

pilot will execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Homeland Security and the Social Security Administration (if applicable), that provides the specific terms and conditions governing the pilot and company information for each site that will be performing employment verification queries.

(5) *An estimate of the total number of respondents and the amount of time estimated for an average respondent to respond:* 5,000 responses at 1 hour and 20 minutes (1.33 hours) per response.

(6) *An estimate of the total public burden (in hours) associated with the collection:* 6,650 hours annually.

If you have additional comments, suggestions, or need a copy of the proposed information collection instrument with instructions, or additional information, please contact Richard A. Sloan, Director, Regulations and Forms Services Division, Department of Homeland Security, 425 I Street, NW., Room 4034, Washington, DC 20536; (202) 514-3291. Comments and suggestions regarding items contained in this notice, especially regarding the estimated public burden and associated response time may also be directed to Richard A. Sloan.

If additional information is required contact: Mr. Steve Cooper, PRA Clearance Officer, Department of Homeland Security, Office of Chief Information Officer, Regional Office Building 3, 7th and D Streets, SW., Suite 4636-26, NW., Washington, DC 20202.

Dated: November 25, 2003.

Richard A. Sloan,

Department Clearance Officer, Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

[FR Doc. 03-29881 Filed 12-1-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4410-10-M

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-4815-N-96]

Notice of Submission of Proposed Information Collection to OMB: Research Studies on Homeownership and Affordable Lending (NOFA)

AGENCY: Office of the Chief Information Officer, HUD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The proposed information collection requirement described below has been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act. The Department is soliciting public comments on the subject proposal.

A NOFA funding a study of homeownership and affordable lending will aid in the formulation of policies in support of the President's goal of increasing the number of minority homeowners.

DATES: *Comments Due Date:* January 2, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments regarding this proposal. Comments should refer to the proposal by name and OMB approval number (2528-0228) and should be sent to: Lauren Wittenberg, OMB Desk Officer, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503; Fax number (202) 395-6974; E-mail Lauren_Wittenberg@omb.eop.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Wayne Eddins, Reports Management Officer, AYO, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street, Southwest, Washington, DC 20410; e-mail Wayne_Eddins@HUD.gov; telephone (202) 708-2374. This is not a toll-free number. Copies of the proposed forms and other available documents submitted to OMB may be obtained from Mr. Eddins or on HUD's Web site at <http://www5.hud.gov:63001/po/i/icbts/collectionsearch.cfm>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department has submitted the proposal for the collection of information, as described below, to OMB for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). The Notice lists the following information: (1) The title of the information collection proposal; (2) the office of the agency to collect the information; (3) the OMB approval number, if applicable; (4) the description of the need for the information and its proposed use; (5) the agency form number, if applicable; (6) what members of the public will be affected by the proposal; (7) how frequently information submissions will be required; (8) an estimate of the total number of hours needed to prepare the information submission including number of respondents, frequency of response, and hours of response; (9) whether the proposal is new, an extension, reinstatement, or revision of an information collection requirement; and (10) the name and telephone number of an agency official familiar with the proposal and of the OMB Desk Officer for the Department.

This Notice also lists the following information:

Title of Proposal: Research Studies on Homeownership and Affordable Lending (NOFA).

OMB Approval Number: 2528-0228.
Form Numbers: HUD-424, HUD-424-B, 424-CB, HUD-424-CBW, SF-LLL, HUD-2880, HUD-2993, HUD-2994, HUD-1044, SF-1199A, HUD-27053, HUD-27054, SF-269A.

Description of the Need for the Information and Its Proposed Use: A NOFA funding a study of homeownership and affordable lending will aid in the formulation of policies in support of the President's goal of increasing the number of minority homeowners.

Respondents: Business or other for-profit, Not-for-profit institutions, State, Local or Tribal Government.

Frequency of Submission: On occasion, Quarterly.

Reporting Burden: Number of Respondents 40; Average annual responses per respondent 2.8; Total annual responses 115; Average burden per response 16 hrs.

Total Estimated Burden Hours: 1,870.

