

Permit No.: TE-092476

Applicant: Scott Quinnell, Yucaipa, 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-091462

Applicant: Karen Drewe, Irvine, California.

The applicant requests a permit to take (harass by survey) 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-090990

Applicant: The Catalina Island Conservancy, Avalon, California.

The applicant requests a permit to take (harass by survey, capture, handle, measure, sex, insert passive integrated transponder tags, radio-collar, vaccinate, administer veterinary medical treatments, captive propagate, collect blood and fecal samples, transport, and release) the Santa Catalina Island fox (*Urocyon littoralis catalinae*; fox) in conjunction with scientific research on the fox and feral cats, and feral goat and pig removal on Santa Catalina Island, California, for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

Permit No.: TE-093151

Applicant: Richard Rivas, Fair Oaks, California.

The applicant requests a permit to take (capture and collect and sacrifice) 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*), and the vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardii*) in conjunction with surveys throughout California for the purpose of enhancing their survival.

Permit No.: TE-092469

Applicant: Ingrid Chlup, Santa Ana, California.

The applicant requests a permit to take (capture and collect and sacrifice) 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), and the vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardii*) in conjunction with surveys in southern California for the purpose of enhancing their survival.

Permit No.: TE-093150

Applicant: Melissa Olson, Murrieta, 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-093149

Applicant: Dean Blinn, Flagstaff, Arizona.

The applicant requests a permit to take (collect) the Amargosa pupfish (*Cyprinodon nevadensis*) in conjunction with research in Nye County, Nevada, for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

Permit No.: TE-080774

Applicant: U.S. Mendocino National Forest, Arcata, California.

The permittee requests an amendment to take (collect tissue, use video cameras in burrows, and excavate burrows to locate dead beavers) the Point Arena Mountain Beaver (*Aplodontia rufa nigra*) in conjunction with scientific research in Mendocino County, California, for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

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

Dated: September 15, 2004.

John Engbring,

Acting Manager, California/Nevada Operations Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 04-21823 Filed 9-28-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service**

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Document for Issuance of an Incidental Take Permit Associated With a Habitat Conservation Plan at the Fort Ord Military Installation, Monterey County, CA

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42

U.S.C. 4321, *et seq.*), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) advises the public that we intend to perform a scoping process to gather information necessary to help develop a NEPA document and determine whether to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the proposed Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for the former Fort Ord Federal military installation in Monterey County, California. The decision to prepare an EIS or EA is, in part, contingent upon the complexity of issues identified during and following the scoping phase of the NEPA process. The proposed Fort Ord HCP is being prepared in compliance with the Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA) (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

The HCP is meant to support the issuance of incidental take permits to the Fort Ord Reuse Authority (FORA), State Parks, University of California at Santa Cruz, California State University at Monterey Bay, and the County of Monterey (the Applicants) from the Service under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA and from the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) under section 2081 of the California Fish and Game Code in compliance with the California Endangered Species Act (CESA).

We provide this notice to:

- (1) Advise other Federal and State agencies, affected tribes, and the public of our intent to prepare an EA or an EIS;
- (2) Announce the initiation of a 30-day public scoping period; and
- (3) Obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues and alternatives to be considered in the scoping process.

DATES: Public scoping meetings will be held on: Wednesday, October 13, 2004, from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Written comments should be received on or before October 29, 2004.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held in the FORA Conference Facility/Bridge Center, 13th Street, Building 2925, Marina, CA 93933. Information, written comments, or questions related to the preparation of the EA or EIS and the NEPA process should be submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office, 2493 Portola Road, Suite B, Ventura, California 93003; or FAX (805) 644-1766.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Diane Steeck at the above Ventura address, or at (805) 644-1766.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Reasonable Accommodation

Persons needing reasonable accommodations in order to attend and participate in the public meeting should contact Marilyn Bishop of the Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office at 805-644-1766 as soon as possible. In order to allow sufficient time to process requests, please call no later than 1 week before the public meeting. Information regarding this proposed action is available in alternative formats upon request.

Background

The Former Fort Ord

The former Fort Ord military installation spans 28,000 acres near the cities of Seaside, Sand City, Monterey, Del Rey Oaks and Marina in Monterey County, California. Fort Ord was established in 1917 as a training for infantry troops. It was expanded for use as a maneuver and training ground for field artillery and cavalry troops stationed at the Presidio of Monterey. The 1991 Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission recommended that Fort Ord be closed. The base was closed in September 1994.

