

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR part 1320, which implement provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), require that interested members of the public and affected agencies have an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping activities (see 5 CFR 1320.8(d)). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (We) plan to submit a request to OMB for approval of the collection of information related to the recruitment of Federal Subsistence Advisory Council members. We are requesting a 3-year term of approval for this information collection activity.

Federal agencies may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3101) designates the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture as the key agencies responsible for implementing the subsistence priority on Federal public lands for rural Alaska residents. These responsibilities include the establishment of Regional Advisory Councils with members from each region who are knowledgeable about the region and subsistence uses of the public lands. In order for the Federal Board to make recommendations to the Secretaries for membership on these Regional Councils, it is necessary to recruit and screen applicants. These three associated forms allow the Federal Subsistence Board to recruit applicants and to review their credentials in order to make recommendations to the Secretaries for appointment of members to the Regional Councils. One-third of the seats on the Regional Councils become vacant each year. Additional vacancies may occur due to resignations or deaths of sitting members.

On October 29, 2002, we published in the **Federal Register** (67 FR 65993) a notice informing the public that we are submitting the three forms described below to OMB for approval under the Paperwork Reduction Act. We included the forms, in their entirety, in that notice. We requested public comment on the forms for 60 days, ending December 30, 2002. By that date, we received two comments. The comments raised several issues that are not relevant to the forms. The comments that are relevant to the forms suggest that we: (1) Elaborate on our "criteria for membership"; (2) ask applicants and nominees to identify all groups—instead of just the primary group—that they feel they would represent if they were

selected to be Council members; (3) require a letter of recommendation for each applicant; and (4) ask applicants and nominees to identify potential conflicts of interest (such as a loyalty or interest that would supercede the needs of the entire region) if they were selected to sit on the Council. We are not making any changes to our submission to OMB based on these comments. We believe that, in the case of item (1), our criteria for membership list appropriate minimum qualifications for applicants and nominees to the Council. Further, in the case of items (2) through (4), we believe that requesting additional information from an applicant or nominee is an unnecessary burden. The detailed qualifications and interests of individuals applying or nominated for a position on the Council will be evident in their responses to questions on the application or nomination forms and during the candidate evaluation interviews.

**Title:** Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council Membership Application Form.

**Form number:** 7-FW 4.

**Approval Number:** 1018-XXXX.

**Frequency of Collection:** Annually.

**Description of Respondents:** Alaska residents.

**Total Annual Burden Hours:** We estimate the reporting burden to average 0.5 hours per respondent. With an estimated 120 applicants annually, the estimated total annual burden hours is 60 hours.

**Total Annual Responses:** We expect about 120 applications to be submitted annually.

**Title:** Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council Membership Nomination Form.

**Form number:** 7-FW 5.

**Approval Number:** 1018-XXXX.

**Frequency of Collection:** Annually.

**Description of Respondents:** Local governments, Tribal organizations, and special interest groups.

**Total Annual Burden Hours:** We estimate the reporting burden to average 0.5 hours per respondent. With an estimated 50 nominations annually, the estimated total annual burden hours is 25 hours.

**Total Annual Responses:** We expect about 50 nominations to be submitted annually.

**Title:** Regional Advisory Council Member Evaluation—Candidate Interview Form.

**Form number:** 7-FW 6.

**Approval Number:** 1018-XXXX.

**Frequency of Collection:** Annually.

**Description of Respondents:** Alaska residents.

**Total Annual Burden Hours:** We estimate the reporting burden to average 0.5 hours per interview. We will conduct 5 interviews per applicant or nominee. Therefore, with an estimated 170 applicants/nominees, the estimated total annual burden hours is 425 hours.

**Total Annual Responses:** We expect to conduct about 850 interviews annually.

**Note:** The total annual burden hours estimated in this notice differ from the total annual burden hours we provided in the notice published in the **Federal Register** on October 29, 2002. In the previous notice, we neglected to include the burden hours associated with interviewing nominees for Council positions. Therefore, our corrected estimate is 250 hours greater than our previous estimate.

We again invite comments concerning this proposed information collection on:

(1) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper selection of Regional Council members, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of our estimate of the burden of the collection of information on respondents. The information collections in this program are part of a system of record covered by the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552(a)).

Dated: January 13, 2003.

