

President Clinton established the National Church Arson Task Force (NCATF) in June, 1996 due to the sharp rise in the number of arsons and other acts against places of worship in early 1996. According to the NCATF Second Year Report to the President, approximately 670 investigations have been opened in connection with fires at places of worship. While the Report indicates that the number of these incidents has decreased since 1995, arsons continue to occur at places of worship.

In addition to administering the Loan Guarantee Recovery Fund authorized by the Act, HUD has established the National Rebuilding Initiative (the "NRI") to bring together as many resources as possible to aid affected places of worship. The NRI is a partnership of the National Council of Churches, the Congress of National Black Churches, and HUD. While its two partners make grants available for rebuilding, HUD guarantees private sector loans made by banks and other financial institutions for rebuilding purposes.

Although there have been reports of arson cases in the southern United States (where African-American places of worship have been disproportionately affected), the fires have not been limited to one particular geographic area. There have been arson reports in 39 states and the District of Columbia. Accordingly, HUD seeks to address the problem of rebuilding through a system of assistance that is nationwide in scope.

HUD is especially interested in identifying financial institutions that:

1. Value the HUD guarantee of rebuilding loans so as to effect a reduction in the standard interest rate charged for similar loans without the HUD guarantee; and
2. Are knowledgeable of an entity or entities willing to assist nonprofit organizations seeking rebuilding loans in preparing the financial aspect of their applications for such loans.

For purposes of this notice, the term "financial institution" means a lender which may be a bank, trust company, savings and loan association, credit union, mortgage company, or other issuer regulated by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Office of Thrift Supervision, the Credit Union Administration, or the U.S. Comptroller of the Currency. A Financial Institution may also be a Pension Fund. (See 24 CFR 573.2.)

To date, places of worship assisted in rebuilding their damaged properties have ranged in size from less than fifty congregants to as high as 1000 congregants.

Financial institutions interested in participating in the National Rebuilding Initiative Financial Consortium, should contact Tony Johnston of HUD's Office of Community Planning and Development, at the address or telephone/fax numbers listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this notice.

Dated: June 9, 1999.

**Cardell Cooper,**

*Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Endangered and Threatened Species Permit Application

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of receipt of application.

The following applicant has 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 Number TE 012889

*Applicant:* Cheryl A. Schmidt, Central Missouri State University, Warrensburg, Missouri.

The applicant requests a permit to take (capture and release) Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), gray bat (*Myotis grisescens*), and Ozark big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii ingens*) at various locations in Missouri. Activities are proposed for the purpose of enhancement of survival of the species in the wild.

Written data or comments should be submitted to the Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Operations, 1 Federal Drive, Fort Snelling, Minnesota 55111-4056, and must be received within 30 days of the date of this publication.

Documents and other information submitted with this application is available for review by any party who submits a written request for a copy of such documents to the following office within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Operations, 1 Federal Drive, Fort Snelling, Minnesota 55111-4056. Telephone: (612/713-5343); FAX: (612/713-5292).

Dated: June 8, 1999.

**Stanley L. Smith,**

*Acting Program Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, Region 3, Fort Snelling, Minnesota.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[NV-930-1430-01; N-57453]

#### Realty Action; Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) Act Classification; Nevada

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The following described public lands in Nye County, Nevada, have been examined and found suitable for conveyance (patent) to Nye County under the provisions of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act of June 14, 1926, as amended (43 U.S.C 869 *et seq.*). Nye County is proposing to use the identified lands for the expansion of the solid waste disposal site now serving the town of Round Mountain, Nevada, and the surrounding area.

#### Mount Diablo Meridian, Nevada

T. 10 N., R. 43 E.,

Sec. 12, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ ; S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ ; containing 40 acres, more or less.

The lands are not needed for Federal purposes. Conveyance is consistent with current BLM land use planning and would be in the public interest. The patent, when issued will be subject to the provisions of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act and applicable regulations of the Secretary of the Interior, and will contain the following reservations to the United States:

1. A right-of-way thereon for ditches and canals constructed by the authority of the United States pursuant to the Act of August 30, 1890 (43 U.S.C. 945);

2. All mineral deposits shall be reserved to the United States, together with the right to prospect for, mine, and remove such deposits under applicable laws and regulations as the Secretary of the Interior may prescribe; will contain the following provisions:

1. Nye County, its successors or assigns, assumes all liability for and shall defend, indemnify, and save harmless the United States and its officers, agents, representatives, and employees (hereinafter referred to in this clause as the United States), from all claims, loss, damage, actions, causes of action, expense, and liability