

FY 2000 RECIPIENTS OF FUNDING AWARDS FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS—
Continued

Technical Assistance Awardee	CHDO	HOME	Homeless assistance	Total
Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, 501 N. Second Street, The Jackson Center, Richmond, VA 23219	\$96,000	\$96,000		\$192,000
Wisconsin (State) Department of Administration, Division of Housing, 101 E. Wilson St., 4th Fl., P.O. Box 8944, Madison, WI 53708			\$78,100	\$78,100
Wisconsin Partnership for Housing Development, Inc., 121 South Pinckney Street, Suite 200, Madison, WI 53703	\$284,520	\$108,000		\$392,520

[FR Doc. 01-10046 Filed 4-23-01; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4210-29-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Intent to Prepare Comprehensive Conservation Plans for Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, Charlton, Ware, and Clinch Counties, Georgia, and Baker County, Florida; and Banks Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Lanier County, Georgia

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the Fish and Wildlife Service intends to gather information necessary to prepare a comprehensive conservation plan and associated environmental documents for each of the above stated refuges, pursuant to the Service's Comprehensive Conservation Planning Policy and the National Environmental Policy Act and implementing regulations to achieve the following:

- (1) advise other agencies and the public of our intentions; and
- (2) obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues to include in the environmental documents.

DATES: The Service intends to hold public scoping meetings and collect information and suggestions through November 1, 2001, for Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, and December 31, 2001, for Banks Lake National Wildlife Refuge. A minimum of two meetings will be held regarding the plan for Okefenokee Refuge and one meeting will be held for Banks Lake Refuge. Mailings, newspaper articles, radio announcements, and postings on the refuge webstie will be the avenues to inform the public of the dates and times for these meetings.

ADDRESSES: Address comments and requests for more information to the following: Refuge Manager, Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, Comprehensive Conservation Planning, Route 2, Box 3330, Folkston, Georgia

31537, (912) 496-7366, (912) 496-3332 (Fax).

Information concerning these refuges may be found at the following website: <http://okefenokee.fws.gov>

If you wish to comment, you may submit your comments by any one of several methods. you may mail comments to the above address. you may also comment via the Internet to the following address: sara_aicher@fws.gov. Please submit Internet comments as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Please also include your name and return address in your Internet message. If you do not receive a confirmation from the system that we have received your Internet message, contact Sara Aicher directly at the above address. finally, you may hand-deliver comments to Sara Aicher at Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge-East Entrance, 11 miles southwest of Folkston, Georgia. Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the rulemaking record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There also may be circumstances in which we would withhold from the rulemaking record a respondent's identity, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. However, we will not consider anonymous comments. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: It is the policy of the Fish and Wildlife Service to have all lands within the National Wildlife Refuge System managed in accordance with an approved comprehensive conservation plan. The

plan guides management decisions and identifies the goals, objectives, and strategies for achieving refuge purposes. Public input into this planning process is encouraged. The plan will provide other agencies and the public with a clear understanding of the desired conditions of the refuge and how the Service will implement management strategies.

Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge was established by Executive Order in 1937 and consists of 395,080 acres. The primary purpose of the refuge is to protect the ecological system of the 438,000-acre Okefenokee Swamp. In 1986, the refuge was designated by the Wetlands Convention as a Wetland of International Importance.

Banks Lake National Wildlife Refuge, established in February 1985, was authorized under the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, and funded through provisions of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1955. The purpose of the refuge is to protect and conserve a unique environment and migratory and resident wildlife.

Dated: March 30, 2001.

H. Dale Hall,

Acting Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 01-10143 Filed 4-23-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Application To Amend an Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit: Inclusion of the Canada Lynx on the Washington Department of Natural Resources Permit for Western Washington

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service.

ACTION: Notice of Permit Amendment Application.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has received a request to add the Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*) to the list of species covered by incidental take permit PRT-812521, issued to the

Washington Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). This request is provided for under the Implementation Agreement for the Habitat Conservation Plan (Plan) accompanying the incidental take permit, and applies to forest management activities on WDNR lands west of the crest of the Cascade Mountain Range in the State of Washington. The purpose of this notice is to seek public comment on the Service's proposed permit amendment.

DATES: Written comments regarding the Service's proposal to add the Canada lynx to the WDNR permit must be received on or before May 24, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to Jon Avery, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 510 Desmond Drive, SE., Suite 102, Lacey, Washington 98503. Documents cited in this notice and comments received will be available for public inspection by appointment during normal business hours (8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jon Avery, Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 510 Desmond Drive, SE., Suite 102, Lacey, Washington 98503, (360) 753-5824.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On January 30, 1997, the Service issued an incidental take permit (PRT-812521) to WDNR, pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1532 et seq.). The Plan and an Environmental Impact Statement associated with the original permit decision analyzed the effects that implementing the Plan would have on listed species and unlisted species including the Canada Lynx. The original permit authorizes the incidental take of the threatened northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*), and other listed species, in the course of otherwise legal forest management activities related to timber and non-timber resource uses within the range of the northern spotted owl that occurs on WDNR lands.

