

from the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife (delisted) be monitored in cooperation with the States for a period of not less than 5 years. The purpose of this requirement is to detect any failure of a recovered species to sustain itself without the protections of the ESA. We work with relevant State agencies and other species experts to develop appropriate plans and procedures for systematically monitoring recovered wildlife and plants.

The American peregrine falcon has a large geographic distribution that includes a substantial amount of non-Federal land. Although the ESA requires that monitoring of recovered species be conducted for not less than 5 years, the life history of American peregrine falcons is such that it is appropriate to monitor this species for a longer period of time in order to meaningfully evaluate whether or not the recovered species continues to maintain its recovered status. The Monitoring Plan for the American Peregrine Falcon is available on our website at <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/pdfs/peregrin/Peregrineplan2003.pdf>. Formal collection of monitoring data commenced in 2003. Rangewide population monitoring of American peregrine falcons under the Monitoring Plan will take place every 3 years through 2015.

We will use the information supplied on the FWS Forms 3-2307, 3-2308, and 3-2309 to review the status of the American peregrine falcon in the United States and determine if it remains recovered and, therefore, does not require the protections of the ESA:

(1) FWS Form 3-2307 (Peregrine Falcon Monitoring Form) addresses the reporting requirements to record observations on the nesting pair, and the numbers of eggs and young during each nest visit. Each nest will be visited two (or more) times.

(2) FWS Form 3-2308 (Peregrine Falcon Egg Contaminants Data Sheet) addresses the reporting requirements to record data on eggs collected opportunistically during a nest visit.

(3) FWS Form 3-2309 (Peregrine Falcon Feather Contaminants Data Sheet) addresses the reporting requirements to record data on feathers collected opportunistically during a nest visit. Once collected, the eggs and feathers will be archived in a deep freeze for analysis at a later time.

Comments: On February 25, 2008, we published in the Federal Register (73 FR 10048) a notice of our intent to request that OMB renew this collection of information. We solicited comments for 60 days, ending on April 25, 2008. We

did not receive any comments in response to this notice.

We again invite comments concerning this information collection on:

(1) whether or not the collection of information is necessary, including whether or not the information will have practical utility;

(2) the accuracy of our estimate of the burden for this collection of information;

(3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask OMB in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that it will be done.

Hope Grey,

*Information Collection Clearance Officer,
Fish and Wildlife Service.*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R5-ES-2008-N0075; 50120-1113-0000-F5]

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Permits

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of permit renewal application; request for comment.

SUMMARY: We, the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), invite the public to comment on the following application to renew an existing permit to conduct certain activities involving endangered species.

DATES: We must receive comments on this permit application on or before May 30, 2008.

ADDRESSES: Acting Regional Endangered Species Permits Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 300 Westgate Center Drive, Hadley, MA 01035 (telephone: 617-876-6173; facsimile: 413-253-8482).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary Parkin, at the above address.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following applicant has requested renewal of an existing scientific research recovery permit to conduct specific activities with all listed species in the States of Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia, and in the District of Columbia, under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). We solicit review and comment from local, State, and Federal agencies and the public on the following permit request:

Permit No. TE-697823

Applicant: Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Hadley, Massachusetts.

The applicant requests renewal of a permit for take of all listed species in the States specified above for scientific purposes, or the enhancement of propagation or survival permits as prescribed by Service recovery documents.

The original permit became effective on July 15, 1994, and has been renewed twice since then, on May 6, 1998, and May 6, 2003. Opportunity for public review of the renewal applications was provided in 63 FR 14471 (March 25, 1998) and 68 FR 12098 (March 13, 2003), respectively.

Public Review of Comments

Please refer to the permit number when submitting comments.

We solicit public review and comment on this recovery permit application. Before including your address, phone number, electronic address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Comments and materials received will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

Authority: The authority for this section is the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Dated: April 8, 2008.

Wendi Weber,

Acting Regional Director, Region 5, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. E8-9443 Filed 4-29-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R2-ES-2008-N0063; 20124-1112-0000-F2]

Salt River Project; Horseshoe-Bartlett Habitat Conservation Plan, Maricopa and Yavapai Counties, AZ

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability: final environmental impact statement, final habitat conservation plan, and proposed implementing agreement for incidental take.

SUMMARY: The Salt River Project (SRP) has submitted an application for an incidental take permit (ITP) for species currently listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA) and species that may become listed in the future (collectively, "covered species"). The proposed take would occur in Maricopa and Yavapai Counties, Arizona, as a result of impacts on covered species and occupied habitat from modified operation of Horseshoe Dam and Reservoir (Horseshoe) and Bartlett Dam and Reservoir (Bartlett). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has issued a final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the impacts of and alternatives for the possible issuance of an ITP. SRP has completed the final Horseshoe-Bartlett Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), along with a proposed Implementing Agreement as part of the application package submitted to the Service (collectively, the "Application") as required by the ESA, for consideration of issuance of an ITP. The Application provides measures to minimize and mitigate the effects of the proposed taking of covered species and effects to the habitats upon which they depend.