Status: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Authority: Section 3507 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 35, as amended.

Dated: November 26, 2003.

Wayne Eddins,

Departmental Reports Management Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 03-29995 Filed 12-1-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210-72-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

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.*). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ("we") solicits 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 January 2, 2004 to receive our consideration.

ADDRESSES: Written data or comments should be submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Chief, Endangered Species, Ecological Services, 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 30 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-073416

Applicant: Siskiyou National Forest, Grants Pass, Oregon.

The applicant requests a permit to remove/reduce to possession (collect seed) *Arabis mcdonaldiana* (McDonald's rock-cress) in conjunction with research in Josephine and Curry Counties, Oregon, and Del Norte County, California, for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

Permit No. TE-077753

Applicant: Erica Fleishman, Stanford, California.

The applicant requests a permit to remove/reduce to possession (collect seed and tissue) *Cordylanthus palmatus* (palmate-bracted bird's-beak) in conjunction with research in Colusa, Fresno, Alameda, Yolo, and Sacramento Counties, California, for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

Permit No. TE-062125

Applicant: Bureau of Land Management, Folsom, California.

The permittee requests an amendment to remove/reduce to possession (collect) *Calystegia stebbinsii* (Stebbins' morning-glory), *Ceanothus roderickii* (Pine Hill ceanothus), *Eriogonum apricum* var. *apricum* (Apricum Hill buckwheat), *Fremontodendron californicum* ssp. *decumbens* (Pine Hill flannelbush), *Galium californicum* ssp. *sierrae* (El Dorado bedstraw) in conjunction with research in Tuolumne, Amador, El Dorado, Nevada, and Yuba Counties, California, for the purpose of enhancing their survival.

Permit No. TE-077943

Applicant: Matthew Williams, San Diego, California.

The applicant requests a permit to take (survey by pursuit) the Quino checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha quino*) in conjunction with surveys throughout the range of the species in California for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

Permit No. TE-066621

Applicant: Point Mugu Naval Base, Point Mugu, California.

The permittee requests an amendment to remove/reduce to possession (collect seed, propagate, and outplant) *Cordylanthus maritimus* ssp. *maritimus* (salt marsh bird's-beak) in conjunction with a planting program in Ventura County, California, for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

Permit No. TE-078657

Applicant: Amanda J. Colombo, Livermore, California.

The applicant requests a permit to take (capture and mark) the San Francisco garter snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis tetrataenia*) and the Alameda whipsnake (*Masticophis lateralis euryxanthus*) in conjunction with monitoring, surveys, and scientific research throughout the range of each species for the purpose of enhancing their survival.

Permit No. TE-078712

Applicant: Kimberly Kindt, Palm Springs, California.

The applicant requests a permit to take (monitor nests) the least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), and take (harass by survey and monitor nests) the southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) in conjunction with demographic studies in Riverside County, California, for the purpose of enhancing their survival.

Permit No. TE-033365

Applicant: National Wildlife Health Center, Honolulu, Hawaii.

The permittee requests an amendment to take (capture, handle, mark, measure, collect biological samples, release, and recapture) the Nihoa millerbird (*Acrocephalus familiaris kingi*), nightingale reed warbler (*Acrocephalus luscini*), Mariana gray swiftlet (*Aerodramus vanikorensis bartschi*), Laysan duck (*Anas laysanensis*), Hawaiian duck or koloa (*Anas wyvilliana*), Hawaiian hawk or 'io (*Buteo solitarius*), Hawaiian crow or 'alala (*Corvus hawaiiensis*), Mariana crow (*Corvus kubaryi*), Hawaiian coot or 'alae ke'o ke'o (*Fulica americana alai*), Mariana moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus guami*), Hawaiian moorhen or 'alae'ula (*Gallinula chloropus sandvicensis*), Micronesian kingfisher (*Halcyon*

