

**Applicant: Ana E. Hiott, Norman, Oklahoma, TE140941-0**

The applicant requests authorization to take (capture, release, translocate) the American burying beetle (*Nicrophorus americanus*) while conducting presence/absence surveys and relocation activities. The activities would occur throughout the species range in Arkansas and Oklahoma.

**Applicant: Big Cypress National Preserve, Deborah Kay Jansen, Ochopee, Florida, TE141818-0**

The applicant requests authorization to take (capture, release, transport, chemically immobilize, hold temporarily, radio collar, take tissue and blood samples, provide medical treatment, release) the Florida panther (*Puma concolor coryi*) while maintaining a healthy panther population, assessing the habitat potential to support panthers, monitoring the effects of the genetic restoration project, and making sound management decisions regarding the increasing recreational demands on the resources as well as the proposed restoration projects affecting the Big Cypress National Preserve. The proposed activities would occur on the Big Cypress National Preserve, Collier, Dade, and Monroe Counties, Florida.

Dated: December 19, 2006.

**Cynthia Dohner,**

*Acting Regional Director.*

[FR Doc. E7-2752 Filed 2-15-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Fish and Wildlife Service****Endangered and Threatened Species Permit Applications**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of receipt of applications.

**SUMMARY:** The following applicants have applied for scientific research permits to conduct certain activities with endangered species pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, written comments must be received on or before March 19, 2007.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be submitted to the Chief, Endangered Species Division, Ecological Services, P.O. Box 1306, Room 4102, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103. 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. Documents will be available for public inspection, by appointment only, during normal business hours at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 500 Gold Ave., SW., Room 4102, Albuquerque, New Mexico. 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:** Chief, Endangered Species Division, P.O. Box 1306, Room 4102, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103, (505) 248-6920.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Permit No. TE-141246**

*Applicant:* Canyon de Chelly, Chinle, Arizona. Applicant requests a new permit for research and recovery purposes to conduct presence/absence surveys for the southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) within Arizona.

**Permit No. TE-141253**

*Applicant:* Priscilla Crawford, Norman, Oklahoma. Applicant requests a new permit for research and recovery purposes to conduct presence/absence surveys for the interior least tern (*Sterna antillarum*) within Oklahoma.

**Permit No. TE-024789**

*Applicant:* Douglas Colby Henley, Tucson, Arizona. Applicant requests an amendment to an existing permit to conduct presence/absence surveys for the following species within Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas: Interior least tern (*Sterna antillarum*), northern aplomado falcon (*Falco femoralis septentrionalis*), and southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*).

**Permit No. TE-142723**

*Applicant:* Texas Department of Transportation, Austin, Texas. Applicant requests a new permit for research and recovery purposes to conduct presence/absence surveys for the following species within Texas: jaguarundi (*Herpailurus yagouaroundi cacomitli*), ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis*), black-capped vireo (*Vireo atricapillus*), golden-cheeked warbler (*Dendroica chrysoparia*), northern aplomado falcon (*Falco femoralis septentrionalis*), red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picooides borealis*), and Houston toad (*Bufo houstonensis*). Additionally, applicant requests authorization to survey for and

collect the following species within Texas: *Batrises texanus* (Coffin Cave mold beetle), *Batrises venyivi* (Helotes mold beetle), *Cicurina baronia* (Robber Baron Cave meshweaver), *Cicurina madla* (Madla's cave meshweaver), *Cicurina venii* (Braken Bat Cave meshweaver), *Cicurina vespera* (Government Canyon Bat Cave meshweaver), *Neoleptoneta microps* (Government Canyon Bat Cave spider), *Neoleptoneta myopica* (Tooth Cave spider), *Rhadine exilis* (ground beetle, no common name), *Rhadine infernalis* (ground beetle, no common name), *Rhadine persephone* (Tooth Cave ground beetle), *Tartarocraegris texana* (Tooth Cave pseudoscorpion), *Texamaurops reddelli* (Kretschmarr Cave mold beetle), *Texella cokendolpheri* (Cokendolpher cave harvestman), *Texella reddelli* (Bee Creek Cave harvestman), and *Texella reyesi* (Bone Cave harvestman).

**Permit No. TE-829996**

*Applicant:* Houston Zoo, Inc., Houston, Texas. Applicant requests an amendment to an existing permit for research and recovery purposes to establish and maintain captive breeding facilities for Barton Springs salamander (*Eurycea sosorum*) and Houston toad (*Bufo houstonensis*) within Texas.

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 1531, *et seq.*

Dated: December 27, 2006.

**Nancy J. Gloman,**

*Acting Regional Director, Region 2, Albuquerque, New Mexico.*

[FR Doc. 07-716 Filed 2-15-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

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

[WY-100-07-1610-DP]

**Notice of Availability of the Pinedale Draft Resource Management Plan Revision and Environmental Impact Statement**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA, 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA, 43 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*) the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces the availability of the Pinedale Draft Resource Management Plan Revision and Environmental Impact Statement (Draft RMP/EIS).