The final EIS includes all comments received on the draft EIS, and responses to those comments. No decision will be made on the proposed action until at least 30 days after publication of this notice of availability of the final EIS in the **Federal Register**. After the 30-day waiting period, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will complete a Record of Decision (ROD) that states the action

that will be implemented and discusses all factors leading to the decision.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the final EIS and Application documents may obtain a copy by writing to Mr. Steve Spangle, Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2321 West Royal Palm Road, Suite 103, Phoenix, AZ 85021.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Final EIS: Ms. Debra Bills, Arizona State Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2321 West Royal Palm Road, Suite 103, Phoenix, AZ 85021; 602/242-0210.

Application: Mr. Charles Paradzick, Senior Ecologist, Salt River Project, P.O. Box 52025, PAB352, Phoenix, AZ 85072-2025; 602/236-2724, or Mr. Craig Sommers, President, ERO Resources Corporation, 1842 Clarkson Street, Denver, CO 80218; 303/830-1188.

Read-only downloadable copies of the final EIS and Application documents are available on the Internet at <http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/arizona>. A printed or CD copy of the documents is available upon request from Mr. Charles Paradzick, Salt River Project, P.O. Box 52025, Phoenix, AZ 85072-2025; (602) 236-2724;

Charles.Paradzick@srpnet.com. Copies of the final EIS and Application are also available for public inspection and review at the locations listed below under Supplementary Information.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: SRP has submitted an application for an ITP for the following covered species:

(1) Southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) (flycatcher);

(2) Bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*);

(3) Yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*)(cuckoo);

(4) Razorback sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*);

(5) Colorado pikeminnow (*Ptychocheilus lucius*);

(6) Gila topminnow (*Poeciliopsis occidentalis*);

(7) Spikedace (*Meda fulgida*);

(8) Loach minnow (*Tiaroga cobitis*);

(9) Roundtail chub (*Gila robusta*);

(10) Longfin dace (*Agosia chrysogaster*);

(11) Sonora sucker (*Catostomus insignis*);

(12) Desert sucker (*Catostomus clarki*);

(13) Speckled dace (*Rhinichthys osculus*);

(14) Lowland leopard frog (*Rana yavapaiensis*);

(15) Northern Mexican gartersnake (*Thamnophis eques megalops*);

(16) Narrow-headed gartersnake (*Thamnophis rufipunctatus*).

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), this notice advises the public that the Service has gathered the information necessary to determine impacts and formulate alternatives for the EIS, related to the potential issuance of an ITP to SRP and that SRP has developed and is prepared to implement the HCP, which provides measures to minimize and mitigate the effects of the incidental take of federally listed species to the maximum extent practicable, pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA.

Section 9 of the ESA prohibits the "taking" of threatened and endangered species. However, the Service, under limited circumstances, may issue permits to take threatened or endangered wildlife species when such taking is incidental to, and not the purpose of, otherwise lawful activities. Regulations governing permits for endangered species are at 50 CFR Parts 13 and 17.

Copies of the final EIS and Application are available for public inspection and review at the following locations (by appointment only at government offices):

- Department of the Interior, Natural Resources Library, 1849 C St., NW., Washington, DC 20240.

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 110 S. Church, Suite 3450, Tucson, AZ 85701.

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2321 West Royal Palm Road, Suite 103, Phoenix, AZ 85021.

- Salt River Project, 1521 Project Drive, Tempe, AZ 85281.

- Flagstaff Public Library, 300 W. Aspen Ave., Flagstaff, AZ 86001.

- Government Document Service, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ 85287.

- Phoenix Public Library (Burton Barr Central), 1221 N. Central Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85004.

- Cottonwood Public Library, 100 S. 6th St., Cottonwood, AZ 86326.

- Camp Verde Public Library, 130 Black Bridge Loop Rd., Camp Verde, AZ 86322.

- Fountain Hills Library, 12901 N. La Montana Dr., Fountain Hills, AZ 85268.

Background

Horseshoe and Bartlett are operated by SRP in conjunction with four reservoirs on the Salt River and one reservoir on East Clear Creek as integral features of the Salt River Federal Reclamation Project, authorized by the Reclamation Act of 1902, and under a 1917 contract with the United States (43 U.S.C. 499). Since completion in the 1930s and 1940s, Horseshoe and Bartlett have provided water for irrigation,