

(4) New Business.

Working Groups Meeting. The tentative agenda for the working groups meeting includes the following:

(1) Presentation by each working group of its accomplishments and plans for the future.

(2) Review and discuss the work completed by each working group.

Procedural

Working groups have been formed to examine the following issues: dredging and related issues, electronic navigation systems, AtoN knockdowns, impact of passing vessels on moored ships, boater education issues, facilitating deep draft movements and mooring infrastructure. Not all working groups will provide a report at this session. Further, working group reports may not necessarily include discussions on all issues within the particular working group's area of responsibility. All meetings are open to the public. Please note that the meetings may adjourn early if all business is finished. Members of the public may make presentations, oral or written, at either meeting. Requests to make oral or written presentations should reach the Coast Guard 5 working days before the meeting at which the presentation will be made. If you would like to have written materials distributed to each member of the committee in advance of the meeting, you should send your request along with 15 copies of the materials to the Coast Guard at least 10 working days before the meeting at which the presentation will be made.

Information on Services for the Handicapped

For information on facilities or services for the handicapped or to request special assistance at the meetings, contact the Executive Director, Executive Secretary, or assistant to the Executive Secretary as soon as possible.

Dated: December 30, 2003.

J.W. Stark,

Captain, U.S. Coast Guard, Acting Commander, 8th Coast Guard Dist.

[FR Doc. 04-588 Filed 1-12-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**Coast Guard**

[USCG-2003-16575]

Protection of Migratory Birds; Memorandum of Understanding

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: As required by Executive Order 13186, the Coast Guard gives notice that it has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to promote the conservation of migratory bird populations in the context of the Rescue 21 Program on May 22, 2003. The MOU obligates the Coast Guard to consider its actions that might have substantial adverse impact on migratory birds and it requires the Coast Guard to incorporate certain specific concerns for migratory birds into its day-to-day decision-making.

DATES: The memorandum of understanding was signed by the Coast Guard on May 22, 2003.

ADDRESSES: A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding and Executive Order 13186 are available in the docket for this notice, USCG-2003-16575, in the Docket Management Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001, and online at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have questions on this notice, call LT Curtis Borland, Office of Environmental Law, Coast Guard, telephone (202) 267-6000. If you have questions about viewing material in the docket, call Andrea M. Jenkins, Program Manager, Docket Operations, telephone (202) 366-0271.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A copy of Executive Order 13186 of January 10, 2001, Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds, and the Memorandum of Understanding the Coast Guard has developed and implemented with the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of Interior in the context of the Rescue 21 Program in response to this Order are available in the docket where indicated under **ADDRESSES**.

Rescue 21 is the name of the Coast Guard program to modernize the current National Distress System (NDS) which includes installing state-of-the-art, dual mode VHF/UHF telecommunications technology and deploying it at either existing NDS antenna tower sites, leased space on existing commercial tower sites, or new antenna tower sites. The NDS is the nation's maritime search and rescue "911" system and forms the backbone of the Coast Guard's Short Range Communication System. The NDS incorporates the use of very high frequency-frequency modulation (VHF-FM) radios to provide two-way voice communications coverage for the majority of USCG missions in coastal

areas and navigable waterways where commercial and recreational traffic exists. The current NDS system is outdated and suffers from technological obsolescence. The system was intended to provide coverage extending out approximately 20 nautical miles from the shore of the United States. Currently, there are more than 65 verified communications gaps and numerous localized coverage deficiencies.

Rescue 21 is an advanced search and rescue communications system that helps the Coast Guard to more effectively locate and assist boaters in distress. Rescue 21 will greatly improve the Coast Guard's ability to detect and locate the source of distress calls, eliminate known radio coverage gaps, and enhance Coast Guard command and control capabilities across all other missions, such as homeland security, environmental protection and law enforcement. Rescue 21 is designed to save lives in the 21st century.

Dated: December 10, 2003.

Erroll Brown,

Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard, Assistant Commandant for Systems.

[FR Doc. 04-591 Filed 1-12-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-4909-N-01]

Notice of Proposed Information Collection for Public Comment on the Evaluation of the Welfare to Work Voucher Program, Follow-on Survey Data Collection

AGENCY: Office of Policy Development and Research, HUD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The proposed information collection requirement described below will be 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.