cinnamomina cinnamomina), Maui nukupu'u (*Hemignathus lucidus affinus*), Kauai nukupu'u (*Hemignathus lucidus hanapepe*), 'akiapola'au (*Hemignathus munroi*), Kauai 'akialoa (*Hemignathus procerus*), Hawaiian stilt or ae'o (*Himantopus mexicanus knudseni*), palila (*Loxioides bailleui*), Hawaii 'akepa (*Loxops coccineus coccineus*), Maui 'akepa (*Loxops coccineus ochraceus*), Micronesian megapode (*Megapodius laperouse*), po'ouli (*Melamprosops phaeosoma*), Kauai 'o'o (*Moho braccatus*), Tinian monarch (*Monarcha takatsukasae*), Molokai solitaire or oloma'o (*Myadestes lanaiensis rutha*), large Kauai solitaire or kama'o (*Myadestes myadesinus*), small Kauai solitaire or puaiohi (*Myadestes palmeri*), Hawaiian goose or nene (*Nesochen sandvicensis*), Hawaii creeper (*Oreomystis mana*), crested honeycreeper or 'akohekohe (*Palmeria dolei*), Molokai creeper or kakawahie (*Paroreomyza flammea*), Oahu creeper or 'alauahia (*Paroreomyza maculata*), Maui parrotbill (*Pseudonestor xanthophrys*), 'o'u (*Psittirostra psittacea*), Hawaiian petrel or 'ua'u (*Pterodroma phaeopygia sandwichensis*), Newell's shearwater (*Puffinus auricularis*), Guam rail (*Rallus owstoni*), Laysan finch (*Telespiza cantans*), Nihoa finch (*Telespiza ultima*), bridled white-eye (*Zosterops conspicillatus*), Hawaiian hoary bat or ope'ape'a (*Lasiurus cinereus semotus*), Mariana fruit bat (*Pteropus mariannus mariannus*), and the Green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) for evaluation of injury and/or disease, to determine epidemiologic trends, and to assist other permitted biologists in broader ecological studies in the Hawaiian Islands; Midway, Johnston, Wake, Palmyra, and Kingman Reef Atolls; Howland, Baker, and Jarvis Islands; Guam; American Samoa; the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and the Republic of Palau for the purpose of enhancing their survival. All of these activities for these species were previously authorized under subpermit BRDVET-3.

Permit No. TE-837010

Applicant: Bruce Koebele, Wai'anae, Hawai'i.

The permittee requests an amendment to remove/reduce to possession (collect and propagate) *Achyranthes splendens* var. *rotundata* (round-leaved chaff-flower) and *Chamaesyce skottsbergii* var. *kalaeloana* ('Ewa Plains 'akoko) in conjunction with site rehabilitation in O'ahu, Hawai'i, for the purpose of enhancing their survival.

Permit No. TE-062121

Applicant: Ryan Young, Carlsbad, California.

The permittee requests an amendment to take (harass by survey) the Conservancy fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta conservatio*), the longhorn fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta longiantenna*), the Riverside fairy shrimp (*Streptocephalus wootoni*), the San Diego fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta sandiegonensis*), the vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardii*), and to 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-068799

Applicant: Mikael Romich, San Bernardino, California.

The permittee requests an amendment to take (monitor nests, video monitor, and band) the least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) in conjunction with demographic studies in Riverside, San Bernardino, Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, and Ventura Counties, California, for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

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

Dated: November 13, 2003.

Cynthia U. Barry,

Acting Deputy Regional Director, Region 1, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 03-29870 Filed 12-1-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Land Management**

[AK-931-1310-DQ-NPRA]

Notice of Availability of the Northwest National Petroleum Reserve—Alaska Final Integrated Activity Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The Northwest National Petroleum Reserve—Alaska (NPR-A) Final Integrated Activity Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement (IAP/ EIS) will be made available to the public for a 30-day period beginning on the date the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) files a Notice of Availability of the Final IAP/EIS in the **Federal Register**. The EPA notice is expected to be filed on or about

November 28, 2003. A Record of Decision (ROD) will be issued after the 30-day availability period. The ROD will identify the selected alternative as well as mitigation measures.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has worked closely with the North Slope Borough and the State of Alaska in developing the Final IAP/EIS. The Minerals Management Service of the Department of the Interior has also assisted the BLM in developing the document.