**DATES:** The Draft RMP/EIS will be available for public review for 90 calendar days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) publishes its Notice of Availability (NOA) in the **Federal Register**. The BLM can best use comments and resource information submitted within this review period.

To ensure that the public has an opportunity to comment on the draft document, formal public hearings and open houses will be scheduled in Jackson, Rock Springs, Marbleton, and Pinedale, Wyoming. All meetings, hearings, or other public involvement activities will be announced at least 15 days in advance through public notices, media news releases, Web site announcements, or mailings.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the Draft RMP/EIS have been sent to affected Federal, State and local governments and to interested parties. The document will be available electronically on the following Web site: <http://www.blm.gov/rmp/wy/pinedale>. Copies of the document will be available for public inspection during normal business hours at the following locations:

- Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming State Office, 5353 Yellowstone Road, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003.
- Bureau of Land Management, Pinedale Field Office, 432 East Mill Street, P. O. Box 768, Pinedale, Wyoming 82941.

Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

- *Web site:* <http://www.blm.gov/rmp/wy/pinedale>,
- *E-mail:* [pinedale\\_wymail@blm.gov](mailto:pinedale_wymail@blm.gov),
- *Facsimile:* (307) 367-5329, or
- *Mail:* Send to the contact listed below.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Kellie Roadifer, Team Leader, BLM Pinedale Field Office, 432 East Mill Street, P.O. Box 768, Pinedale, Wyoming 82941. Ms. Roadifer may also be contacted by telephone: (307) 367-5309. Requests for information may be sent electronically to: [pinedale\\_wymail@blm.gov](mailto:pinedale_wymail@blm.gov) with Attention: "Pinedale RMP Info Request" in the subject line.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Pinedale Field Office planning area is located in Sublette and Lincoln Counties, Wyoming. It includes approximately 922,880 acres of public land surface and 1,199,280 acres of Federal mineral estate administered by the BLM.

The existing Pinedale RMP was completed and its Record of Decision (ROD) signed on December 12, 1988.

Since completion of the Pinedale RMP, as amended and maintained, new information and changed conditions within the planning area have resulted in a need for the BLM to update that RMP. These changes include but are not limited to: increased oil and gas exploration and development activities, heightened public awareness of and interest in BLM management actions and permitted uses, increasing demand for recreation activities on public lands, increasing conflicts between land uses, changes in national policies and interests, and expanded scientific knowledge and information.

Consistent with Federal regulations found at 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1610.2, the BLM published a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and initiate its revision of the Pinedale RMP (1988). The plan revision process would include review and analyses of current conditions, consideration of new data, new or revised policies, and consideration of circumstances affecting major portions of or the entire geographic area addressed in the 1988 Pinedale RMP. As part of the planning process, the BLM would develop goals and objectives for its management of the public land and resources that it administers. As required by the FLPMA planning regulations, the BLM would produce a revised plan and an EIS.

After its completion and issuance of a ROD, a revised Pinedale RMP/EIS would establish new land allocations and management guidance for the Pinedale planning area. Adoption of the revised RMP/EIS would not alter previously approved site-specific activities and developments such as the natural gas development of the Jonah Field and Pinedale Anticline. Existing leases and development would continue to be managed consistent with their respective operating plans and authorizations. However, if requested by operators or other permit holders, the BLM would consider revising leases and other authorizing instruments to incorporate revised RMP guidance or conditions included in its EIS ROD.

The Draft RMP/EIS describes existing conditions of the physical, biological, cultural, historic, and socioeconomic resources of and surrounding the planning area. Based on planning criteria and resource issues and concerns identified during scoping, alternatives for management were developed and impacts analyzed. Concerns about planning decisions to be made for the following were considered:

1. Energy and mineral resources exploration and economic development;

2. Access to and transportation systems on public lands;
3. Land ownership pattern adjustments;
4. Fire management;
5. Livestock grazing and vegetation management, including management of non-native and invasive species;
6. Air and water quality;
7. Management of impacts land uses and human activities to threatened, endangered, candidate and sensitive species, and wildlife habitat;
8. Management of cultural properties, visual resources, paleontological resources, recreation activities and off-road vehicles;
9. Existing lease rights; and
10. Potential socio-economic consequences of implementing revised plan decisions.

Based on the analyses of alternative management strategies and guidance and interdisciplinary team and cooperating agencies discussions, the Draft RMP/EIS ensures the sustainability of important resources such as crucial big game range and other wildlife habitats, air and water quality, scenic views, healthy vegetative cover, and soil stability while providing for resources uses such as mineral exploration and development, livestock grazing and range improvement, motorized and non-motorized recreation and economic development opportunities.

The BLM analyzed four alternatives for resource management planning in detail:

- *Alternative 1 (No Action):* Continues the current management goals, objectives and direction specified in the Pinedale RMP and ROD (1988).
- *Alternative 2:* Maximizes the production of resource commodities while providing an adequate level of environmental protection for other resources.
- *Alternative 3:* Provides a high level of environmental protection for wildlife habitat and other resource values, while allowing the production of resources commodities.
- *Alternative 4 (BLM Preferred Alternative):* Optimizes the mix of resource outputs, including production of resource commodities and wildlife habitat, while providing an appropriate level of environmental protection for all resources.