DATES: Comments Due Date: March 15, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments regarding this proposal. Comments should refer to the proposal by name and should be sent to: Reports Liaison Officer, Office of Policy Development and Research, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street, SW., Room 8226, Washington, DC 20410.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul Dornan at 202-708-0614 ext. 4486 for copies of the proposed data collection instruments and other available documents.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department will submit the proposed information collection to OMB for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended).

The Notice is soliciting comments from members of the public and affecting agencies concerning the proposed collection of information to:

- (1) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- (2) Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information;
- (3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected;
- and (4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond; including through the use of appropriate automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

This Notice also lists the following information:

Title of Proposal: Evaluation of the Welfare to Work Voucher Program, Follow-on Survey Data Collection.

Description of the need for the information and proposed use: The fundamental goal of this evaluation is to assess the impacts of receiving a Welfare to Work voucher on improving the housing locations of families with children, on their obtaining and retaining employment, on their levels of welfare dependency, and on the well-being of their children. To assess these

program impacts, a large body of data has been collected from a variety of administrative sources, and additional information will be collected using the follow-on survey.

The evaluation assesses impacts in five primary areas that may be affected by receiving a housing voucher:

- Housing assistance and services;
- Employment and earnings;
- Income, benefits, and food security;
- Housing mobility and neighborhood environment; and
- Household composition, family, and child well being.

It is important to distinguish between the analysis that will be conducted using administrative files and Census data and the analysis that requires follow-on survey data. Many of the outcomes of interest can be measured only through participant surveys. These survey-measured outcomes include important dimensions of adult and child well-being, such as receipt of education and training, family health, children's educational outcomes, household composition and family formation, and families' satisfaction with their neighborhoods. Participant surveys also allow researchers to investigate details about the employment experience not available from administrative records including job quality (hours worked per week, hourly wages, fringe benefits); job location; methods of job search; and barriers to employment.

The proposed survey data collection will offer powerful new evidence concerning the effects of tenant-based rental assistance on the self-sufficiency and well being of low-income families.

The experimental design used in the evaluation enables one to draw rigorous inferences about the effects of housing vouchers on family well-being, independent of all other factors affecting the lives of program participants. Random assignment serves to assure

that the treatment and control groups are well matched on both observed and unobserved characteristics at the time of their entry into the study. It thus establishes the strongest possible foundation for understanding whether housing vouchers can assist welfare families in achieving greater financial independence or otherwise improving their lives.

This study and its survey component are especially timely in light of federal and state changes in welfare policies over the past decade, reducing the numbers of families eligible for public assistance and limiting the time period over which they can receive benefits. Housing vouchers may help low-income families become employed and may also help them meet financial needs as they transition from welfare.

The planned follow-on survey, in conjunction with an analysis of outcomes derived from Census data and administrative sources, will capture the experiences of treatment and control group members over a period of approximately four years. A follow-up interval of this length is important to measuring the impact of vouchers, as the typical length of stay in vouchers is three years, and the effects of a voucher on family well-being may take time to emerge.

Members of affected public: Individuals and households that applied to participate in the Welfare-to-Work voucher program in the six evaluation sites (Atlanta and Augusta, Georgia; Fresno and Los Angeles, California; Houston, Texas; and Spokane, Washington) will be interviewed as part of this data collection effort.

Estimation of the total numbers of hours needed to prepare the information collection including number of respondents, frequency of response, and hours of response:

Interview respondent	Number of respondents	Time to complete (minutes)	Frequency (per respondent)	Total burden (hours)
Adult head of core household	3,900	30	1	1,950
Adult head of core household, responses regarding 2 children	2,613	7	2	610
Adult head of core household, responses regarding 1 children	1,170	7	1	137
Total	3,900	41	1	2,697

States of the proposed information collection: Pending OMB approval.

Authority: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended.

Dated: January 2, 2004.

Darlene F. Williams,

General Deputy, Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research.

[FR Doc. 04-606 Filed 1-12-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210-62-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Issuance of Permit for Incidental Take of Threatened Species for the Struthers Ranch Property, El Paso County, Colorado

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of issuance of permit for incidental take of threatened species.