Anissa Craghead,

Information Collection Officer, Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 03-942 Filed 1-15-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Notice of Receipt of Endangered Species Recovery Permit Applications

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

**ACTION:** Notice of receipt of permit applications.

**SUMMARY:** The following applicants have applied for a scientific research permit to conduct certain activities with endangered species pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, solicit review and comment from local, State, and Federal agencies, and the public on the following permit requests.

**DATES:** Comments on these permit applications must be received on or

before February 18, 2003 to receive our consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Written data or comments should be submitted to the Chief, Endangered Species, Ecological Services, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 911 NE., 11th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97232-4181 (fax: (503) 231-6243). Please refer to the respective permit number for each application when submitting comments. All comments received, including names and addresses, will become part of the official administrative record and may be made available to the public.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Documents and other information submitted with these applications are available for review, subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act, by any party who submits a written request for a copy of such documents within 20 days of the date of publication of this notice to the address above (telephone: (503) 231-2063). Please refer to the respective permit number for each application when requesting copies of documents.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **Permit No. TE-006112**

*Applicant:* Gretchen Padgett-Flohr, Fremont, California.

The permittee requests an amendment to take (harass by survey, capture, release, and collect voucher specimens) the Sonoma and Santa Barbara distinct population segments of the California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*) in conjunction with demographic research in Sonoma and Santa Barbara Counties, California for the purpose of enhancing their survival.

##### **Permit No. TE-065493**

*Applicant:* Peter Trenham, Davis, California.

The applicant requests a permit to take (harass by survey, collect, and sacrifice) the Conservancy fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta conservatio*), the longhorn fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta longiantenna*), the vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*), and the vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardii*) in conjunction with population demographic studies throughout the range of each species for the purpose of enhancing their survival.

##### **Permit No. TE-065741**

*Applicant:* John Lovio, San Diego, California.

The applicant requests a permit to take (monitor nests) the least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), take (harass by survey and monitor nests) the

southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*), and take (survey by pursuit) the Quino checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha quino*) in conjunction with surveys throughout the range of each species in California for the purpose of enhancing their survival.

##### **Permit No. TE-065923**

*Applicant:* Jon Winter, Santa Rosa, California.

The permittee requests an amendment to take (harass by survey, capture, and release) the Sonoma distinct population segment of the California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*) in conjunction with demographic research in Sonoma County, California for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

We solicit public review and comment on each of these recovery permit applications.

Dated: December 13, 2002.

**Rowan Gould,**

*Regional Director, Region 1, Fish and Wildlife Service.*

[FR Doc. 03-908 Filed 1-15-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-55-P**

## **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

### **Fish and Wildlife Service**

#### **Notice of Availability of the Draft Recovery Plan for the Zapata Bladderpod (*Lesquerella thamnophila*) for Review and Comment**

**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 Recovery Plan for the Zapata bladderpod (*Lesquerella thamnophila*). Six populations are still known to exist in varying numbers. The Service solicits review and comment from the public on this draft plan.

**DATES:** The comment period for this draft Recovery Plan closes on February 18, 2003. Comments on the draft 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, Corpus Christi Ecological Services Field Office, c/o TAMUCC, Box 338, 6300 Ocean Drive, Corpus Christi, Texas, 78412. If you wish to comment, you may submit your comments and materials concerning this draft Recovery

Plan to the Field Supervisor at the address above.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Loretta Pressly, Corpus Christi Ecological Services Field Office, at the above address; telephone (361) 994-9005, facsimile (361) 994-8262.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **Background**

The Zapata bladderpod (*Lesquerella thamnophila*), a plant of the Brassicaceae Family, is listed as endangered with critical habitat. Historically, 10 populations of the plants have been located and described. Currently, six of those 10 populations remain; three of the populations are located in Starr County, and three in Zapata County. This species is threatened by increasing urban development, highway construction, increased oil and gas activities, alteration and conversion of native plant communities to improved pastures, overgrazing, and vulnerability from low population numbers. The plant in all likelihood has a more extensive range than what is currently known; access for surveying on private land has been limited. This draft Recovery Plan includes information about the species and provides objectives and actions needed to downlist, then delist the species. Recovery activities designed to achieve these objectives include protecting known populations, searching for additional populations, performing outreach activities to educate and obtain assistance from the general public to conserve the species and its habitat, and establishing additional populations through reintroduction in the known range of the plant.

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