CCP. The CCP guides management decisions and identifies

refuge goals, objectives, and strategies for achieving refuge purposes. The planning process has considered many elements, including habitat and wildlife management, habitat protection and acquisition, public and recreational uses, and cultural resources. Public input into this planning process has assisted in the development of the draft document. The CCP will provide other agencies and the public with a clear understanding of the desired conditions for the refuge and how the Service will implement management strategies.

The Service intends to consider comments and advice generated in response to the draft document prior to the preparation of a final CCP. The Service is furnishing this notice in compliance with Service CCP policy: (1) to advise other agencies and the public of the availability of the draft document, and (2) to obtain suggestions and recommendations for consideration in preparation of the final document.

The Service anticipates that the final CCP document and any associated NEPA documents will be available by September 1, 1999.

Dated: April 16, 1999.

Geoffrey L. Haskett,
Acting Regional Director.

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SUMMARY: Between October 1, 1998, and March 31, 1999, Region 2 of the Fish and Wildlife Service issued five permits for the incidental take of threatened and endangered species, pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). Of the five permits issued, two are associated with the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve. Copies of the five permits and associated decision documents are available upon request. Four additional permits had minor administrative amendments between October 1, 1998, and March 31, 1999.

ADDRESSES: If you would like copies of any of the above documents, please contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services, P.O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Leslie Dierauf, Habitat Conservation Plan Coordinator, at the above address, 505-248-6651.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 9 of the Act and Federal Regulation prohibits the "take" of wildlife species listed as threatened or endangered species. Under the Act, the term "take" means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect listed wildlife, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. The Service may, under limited circumstances, issue permits to authorize incidental take, i.e. that is incidental to, and not the purpose of, the carrying out of an otherwise lawful activity. Regulations governing permits for endangered species are at 50 CFR 17.22.

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Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Issuance of Five Permits for Incidental Take of Threatened and Endangered Species

TWO INCIDENTAL TAKE PERMITS ISSUED ASSOCIATED WITH THE BALCONES CANYONLANDS PRESERVE

Permittee	Permit No.	Date of issuance
BRE/Baldwin Ranch, L.P. (TX)	TE-003593-0	03/31/99
Hogan (TX)	TE-005497-0	02/26/99

THREE INCIDENTAL TAKE PERMITS ISSUED IN OTHER LOCATIONS IN THE SOUTHWEST REGION

Permittee	Permit No.	Date of issuance
Misstex Properties, L.C. (TX)	TE-003596-0	03/01/99
Lazy K Bar Ranch, LKB, LLC (AZ)	TE-003597-0	12/03/98
City of Austin (Barton Springs) (TX)	PRT-839031	10/05/98

THREE MINOR ADMINISTRATIVE AMENDMENTS WERE MADE TO THE FOLLOWING INCIDENTAL TAKE PERMITS

Permittee	Permit No.	Date of amendment
Yaupon Great Hills	PRT-782832	3/5/99