SUMMARY: On July 3, 2003, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (68 FR 39962) that an application had been filed with the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) by the Struthers Ranch Development, LLC, for a permit to incidentally take Preble's meadow jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius preblei*), pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act) (16 U.S.C. 1539), as amended. The "Environmental Assessment/Habitat Conservation Plan for Issuance of an Endangered Species Section 10(a)(1)(B) Permit for the Incidental Take of the Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse (*Zapus hudsonius preblei*) for the Struthers Ranch Property in El Paso County, Colorado" accompanied the permit application.

Notice is hereby given that on December 12, 2003, as authorized by the provisions of the Act, the Service issued a permit (TE-073390-0) to the above named party subject to certain conditions set forth therein. The permit was granted only after the Service determined that it was applied for in good faith, that granting the permit will not be to the disadvantage of the threatened species, and that it will be consistent with the purposes and policy set forth in the Act.

Additional information on this permit action may be requested by contacting the Colorado Field Office, 755 Parfet Street, Suite 361, Lakewood, Colorado 80215, telephone (303) 275-2370, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

Dated: December 29, 2003.

Ralph O. Morgenweck,

Regional Director, Region 6.

[FR Doc. 04-630 Filed 1-12-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Draft Environmental Assessment and Habitat Conservation Plan and Receipt of Application for an Incidental Take Permit for Livermore Area in Larimer County, CO

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability and receipt of application.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the Livermore Area Landowners Group, The Nature Conservancy and the State of Colorado (Applicants) have applied to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for an incidental take permit pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended. The proposed permit would authorize the incidental take of the Preble's meadow jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius preblei*) (Preble's), federally listed as threatened, through loss and modification of its habitat associated with development of new agricultural and residential structures and ongoing agricultural activities in the Livermore Area of northern Larimer County, Colorado. The duration of the permit would be 30 years from the date of issuance.

We announce the receipt of the Applicant's incidental take permit application, which includes an Environmental Assessment (EA) and the Livermore Area Habitat Conservation Plan (LAHCP) for the Preble's in the Livermore Area of Larimer County, Colorado. The proposed EA and LAHCP are available for public review and comment. They fully describe the proposed project and the measures the Applicants would undertake to minimize and mitigate project impacts to the Preble's.

The Service requests comments on the EA and LAHCP and associated documents for the proposed issuance of the incidental take permit. All comments on the EA and permit application will become part of the administrative record and will be available to the public. We provide this notice pursuant to section 10(a) of the Act and National Environmental Policy Act regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

DATES: Written comments on the permit application, EA and LAHCP should be received on or before March 15, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Comments regarding the permit application, EA, and LAHCP should be addressed to Mary Henry, Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 25486, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225-0486. (Street location is 134 Union Boulevard, Lakewood, Colorado 80228-1807). Comments also may be submitted by facsimile to (303) 236-0027.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bob McCue, Ecological Services Program Supervisor (South), telephone (303) 236-7400, extension 252.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Document Availability

Individuals wishing copies of the EA and LAHCP and associated documents for review should immediately contact the above office. Documents also will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

Background

Section 9 of the Act and Federal regulations prohibit the "take" of a species listed as endangered or threatened. Take is defined under the Act, in part, as to kill, harm, or harass a federally listed species. However, the Service may issue permits to authorize "incidental take" of listed species under limited circumstances. Incidental take is defined under the Act as take of a listed species that is incidental to, and not the purpose of, the carrying out of an otherwise lawful activity under limited circumstances. Regulations governing permits for threatened species are promulgated in 50 CFR 17.32.

The Livermore Planning Area encompasses 114,634 hectares (283,266 acres) of land utilized primarily for agricultural purposes with a limited amount proposed for development. The applicants are making participation in the LAHCP available to all landowners within the Livermore Planning Area who voluntarily agree to participate. Within the planning area, the LAHCP proposes a 8,626.3-hectare (21,316-acre) conservation zone (CZ) consisting of corridors along 323.5 kilometers (201 miles) of streams.

The applicants have determined that the activities covered by the LAHCP could impact 1,358.4 hectares (3,356.7 acres) of Preble's habitat along 46.3 stream kilometers (28.8 stream miles), if all lands containing potential Preble's habitat within the CZ of the planning area are enrolled in the LAHCP. The