As established by the Pinedale RMP, there are two Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), Rock Creek and Beaver Creek, totaling approximately 8,900 acres. With the Preferred Alternative, the BLM proposes to establish two additional ACECs:

- *Trappers Point—(4,000 acres):* Values of critical concern are big game

migration corridors, cultural and historic properties, and livestock trailing. Within this ACEC, fence construction and surface disturbing activities would be prohibited with the exception of activities designed to increase big game migration viability. The Area would be unavailable for oil and gas leasing. Off-road vehicle (ORV) use would be restricted to designated roads and trails and subject to a seasonal closure from November 15th through April 30th.

- *New Fork Potholes—(1,800 acres):* Values of critical concern are waterfowl, trumpeter swan, and riparian habitats. With the exception of those that would benefit wildlife habitat, surface disturbing activities would be prohibited. The Area would be unavailable for oil and gas leasing. ORV use would be restricted to designated roads and trails.

Three areas were proposed for consideration as ACECs: Ross Butte, White-tailed Prairie Dog and the Wind River Front. While the BLM found that these areas meet relevance and importance criteria and effects of including these proposals analyzed, none of them were recommended for inclusion in BLM's Preferred Alternative. Alternative 4 (Preferred Alternative) would establish two Special Recreation Management Areas (SMRAs): CCC Ponds and Boulder Lake. Alternative 4 also describes special management goals and objectives for Miller Mountain, Ross Butte, and the Wind River Front.

Much of the Pinedale planning area is considered to have a high potential for energy development. For those areas with high potential, the Draft RMP/EIS considers oil and gas, and wind energy development in support of the National Energy Plan and the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

Performance-based land use objectives would be emphasized in Alternative 4 (Preferred Alternative), and applied where appropriate in all alternatives except Alternative 1 (No Action). The Draft RMP/EIS considers and is in conformance with the BLM's National Fire Plan and Healthy Forest Initiative.

The BLM published its Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare the revised RMP/EIS in the **Federal Register** on February 25, 2002. The BLM conducted open houses and mailed solicitations for public comments and input. Meetings were held to provide the public with an opportunity to gain information about the RMP revision process and to submit comments. Public meetings were held in the following Wyoming communities: Rock Springs, March 3, 2003; Pinedale,

March 10, 2003; and Marbleton, March 11, 2003. During the scoping period the BLM received over 55,000 public comments.

Cooperating agencies assisting BLM in the development and preparation of the Draft RMP/EIS included county governments, conservation districts, other Federal agencies and the State of Wyoming. The BLM contacted tribal governments with possible interests, and offered opportunities for participation in the plan revision process. In preparation of the Draft RMP/EIS, the BLM considered all comments presented throughout the process. Background information and maps used in developing the Draft RMP/EIS are available for public review at the Pinedale Field Office.

The BLM welcomes your comments. To facilitate analysis of comments and information, the public is encouraged to submit comments in an electronic format either through the Web site identified in this notice or through electronic mail.

All comment submittals must include the commenter's name and street address. Comments including the names and street addresses of respondents will be available for public review at the Pinedale Field Office during its business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday except for Federal holidays. Your comments may be published as part of the EIS process. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comments. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. Anonymous comments will not be considered. All submissions from organizations or businesses will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

**Donald A. Simpson,**

*Associate State Director.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

#### Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Truckhaven Geothermal Leasing Area, California

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Truckhaven Geothermal Leasing Area and by this notice is announcing the opening of the comment period. The main issues addressed in the Draft EIS are geothermal resource leasing, recreation, and special status species. The area is within the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) and the preferred alternative is in conformance with the land use plan for the area. There are no species listed for protection under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) that occur in the area; however, the listed desert pupfish occurs within two miles of the area and potential impacts to that species are addressed in the Draft EIS. BLM will consult with the Fish and Wildlife Service on the desert pupfish. The most common public use of the area currently is motorized recreation. Impacts to recreation are addressed in the Draft EIS. Mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate conflicts with these uses have been developed in coordination with the California Department of Parks and Recreation, a cooperating agency on the project. These measures will apply to both action alternatives.

**DATES:** BLM must receive written comments on the Draft EIS within 60 days following the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes their Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**. The BLM will announce future meetings and any other public involvement activities at least 15 days in advance through public notices, media news releases, and/or mailings.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments by e-mail to [jdalton@ca.blm.gov](mailto:jdalton@ca.blm.gov); fax to 951-697-5299; or mail to 22835 Calle San Juan de los Lagos, Moreno Valley, CA 92553.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John Dalton, 951-697-5311.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Truckhaven Geothermal Leasing Area encompasses approximately 14,700 acres of Federal minerals in western Imperial County, California, north of State Route 78 and generally west and south of County Highway S-22. The area is part of the California Desert Conservation Area. The main issues addressed in the Draft EIS are geothermal resource leasing, recreation, and special status species. Three alternatives are analyzed in the Draft EIS: (1) No action, which would not lease any geothermal resources; (2) leasing only lands with existing noncompetitive lease applications; and