

**Permit No. TE-047252**

*Applicant:* Trent Miller, SWCA, Inc., Environmental Consultants, Westminster Colorado.

The applicant requests a renewed permit to survey for black-footed ferrets (*Mustela nigripes*), and Southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) in conjunction with recovery activities throughout the species' range for the purpose of enhancing their survival and recovery.

Dated: March 20, 2002.

**John A. Blankenship,**

*Acting Regional Director, Denver, Colorado.*

[FR Doc. 02-8227 Filed 4-8-02; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-55-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR****Fish and Wildlife Service****Notice of Availability of the Draft Revised Recovery Plan for the Gila Trout (*Oncorhynchus gilae*)**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of document availability.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces the availability for public review of the draft Revised Recovery Plan for the Gila trout (*Oncorhynchus gilae*). The Gila trout is endemic to mountain streams in the Gila, San Francisco, Agua Fria, and Verde river drainages in New Mexico and Arizona. The Service solicits review and comment from the public on this draft plan.

**DATES:** The comment period for this proposal closes on June 10, 2002. Comments on the draft revised recovery plan must be received by the closing date.

**ADDRESSES:** Persons wishing to review the draft Recovery Plan can obtain a copy from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office, 2105 Osuna NE, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87113. If you wish to comment, you may submit your comments and materials concerning this draft revised recovery plan to the Field Supervisor at the address above.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Field Supervisor, New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office, at the above address; telephone 505/346-2525, facsimile 505/346-2542.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Background**

Restoring an endangered or threatened animal or plant to the point

where it is again a secure, self-sustaining member of its ecosystem is a primary goal of the Service's endangered species program. To help guide the recovery effort, the Service is working to prepare Recovery Plans for most of the listed species native to the United States. Recovery Plans describe actions considered necessary for conservation of species, establish criteria for downlisting or delisting them, and estimate time and cost for implementing the recovery measures needed.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) requires the development of Recovery Plans for listed species unless such a Plan would not promote the conservation of a particular species. Section 4(f) of the Act, as amended in 1988, requires that public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment be provided during Recovery Plan development. The Service will consider all information presented during a public comment period prior to approval of each new or revised Recovery Plan. The Service and other Federal agencies will also take these comments into account in the course of implementing Recovery Plans.

The document submitted for review is the draft revised recovery plan for the Gila trout. The species was listed as endangered on March 11, 1967, under the Federal Endangered Species Preservation Act of 1966. Federal status of the fish as endangered was continued under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

The threats facing the survival and recovery of this species are the competition and hybridization with non-native trout species (*e.g.*, *Oncorhynchus mykiss*), forest management practices, grazing management, severe drought, catastrophic wildfires, and floods. This draft Recovery Plan, when finalized, will supercede the Recovery Plan finalized for the species in 1993. The draft Recovery Plan includes new scientific information about the species gathered since 1993 and provides objectives and actions needed to downlist then delist the species. Recovery activities designed to achieve these objectives include establishing additional populations of Gila trout; protecting existing populations and habitat; continuing to obtain information needed to address conservation issues; and continuing to provide information and coordinating recovery of this species.

The draft Recovery Plan is being submitted for technical and agency review. After consideration of

comments received during the review period, the Recovery Plan will be submitted for final approval.

**Public Comments Solicited**

The Service solicits written comments on the Recovery Plan described. All comments received by the date specified above will be considered prior to approval of the Recovery Plan.

**Authority:** The authority for this action is Section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1533(f).

Dated: March 21, 2002.

**Pat Langley,**

*Acting Regional Director.*

[FR Doc. 02-8381 Filed 4-8-02; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-55-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Fish and Wildlife Service****Notice of Availability of Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact for Issuance of Incidental Take Permits to Gulf Highlands LLC and Fort Morgan Paradise Joint Venture on Privately Owned Lands in Alabama**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce our intent to issue incidental take permits to Gulf Highlands LLC and Fort Morgan Paradise Joint Venture (Applicants) for residential development in Alabama, pursuant to Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). The authorized take would be incidental to otherwise lawful activities, including construction of residential condominiums, commercial facilities, and recreational amenities on adjoining tracts of land owned by the Applicants. The proposed action includes implementation of the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) jointly developed by the Applicants, as required by Section 10(a)(2)(B) of the Act, to minimize and mitigate for incidental take of the Federally-listed, endangered Alabama beach mouse (*Peromyscus polionotus ammobates*)(ABM), the endangered Kemp's ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*), the threatened green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), and the threatened loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*). The subject permits would authorize take of ABM and the three sea turtles along 2,844 linear feet of coastal dune habitat fronting the Gulf of Mexico in Baldwin County, Alabama.