Pursuant to the Plan and the Implementation Agreement, WDNR also received assurances from the Service, with respect to WDNR-manager land west of the Cascade Crest, that specific, unlisted species would be added to the permit upon their listing under the Act in accordance with the Plan and the Implementation Agreement.

On March 24, 2000, the Service listed the Canada lynx as a threatened species throughout its range in the contiguous United States (65 FR 16051). On April 25, 2000, WDNR requested that the Canada lynx be added to their permit. The Service is proposing to respond to

WDNR's request and determine if adding the Canada lynx occurring west of the Cascade Crest to the WDNR permit is appropriate.

Following the proposal to list the Canada lynx as threatened or endangered under the Act the Service receives significant public comments and data. The Service is reviewing that information to determine if the Service's initial Canada lynx determinations for the WDNR permit remains valid. The findings of that review along with any new information obtained through this public comment request will be used in the Service's decision making process.

According to the Implementation Agreement for the WDNR Plan, if any species addressed in the Plan that was unlisted at the time of permit issuance subsequently becomes listed under the Act, WDNR may request a permit amendment to have the species added to their permit with respect to their lands west of the Cascade Crest. Under the terms of the Plan and the Implementation Agreement, the Service would add the newly listed species to the WDNR permit without requiring additional mitigation unless extraordinary circumstances exist. Extraordinary circumstances defined in the WDNR Implementation Agreement to mean continued WDNR Plan management activities that would result in a substantial and material adverse change in the status of a species that was not foreseen on the effective date of the Implementation Agreement and that can be remedied by additional or different mitigation measures on the permit lands.

Prior to adding the Canada lynx to the WDNR permit, the Service will determine whether adding this species to WDNR's permit would appreciably reduce the likelihood of its survival and recovery of the wild. To make this determination, the Service will follow the section 7 process under the Act. The Service will also determine whether the permit amendment meets each of the issuance criteria described in section 10(a)(2)(B) of the Act and that extraordinary circumstances have not occurred since initial permit issuance.

At the time of initial permit issuance, the Service made a preliminary determination that the WDNR Plan adequately provided for the conservation of the Canada lynx. The Service included that analysis as Appendix B (Analysis of Impacts of the Washington Department of Natural Resources Habitat Conservation Plan on unlisted Species Within the Planning Area) of the Statement of Findings. In that analysis the Service noted that the Canada lynx uses a mosaic of forest

types from early-successional to mature conifer and deciduous forests and the presence of snowshoe hares, a species upon which they are almost totally dependent as prey. The Canada lynx forages in early-successional forests and dens in mature forests.

The Service analysis further determined that the Canada lynx could occur on WDNR-managed lands west of the Cascade Crest but that the likelihood is low. The WDNR-managed lands most likely to support the Canada lynx would be the higher elevation lands in proximity to National Forests. The location of these lands is similar to the location of lands that will be managed under the habitat conservation plan for northern spotted owl nesting and foraging habitats (NRF-management areas). The service expects the amount of early seral forest to decrease in these areas while the amount of complex forest will increase. However, the quality of the early seral forest habitat will increase under the Plan due to conservation measures associated with structural retention and other harvest practices, as well as a reduction in and regulation of herbicide spraying. In addition to the amount and quality of managed forests provided by the WDNR plan, the Canada lynx is expected to benefit from the mosaic of natural habitats including avalanche chutes, high-elevation meadows, and old burns. The Service also determined in the analysis for the original permit that species such as the snowshoe hare will find sufficient amounts of foraging and hiding habitat within the Plan area throughout the terms of the permit thus providing the essential prey-based necessary for Canada lynx to possibly occupy WDNR-managed lands west of the Cascade Crest.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act and the regulations of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (40 CFR 1506.6). All comments that we receive, including names and addresses, will become part of the official administrative record and may be made available to the public. We will evaluate the application, associated document, and comments submitted thereon to determine whether the application meets the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act regulations and section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act. If we determine that those requirements are met, we will issue a permit to the Applicant for the incidental take of the Canada lynx. We will make our final permit decision no sooner than 45 days from the date of this notice.

Dated: March 9, 2001.

Rowan W. Gould,

Acting Regional Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.

