

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service****Availability of Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge, Dugway, UT**

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announces that a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and Summary for Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge is available. This CCP, prepared pursuant to the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, describes how the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service intends to manage this Refuge for the next 15 years.

ADDRESSES: A copy of the Plan or Summary may be obtained by writing to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge, PO Box 568, Dugway, Utah, 84022; or download from <http://mountain-prairie.fws.gov/planning>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jay Banta, Refuge Manager, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge, PO Box 568, Dugway, Utah, 84022. Phone 435-831-5353; fax 435-831-5354; or e-mail: jay_banta@fws.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), comprised of 17,992 acres, is located in western Utah in Juab County. Springs flowing from the eastern base of the Fish Springs Range feed a 10,000-acre saline marsh divided into nine impoundments. The remaining portion comprises 6,000 acres of mud and alkali flat and 2,000 acres of semidesert upland. The Refuge provides the only important wetland habitat for a 70-mile radius, attracting hundreds of wetland-dependent species during migration. Since Refuge establishment, more than 278 species of birds have been seen at Fish Springs NWR, 61 of which nest on the Refuge. Fish Springs NWR was established by the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission in 1959 “* * * for use as an inviolate sanctuary, or for any other management purpose, for migratory birds.”

The availability of the Draft CCP and Environmental Assessment (EA) for 30-day public review and comment was announced in the **Federal Register** on July 20, 2004 in Volume 69, Number 138. The Draft CCP/EA identified and evaluated three alternatives for

managing Fish Springs NWR for the next 15 years. Alternative A, the No Action Alternative, would have continued current management of the Refuge. Alternative C (Preferred Alternative) emphasizes providing habitat for maximum wildlife diversity including migratory birds, and native mammal, mollusk, invertebrate, and amphibian communities. Alternative B, Marsh Restoration, would have restored the Refuge's original hydrological system and high-desert shrubland habitat to a condition resembling their historical nature prior to Refuge development.

Based on this assessment and comments received, the preferred Alternative C was selected for implementation. The preferred alternative was selected because it best meets the purpose and goals of the Refuge, as well as the goals of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The preferred alternative will also benefit migratory birds and native mammal, mollusk, invertebrate, and amphibian communities. Increased efforts in visitor services and the addition of a goose hunt will result in improved wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities. Cultural and historical resources will be protected.

Dated: September 1, 2004.

Mary G. Henry,

Regional Director, Region 6, Denver, Colorado.

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BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service****Southern Conservation Corporation's Candidate Conservation Agreement With Assurances and Enhancement of Survival Permit Application for the Greater Adams Cave Beetle and Lesser Adams Cave Beetle**

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: We, the Fish and Wildlife Service, have received an application from Southern Conservation Corporation (Applicant) for an enhancement of survival permit (ESP) pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), as amended (Act). With our assistance, the Applicant proposes to implement conservation measures for the greater Adams Cave beetle (*Pseudanophthalmus pholeter*) and lesser Adams Cave beetle

(*Pseudanophthalmus cataryctos*), collectively known as the “the covered species,” by removing the threats to the survival of these species and protecting their habitat. We are announcing our receipt of the ESP application as well as the availability of a proposed Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) that is intended to facilitate the implementation of conservation measures for the species by the Applicant and the Service in support of on-going efforts to remove threats to their survival and provide protection of their habitat.

DATES: Written comments on the CCAA and ESP application should be sent to the Service's Regional Office (see **ADDRESSES**) and should be received on or before November 3, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the CCAA and ESP application may obtain copies by writing the Service's Southeast Regional Office, Atlanta, Georgia at the address below. Documents will also be available for public inspection by appointment during normal business hours at the Regional Office, 1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 200, Atlanta, Georgia 30345 (Attn: Endangered Species Permits), or Field Supervisor, Fish and Wildlife Service, 3761 Georgetown Road, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601. Written data or comments concerning the CCAA or ESP application should be submitted to the Regional Office at the address listed above and must be submitted in writing to be adequately considered in the Service's decision-making process. Please reference permit number TE-088168-0 in your comments, or in requests of the documents discussed herein.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Rick Gooch, Regional CCAA Coordinator, (see **ADDRESSES** above), telephone: (404) 679-7124, facsimile: (404) 679-7081; or Dr. Michael Floyd, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, Kentucky Field Office, Frankfort, Kentucky (see **ADDRESSES** above), telephone: (502) 695-0468.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Public Review and Comments Solicited**

Individuals wishing copies of the ESP application and/or copies of the full text of the proposed Agreement should contact the office and personnel listed in the **ADDRESSES** section above. Documents also will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at this office (see **ADDRESSES**). We provide this notice pursuant to section 10(c) of the Act and pursuant to implementing regulations for the National