Closure, disposal and reuse of former Fort Ord required consultation between the U.S. Department of the Army (Army) and the Service under section 7 of the ESA because the Army's actions potentially affected several species listed as threatened or endangered or proposed for listing under the ESA. As a result of that consultation, the Service issued a biological opinion on October 19, 1993, and subsequent biological and conference opinions in 1997, 1999, and 2002, finding that no jeopardy to federally listed plant and animal species or plants and animals proposed for listing would result from the Army's actions. A key provision of the Army's project description was the development and implementation of a habitat management plan (HMP) to minimize incidental take of listed species and their habitat and to mitigate for impacts to vegetation and wildlife resources resulting from the Army's actions. In the 1993 biological opinion, the Service also recommended that the Army's HMP consider all proposed and candidate species for Federal listing and other special-status species.

In response to this requirement, the Army developed the HMP with input from Federal, State, and local agencies and organizations concerned with the natural resources and reuse of Fort Ord. The Service, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), CDFG, the California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks), the University

of California (UC), the Fort Ord Reuse Authority (FORA) and other members of the local Monterey Bay area community were all active participants in the development of the HMP. The HMP thus describes a cooperative Federal, State, and local conservation program for plant and animal species and habitats of concern known to occur at Fort Ord.

The HMP's conservation program establishes land use categories and habitat management requirements for all lands on the former base. Developable lands and habitats reserve areas are defined along with habitat corridors and restricted development areas. Resources conservation and management requirements are described and responsible parties for each designated habitat area on the former base are identified.

While the conservation program established by the HMP is intended to be a comprehensive program for the former base, it stems from an agreement between the Army and the Service and does not exempt other landowners (existing or future) of transferred property from ESA section 9 prohibitions against take of listed species or from compliance with the provisions of CESA. Under the ESA, the following activities are defined as take: harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture or collect listed animal species, or attempt to engage in such conduct (16 U.S.C. 1538). However, the HMP was also produced with the intent of benefiting all parties involved in the reuse of the former base by establishing a basis for regulatory compliance for other landowners of transferred property. The HMP was intended to serve as the basis for the proposed HCP and to support the possible issuance of incidental take permits under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA to non-Federal land recipients.

Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)

The Service has recommended that all non-Federal entities acquiring lands at the former Fort Ord apply for section 10(a)(1)(B) incidental take permits for all species covered in the HMP (Covered Species). In addition, CDFG requires non-Federal entities to obtain incidental take permits pursuant to section 2081 of the California Fish and Game Code if State-listed species will be taken. Seven animal species that are either listed, candidates, or designated species of concern are proposed Covered Species under the HCP, including: Smith's blue butterfly (*Euphilotes enoptes smithi*), California linderiella (*Linderiella occidentalis*), California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytoni*), California tiger

salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*), California black legless lizard (*Anniella pulchra nigra*), Western snowy plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*), and Monterey ornate shrew (*Sorex ornatus salarius*). Eleven plant species that are either listed, candidate, or species of concern are also proposed Covered Species under the HCP, including: Sand gilia (*Gilia tenuiflora* ssp. *arenaria*), Monterey spineflower (*Chorizanthe pungens* var. *pungens*), Robust spineflower (*Chorizanthe robusta* var. *robusta*), Seaside bird's-beak (*Cordylanthus rigidus* var. *littoralis*), Toro manzanita (*Arctostaphylos montereyensis*), Sandmat manzanita (*Arctostaphylos pumila*), Monterey ceanothus (*Ceanothus cuneatus* var. *rigidus*), Eastwood's ericameria (*Ericameria fasciculata*), Coast wallflower (*Erysimum ammophilum*), Yadon's piperia (*Piperia yadoni*), and Hooker's manzanita (*Arctostaphylos hookeri*). To apply for such permits, applicants must submit a conservation plan along with their applications. The HCP, integrating key components of the HMP with additional elements required of an HCP (pursuant to 50 CFR 17.22(b)) is being prepared to provide a stand-alone HCP that is satisfactory to the Service and CDFG.

Incidental take of Covered Species is proposed to occur as the former base is redeveloped consistent with the HCP. The proposed activities covered in the draft HCP include rehabilitation and construction of roads, utilities and other infrastructure to support new research/educational, residential, commercial, light industrial, recreational and other development, generating approximately 18,000 jobs. Management activities on non-federal lands such as weed control, fencing, and burning will also be included as proposed covered activities in the HCP. About 12,000 housing units are anticipated to be constructed on the former base supporting a population of about 37,000 people. To accommodate this growth and development, up to 6,000 acres of existing habitat on the former base will be removed. However, the base-wide program for habitat preservation and management of approximately 17,600 acres of lands on former Fort Ord is intended to minimize and fully mitigate losses to Covered Species and their habitats that would result from base redevelopment. The requested permit term is 50 years.