[FR Doc. 01-10066 Filed 4-23-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Environmental Statements; Availability etc: Incidental Take Permits—Bastrop County, TX; Houston Toad and Bald Eagle

Notice of Availability of a Revised Environmental Assessment/Habitat Conservation Plan for Permit Numbers TE-025997-0 and TE-025965-0 for Issuance of Endangered Species Act Section 10(a)(1)(B) Permits for the Incidental Take of the Endangered Houston Toad and the Threatened Bald Eagle During the Construction and Occupation of Single Family Residences or Other Similar Structures (each on approximately 0.5 acres or less) in 46 Subdivisions in Bastrop County, Texas.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has prepared a revised Environmental Assessment/Habitat Conservation Plan (EA/HCP) for issuance of Endangered Species Act Section 10(a)(1)(B) permits (numbers TE-025997-0 and TE-025965-0) for the incidental take of the endangered Houston toad (*Bufo houstonensis*) and threatened bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*). The revised EA/HCP adds the bald eagle to the existing 46-subdivision EA/HCP that currently only covers the Houston toad. In addition, the proposed EA/HCP would allow for the construction of other similar structures, as long as the action on the property disturbs no more than approximately 0.5 acres of habitat within each eligible lot. The Service proposes issuing endangered species permits to individual lot owners under an EA/HCP, where each permit would authorize the incidental take of the Houston toad and bald eagle, directly or indirectly, from the construction and occupation of a single-family residence or other similar structure on an undeveloped lot in the 46 subdivisions covered under this EA/HCP. This revised EA/HCP will allow for responsible development of the lots while minimizing and offsetting impacts to the Houston toad and bald eagle by providing for on-site and off-site conservation measures that will be used to promote the long-term survival of the species. It is also considered to provide the most simplified, expeditious, and

effective process by which landowners can comply with the provisions of the Endangered Species Act in a more efficient manner. The revised EA/HCP requires the same avoidance, minimization, and mitigation efforts from every lot owner, within their respective category. Issuance of incidental take permits for the Houston toad and bald eagle will be conducted as they are currently for the Houston toad.

DATES: Written comments on the revision are being accepted and should be received on or before June 25, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the revised EA/HCP may obtain a copy by contacting: the Austin Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78758 (512/490-0057). Documents will be available for public inspection by written request, or by appointment only, during normal business hours (8 to 4:30) at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Austin, Texas. Written data or comments concerning the proposed revisions should be submitted to the Field Supervisor, Austin Field Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, at the above address. Please refer to permit numbers TE-025997-0 and TE-025965-0 when submitting comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Contact the Austin Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the above address.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 9 of the Act prohibits the "taking" of endangered and threatened species such as the Houston toad and bald eagle. However, the Service, under limited circumstances, may issue permits to take threatened and 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.

The Service has divided the 46 subdivisions into two categories, those in low/marginal quality Houston toad habitat, and those in medium quality Houston toad habitat. The revised EA/HCP and associated permits (TE-025997-0 and TE-025965-0) will be in effect for a period of 5 years, and authorize the incidental take of the Houston toad and bald eagle. The proposed take to the Houston toad would occur as a result of the possible construction and occupation of undeveloped lots, utilizing no more than approximately 0.5 acres per eligible property, in 46 subdivisions in Bastrop County, Texas. The proposed take to the bald eagle is anticipated to occur only in the form of harassment, such as an increase in noise generated

from the 46 subdivisions and increased recreational use of area lakes and the Colorado River. This notice is provided pursuant to Section 10(c) of the Act and National Environmental Policy Act regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

Geoffrey L. Haskett,

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

[FR Doc. 01-10062 Filed 4-23-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Environmental Statements; Availability, etc: Incidental Take Permits—Travis County, TX; Golden Cheeked Warbler

Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment/Habitat Conservation Plan and Receipt of Application for Incidental Take Permit for Construction and Occupation of Residential and Commercial Development on Portions of the Approximately 740-acre Ribelin Ranch Property, Austin, Travis County, Texas.

SUMMARY: Ribelin Ranch Partners, Ltd., Lucia Francis, and Charles Ribelin (Applicants) have applied to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for an incidental take permit pursuant to Section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act (Act). The Application has been assigned permit number TE-040090-0. The requested permit, which is for a period of 30 years, would authorize the incidental take of the endangered golden-cheeked warbler (*Dendroica chrysoparia*). The proposed take would occur as a result of the construction and occupation of residential and commercial development on portions of the approximately 740-acre Ribelin Ranch Property on R.M. 2222, Austin, Travis County, Texas.

The Service has prepared the Environmental Assessment/Habitat Conservation Plan (EA/HCP) for the incidental take application. A determination of jeopardy to the species or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will not be made before 60 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 June 25, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the application may obtain a copy by writing to the Regional Director, U.S.