

reptiles, identified in 50 CFR 17.11 in the States of Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, and Mississippi. Take may occur while sampling for aquatic bio-assessment for (1)(a) EPA Regional Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (R-EMAP) projects, (b) Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 303(d) listing and de-listing of impaired waters, (c) development of CWA Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), and for (2)(a) EPA human risk assessments and (b) Superfund human health and ecological risk assessments.

*Applicant:* United States Air Force, Julie A. Hovis, Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina, TE075925-0

The applicant requests authorization to take (capture, band, release, track, translocate, blood sample, monitor nests and roost cavities, and construct, install and maintain artificial nest cavities) red-cockaded woodpeckers (*Picoides borealis*) while conducting presence and absence surveys and population monitoring and management. The take activities would occur at Poinsett Electronic Combat Range and Manchester State Forest in Sumter County, South Carolina.

*Applicant:* Timothy W. Savidge, North Carolina Heritage Program, Stephen P. Hall, Raleigh, North Carolina, TE075923-0

The applicant requests authorization to take (survey, capture, release, and retain relic shells) James spiny mussel (*Pleurobema collina*), dwarf-wedge mussel (*Alasmidonta heterodon*) tar spiny mussel (*Elliptio steinstansanna*), and Carolina heelsplitter (*Lasmigona decorata*). Take may occur while conducting presence/absence surveys. The proposed activities would take place in North Carolina, Virginia, Georgia, and Florida.

*Applicant:* HMB Professional Engineers, Inc., Jim H. Smith, Frankfort, Kentucky, TE075918-0

The applicant requests authorization to take (survey, capture, band, radio tag, photograph, release, and track) gray bat (*Myotis grisescens*) and Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), and take (survey, capture, identify, photograph, collect relic shells, and release) the Cumberland elktoe (*Alasmidonta atropurpurea*). Take may occur while conducting presence and absence surveys for highway improvement and new roadway projects in the state of Tennessee.

*Applicant:* Julie L. Lockwood, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey, TE075916

The applicant requests authorization to take (survey, capture, band, collect blood samples, monitor nest, and

release) the Cape Sable seaside sparrow (*Ammodramus maritimus mirabilis*). The take activities may take place while studying the effects of fire on the Cape Sable seaside sparrow demography. The proposed activities would occur within the Everglades National Park, Monroe County, Florida.

*Applicant:* Virginia Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Unit, Richard J. Neves, Blacksburg, Virginia, TE075915-0

The applicant requests authorization to take (survey, capture, collect up to 30 tissue samples, tag, and release) the James spiny mussel (*Pleurobema cillina*) and the tar spiny mussel (*Elliptio steinstansana*). The proposed take may occur while conducting genetic analyses and habitat surveys, and while studying the life history and the feasibility of culturing it in recirculating aquaculture systems with different substrata. The proposed activities would occur in Stokes and Rockingham counties, Dan and Mayo rivers, Dan River subbasin of the Roanoke River basin, North Carolina for the tar spiny mussel. The proposed activities for the James spiny mussel will occur in Patrick and Henry Counties, South Fork Mayo River, Virginia.

*Applicant:* Thomas S. Risch, Arkansas State University, Jonesboro, Arkansas, TE075912-0

The applicant requests authorization to take (survey, capture, mark, band, radio-tag, track, recapture, and release) the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) while conducting presence and absence surveys of caves and abandoned mines. The proposed activities would take place at Rosson Hollow, Ozark National Forest, Franklin, Arkansas.

*Applicant:* Thomas S. Risch, Arkansas State University, Jonesboro, Arkansas, TE075913-0

The applicant requests authorization to take (survey, capture, mark, band, radio-tag, track, recapture, and release) the Ozark big-ear bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii ingens*), gray bat (*Myotis grisescens*), and Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) while conducting presence and absence surveys of caves and abandoned mines in Marion, Searcy, Baxter, and Newton Counties, Buffalo National River, Arkansas.

*Applicant:* Steven Ray Shattler, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Venus, Florida, TE076499-0

The applicant requests authorization to take (capture, band, release, monitor nests, install and drill artificial cavity inserts, and install snake exclusion devices) red-cockaded woodpeckers (*Picoides borealis*) while conducting presence and absence surveys and management activities. The proposed activities would take place in Highlands

and Glades Counties, on the Platt Branch Mitigation Park and the Lykes Brothers Inc. Ranch, Florida.

*Applicant:* Roel R. Lopez, Texas A & M University, College Station, Texas, TE076447-0

The applicant requests authorization to take (trap, mark, tag, examine, recapture, release) Key Largo woodrats (*Neotoma foidana smalli*) and Key Largo cotton mice (*Peromyscus gossypinus allapaticola*) while conducting mark-recapture surveys for the Key Largo woodrat. The population estimates would be used for recovery purposes. The proposed activities would take place at the Crocodile Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Key Largo, Monroe County, Florida.

Dated: September 4, 2003.

**Sam D. Hamilton,**

*Regional Director.*

[FR Doc. 03-23392 Filed 9-12-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-55-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Issuance of Permits

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

**ACTION:** Notice of decision and availability of decision documents.

**SUMMARY:** Between November 23, 2002, and July 17, 2003, the Pacific Region of the Fish and Wildlife Service (we, the Service) issued nine permits in response to applications for incidental take of threatened and endangered species, pursuant to sections 10(a)(1)(B) and 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). Copies of the permits and associated decision documents are available upon request.