NEPA Document

The EA or EIS will consider the proposed action, the issuance of a section 10(a)(1)(B) permit under the Act, and a reasonable range of alternatives. A detailed description of the impacts of

the proposed action and each alternative will be included in the EA or EIS. Several alternatives, including a No Action Alternative, will be considered and analyzed, representing varying levels of conservation, impacts, and permit area configurations. The No Action alternative means that the Service would not issue a section 10(a)(1)(B) permit.

The EA or EIS will identify potentially significant direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts on biological resources, land use, air quality, water quality, water resources, economics, and other environmental issues that could occur with the implementation of the Service's proposed actions and alternatives. For all potentially significant impacts, the EA or EIS will identify avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures to reduce these impacts where feasible, to a level below significance. Where possible, we intend to incorporate by reference applicable sections from existing documents, such as the Army's 1993 EIS and 1996 Supplemental EIS on Fort Ord disposal and reuse.

Review of this project will be conducted in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), NEPA regulations (40 CFR parts 1500-1508) found at (<http://www.legal.gsa.gov>), other appropriate Federal laws, and Service policies and

procedures for compliance with those regulations. This notice is being furnished in accordance with 40 CFR 1501.7 of NEPA to obtain suggestions and information from other agencies and the public on the scope of issues and alternatives to be addressed in the EA or EIS. The primary purpose of the scoping process is to identify important issues raised by the public, related to the proposed action. Written comments from interested parties are welcome to ensure that the full range of issues related to the permit request is identified. Written comments are encouraged, and we will accept written comments at the public meetings. In addition, you may submit written comments by mail or facsimile transmission (*see ADDRESSES*). All comments received, including names and addresses, will become part of the official administrative record and may be made available to the public.

Dated: September 21, 2004.

Ron Cole,

Deputy Manager, California/Nevada Operations Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 04-21813 Filed 9-28-04; 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 issuance of permits for marine mammals.

SUMMARY: The following permits were issued.

ADDRESSES: 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 to: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203; fax (703) 358-2281.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Division of Management Authority, telephone (703) 358-2104.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given that on the dates below, as authorized by the provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361, *et seq.*), the Fish and Wildlife Service issued the requested permit(s) subject to certain conditions set forth therein.

Marine Mammals

Permit number	Applicant	Receipt of application Federal Register notice	Permit issuance date
086649	Philip A. Teel	69 FR 30715; May 28, 2004	August 5, 2004
089464	Randy C. Brooks	69 FR 40965; July 7, 2004	September 7, 2004

Dated: September 17, 2004.

Monica Farris,

Senior Permit Biologist, Branch of Permits, Division of Management Authority.

[FR Doc. 04-21783 Filed 9-28-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Gulf of Mexico Regional Panel Meeting

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a meeting of the Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Task Force Gulf of Mexico Regional Panel. The meeting topics are identified in the

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.

DATES: The Gulf of Mexico Regional Panel will meet from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday, November 8, 2004, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, November 9, 2004, and 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Wednesday, November 10, 2004.

Minutes of the meeting will be available for public inspection during regular business hours, Monday through Friday.

ADDRESSES: The Gulf of Mexico Regional Panel meeting will be held at the Palace Resort and Hotel, 158 Howard Avenue, Biloxi, MS 39530. Phone 228-432-8888. Minutes of the meeting will be maintained in the office of Chief, Division of Environmental Quality, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Suite 322, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22203-1622.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ron Lukens, Gulf of Mexico Panel Chair, Assistant Director, Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, PO Box 726, Ocean Springs, MS 39566, 228-875-

5912, or Everett Wilson, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at 703-358-2148.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. app. I), this notice announces meetings of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Gulf of Mexico Regional Panel. The Task Force was established by the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990. The Gulf of Mexico Regional Panel was established by the ANS Task Force in 1999 and is comprised of representatives from Federal, State, and local agencies and from private environmental and commercial interests.

The purpose of the Panel is to advise and make recommendations to the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force on issues relating to the Gulf of Mexico region of the United States that includes: Alabama, Florida, Louisiana,