ADDRESSES: The Final IAP/EIS will be available in either hard copy or on compact disk at the Alaska State Office, Public Information Center at 222 West 7th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7599. Copies of the Final IAP/EIS will also be available at the following locations: Tuzzy Public Library, Barrow, Alaska; City of Nuiqsut, Nuiqsut, Alaska; City of Atkasuk, Atkasuk, Alaska; City of Anaktuvuk, Pass, Anaktuvuk Pass, Alaska; City of Wainwright, Wainwright, Alaska; and City of Point Lay, Point Lay, Alaska.

The Final IAP/EIS will also be available on BLM's Web site at <http://www.ak.blm.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Curt Wilson, BLM Alaska State Office, (907) 271-5546.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Planning Area boundary encompasses approximately 9.4 million acres located in the northwestern portion of the NPR-A. Within the 9.4 million acre Planning Area are approximately 8.8 million acres of federal surface and 9.1 million acres of federal subsurface estate. The Planning Area is roughly bounded on the east by the Ikpikpuk River. The southern boundary extends along a portion of the Colville River and then proceeds along township and section lines in a "stair-step" fashion to the northwestern corner of the NPR-A at Icy Cape on the Arctic Ocean. The northern boundary from Icy Cape to the mouth of the Ikpikpuk River follows the Arctic Ocean coastline encompassing the bays, lagoons, inlets, and tidal waters between the NPR-A's outlying islands and the mainland. The Final IAP/EIS addresses three primary questions regarding management of the Northwest portion of the NPR-A. First, what lands, if any, will be made available for oil and gas leasing? Second, what measures will BLM use to protect important surface resources during oil and gas exploration and development activities? Third, what non-oil and gas land use allocations should BLM consider for the Northwest portion of the NPR-A?

The release of the Final IAP/EIS concludes a planning and

environmental analysis process for the Northwest portion of the NPR-A which started in November, 2002. A Draft IAP/ EIS was made available for a 60-day comment period on January 17, 2003. Scoping and comment meetings on the Draft IAP/EIS were held in Nuiqsut, Atkasuk, Barrow, Wainwright, Point Lay, Fairbanks, and Anchorage. The Planning Area provides particularly important habitat for caribou, waterfowl, and other species. Many of the local residents of the area rely on harvesting these resources for subsistence purposes. Ensuring adequate protection of these resources has been one of the main focuses of public comment. The BLM held public hearings on subsistence in conjunction with the public meetings held on the Draft IAP/EIS.

The Final IAP/EIS describes the Preferred Alternative which was developed in consideration of more than 96,000 public comments on the four alternatives included in the Draft IAP/ EIS. All the significant elements of the Preferred Alternative were included in one or more of the alternatives presented in the Draft IAP/EIS.

Under the Preferred Alternative, all 9.1 million acres of BLM administered subsurface estate within the Planning Area would be available for oil and gas leasing. No areas would be recommended as Wilderness Study Areas or Wild and Scenic Rivers. Leasing, however, would be deferred for 10 years in the western portion of the Planning Area, which encompasses approximately 1,570,000 acres. The Preferred Alternative also recommends the Kasegaluk Lagoon and adjacent lands for designation as a Special Area and prohibits permanent oil and gas facilities within this 102,000-acre proposed Special Area. Under the Preferred Alternative, setbacks have been established prohibiting permanent facilities within 1/4 to 1 mile along major rivers, deep water lakes and coastal areas to protect subsistence resources/activities and other important surface resources. Multi-year studies are required prior to development to protect spectacled and Steller's eiders, yellow-billed loons, brant and caribou. Other stipulations and required operating procedures establish restrictions and guidance that apply to waste prevention and spills, water use, winter overland moves and seismic activity, exploratory drilling, aircraft use and subsistence consultation.

The no action alternative calls for continuation of current management, and no leasing would occur. Alternatives A through C make progressively less land, especially