**ADDRESSES:** Documents are available from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 911 NE. 11th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97232; facsimile (503) 231-6243. Charges for copying, shipping and handling may apply.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** If you would like copies of any of the above documents, please contact Shelly McKeever, Administrative Assistant, at telephone (503) 231-6241.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 9 of the Act and Federal regulations prohibit the take of wildlife species listed as endangered or threatened. 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 take that is incidental to, and not the purpose of, carrying out an otherwise lawful activity. Regulations governing permits for threatened and endangered species are found in 50 CFR 17.32 and 17.22.

Although not required by law or regulation, it is Service policy to notify the public of its permit application decisions. Between November 23, 2002,

and July 17, 2003, we issued the following permits within the Pacific Region of the Service for incidental take of threatened and endangered species subject to certain conditions set forth therein, pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) and section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Act. We issued each permit after determining that: (1) The permit application was submitted in good faith; (2) all permit issuance criteria were met, including

the requirement that granting the permit will not jeopardize the continued existence of listed species; and (3) the permit was consistent with the purposes and policy set forth in the Act and applicable regulations, including a thorough review of the environmental effects of the action and alternatives pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

Approved plan or agreement	Permit No.	Issuance date
<b>Habitat Conservation Plans:</b>		
Gosnell Residential .....	TE063835-0	12/23/02
Antelope Road .....	TE066470-0	12/31/02
Folsom Professional Centre .....	TE072797-0	06/25/03
Natomas Basin (3 permits) .....	TE073663-0	06/27/03
	TE073665-0	.....
	TE073667-0	.....
<b>Safe Harbor Agreements:</b>		
The Island of Molokai .....	TE062124-0	04/07/03
Paramount Farms .....	TE048469-0	04/24/03
Robert Mondavi Winery .....	TE056595-0	07/17/03

Copies of these permits, the accompanying Habitat Conservation Plan or Safe Harbor Agreement, and associated documents are available upon request. Decision documents for each permit include a Findings and Recommendation; a Biological Opinion; and either a Record of Decision, Finding of No Significant Impact, or an Environmental Action Statement. Associated documents may also include an Implementing Agreement, Environmental Impact Statement, or Environmental Assessment, as applicable.

Dated: September 8, 2003.

**D. Kenneth McDermond,**

*Deputy Manager, California/Nevada, Operations Office, Sacramento, California.*

[FR Doc. 03-23356 Filed 9-12-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-55-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Fish and Wildlife Service**

**Notice of Availability of the Holston River/Saltville National Priority List Site Natural Resource Damage Assessment Plan Which Encompasses Smyth and Washington Counties, Virginia, and Hawkins and Sullivan Counties, TN**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), on behalf of the U.S. Department of the Interior, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the State of

Tennessee, and the Tennessee Valley Authority, jointly referred to as the Saltville National Priority List (NPL) Site Trustee Council, announces the release for public review of the Holston River/Saltville NPL Site Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) Plan (Plan) which encompasses Smyth and Washington Counties, Virginia, and Hawkins and Sullivan Counties, Tennessee. The Plan describes the Trustee's proposal to assess potential injury to natural resources as a result of a release of hazardous substances.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted within 30 days of this notice.

**ADDRESSES:** Requests for copies of the Plan may be made to: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Virginia Field Office, 6669 Short Lane, Gloucester, Virginia 23061. Written comments regarding the Plan should be sent to the same address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John Schmerfeld, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 6669 Short Lane, Gloucester, Virginia 23061. Interested parties may also call 804-693-6694, extension 107, for further information.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Saltville NPL Site (Site) is located along the North Fork Holston River (NFHR) which flows through Smyth and Washington Counties, Virginia. The NFHR joins the South Fork Holston River to form the main stem Holston River (MHR) near Virginia's southern border with Tennessee. The NFHR and MHR (hereafter jointly referred to, with associated floodplains, as the "River") flow through Sullivan and Hawkins Counties, Tennessee, before entering the John Sevier Detention Reservoir and the

Cherokee Dam. These contiguous areas and bodies of water comprise the geographical focus of this assessment. Due to hazardous substances released from industrial activities, the Site was included on the NPL in 1983 by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Several operable units associated with the Site have been identified for remedial activities. Operable Unit 4 includes the Former Chlorine Plant site and the River and is the focus of this NRDA. Remedial activities for Operable Unit 4 are ongoing. The EPA is acting as the lead response agency overseeing remedial activities at the Site and Operable Unit 4.

Under subpart G of the National Oil and Hazardous Substance Pollution Contingency Plan, 40 CFR 300.600-610 and Executive Order 12580, the Federal government, States, and Indian tribes are authorized as natural resource trustees to recover damages from responsible parties for injuries to natural resources caused by the release of hazardous substances. This process is intended to compensate the public for lost natural resources and to restore services provided by those resources. The natural resource trustees for this matter include:

- The U.S. Department of the Interior
- The Commonwealth of Virginia
- The State of Tennessee
- The Tennessee Valley Authority

The Trustees have developed a Memorandum of Agreement that provides a framework for continued cooperation and coordination. The Trustees have determined through a Preassessment Screen that further investigation and assessment is