

development, we anticipate a greater need for monitoring and control of invasive plants. We would also encourage additional research that would assess whether increased public use affects wildlife behavior, including nesting, feeding, and resting. We therefore propose in this alternative to have a staff of 13.5, compared to a staff of 12.5 in alternative B.

Within the biological objectives, differences are more subtle and emphasize early successional habitat management over forest stand improvement. Although the Biological Integrity and Diversity Policy would still guide some management of the forested and unique wetland plant communities, this management would mostly be in the form of protection and conservation rather than restoration. The Research Natural Area in this alternative would be 593 acres, compared with 754 acres in alternative B.

#### *Alternative D (Emphasis on Managing for Historic Habitats)*

This alternative strives to establish and maintain the ecological integrity of natural communities within the refuge. Management would range from passive, or "letting nature takes its course," to actively manipulating vegetation to create or hasten the development of mature forest structural conditions shaped by natural disturbances such as infrequent fires, ice storms, and small patch blow-downs. Under this alternative, no particular wildlife species would be a management focus. We would pursue wetland restoration projects where past land uses have altered historical plant communities or have hindered natural hydrological flow. We would also promote research and development of applied management practices to sustain and enhance the natural composition, patterns, and processes within their natural range in the Central Appalachian Forest. As in the other alternatives, we would ensure protection of current or future threatened and endangered species, and we would control the establishment and spread of non-native, invasive species. We would create the same 754-acre Research Natural Area as we would in alternative B.

In alternative D, we would limit new visitor services infrastructure to already-disturbed areas, such as around the refuge headquarters and visitor center facility, the Freeland tract, and roadside pullouts along A-frame Road. We would enhance hunting and fishing opportunities in ways similar to alternatives B and C. Under this

alternative, we would expect a 10 percent increase in visitor use, which is the same as alternative A. To fully implement this alternative, we would add 2.5 positions to the Canaan Valley staff for a total of 11.5 positions. One of these would be a law enforcement officer to help enforce stricter limitations on visitor use.

#### **Public Meetings**

We will give the public opportunities to provide input at public comment meetings. You can obtain the schedule from the project leader or natural resource planner (*see ADDRESSES or FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT, above*). You may also submit comments at any time during the planning process, by any means shown in the **ADDRESSES** section.

#### **Public Availability of Comments**

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comments, 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.

Dated: April 26, 2010.

**James G. Geiger,**

*Acting Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Hadley, MA.*

[FR Doc. 2010-12998 Filed 5-28-10; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-55-P**

## **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

### **Fish and Wildlife Service**

**[FWS-R2-ES-2010-N100; 20124-1113-0000-F5]**

#### **Endangered and Threatened Species Permit Applications**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of receipt of applications; request for public comment.

**SUMMARY:** The following applicants have applied for scientific research permits to conduct certain activities with endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). The Act requires that we invite public comment on these permit applications.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, written comments must be received on or before July 1, 2010.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be submitted to the Chief, Endangered Species Division, Ecological Services, P.O. Box 1306, Room 6034, Albuquerque, NM 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 6034, Albuquerque, NM. Please refer to the respective permit number for each application when submitting comments.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Susan Jacobsen, Chief, Endangered Species Division, P.O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, NM 87103; (505) 248-6920.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

#### **Public Availability of Comments**

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 us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

#### **Permit TE-02368A**

*Applicant:* Andrea Chavez, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Applicant requests a new permit for research and recovery purposes to conduct presence/absence surveys for southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax taillii extimus*) within New Mexico.

#### **Permit TE-172278**

*Applicant:* John Abbott, Austin, Texas.

Applicant requests an amendment to a current permit for research and recovery purposes to conduct presence/absence surveys and genetic sampling for American burying beetle (*Nicrophorus americanus*) within Oklahoma.

#### **Permit TE-10794A**

*Applicant:* Robert Steidl, Tucson, Arizona.

Applicant requests a new permit for research and recovery purposes to conduct presence/absence surveys for lesser long-nosed bat (*Leptonycteris yerbabuena*) within Arizona.

**Permit TE-10808A**

*Applicant:* Sorola Natural Resources Consulting, LLC, Del Rio, Texas.

Applicant requests a new permit for research and recovery purposes to conduct presence/absence surveys for golden-cheeked warbler (*Dendroica chrysoparia*), black-capped vireo (*Vireo atricapilla*), Tobusch fishhook cactus (*Sclerocactus brevihaatus tobuschii*), and Texas snowbells (*Styrax platanifolius*) within Texas.

**Permit TE-021340**

*Applicant:* HDR Engineering, Phoenix, Arizona.

Applicant requests an amendment to a current permit for research and recovery purposes to conduct presence/absence surveys for southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax taillii extimus*) within Texas.

**Permit TE-11152A**

*Applicant:* Fort Defiance Branch of Natural Resources, Fort Defiance, Arizona.

Applicant requests a new permit for research and recovery purposes to conduct presence/absence surveys for southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax taillii extimus*) within Arizona and New Mexico.

**Permit TE-212896**

*Applicant:* University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.

Applicant requests an amendment to a current permit to allow lethal take of a limited number of humpback chub (*Gila cypha*) within Arizona.

**Permit TE-001623**

*Applicant:* American Southwest Ichthyological Researchers, LLC, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Applicant requests an amendment to their current permit to conduct population monitoring, spawning activities, and downstream transport studies for Colorado pikeminnow (*Ptychocheilus lucius*) and razorback sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*) in the San Juan River Basin, New Mexico.

**Permit TE-13192A**

*Applicant:* AMEC Earth and Environmental, Inc., Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Applicant requests a new permit for research and recovery purposes to monitor the Alamosa springsnail (*Tryonia alamosae*) in Socorro County, New Mexico.

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

Dated: May 21, 2010.

**Thomas L. Bauer,**

*Regional Director, Southwest Region, Fish and Wildlife Service.*

[FR Doc. 2010-13013 Filed 5-28-10; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-55-P**

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

**[WY-930-1610-DR]**

**Notice of Availability of Record of Decision for the Kemmerer Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Availability.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces the availability of the Record of Decision (ROD)/Approved Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Kemmerer Field Office planning area located in Lincoln, Sweetwater, and Uinta counties, Wyoming. The Wyoming State Director signed the ROD on May 24, 2010, which constitutes the final decision of the BLM and makes the Approved RMP effective immediately.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the ROD/Approved RMP are available upon request from the Field Manager, Kemmerer Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, 312 Highway 189 North, Kemmerer, Wyoming 83101; from the Wyoming State Office, Bureau of Land Management, 5353 Yellowstone Road, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003; or via the Internet at: <http://www.blm.gov/rmp/kemmerer/docs.htm>. Copies of the ROD/Approved RMP are available for public inspection at the addresses listed above.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information, contact John Christensen, Kemmerer Field Manager, or Michele Easley, Kemmerer Assistant Field Manager and RMP team leader, at the Kemmerer Field Office, 312 Highway 189 North, Kemmerer, Wyoming 83101; telephone at (307) 828-4500; or e-mail [John\\_Christensen@blm.gov](mailto:John_Christensen@blm.gov) and [Michelle\\_Easley@blm.gov](mailto:Michelle_Easley@blm.gov), respectively.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The approved Kemmerer RMP was revised collaboratively with the State of Wyoming, county governments, other Federal agencies, and tribal governments. The Kemmerer RMP planning area includes approximately 1.4 million acres of BLM-administered public lands and 1.6 million acres of Federal mineral lands under Federal, state, and private surface ownership.

The Approved RMP establishes the goals, objectives, and management actions to meet desired resource conditions; identifies comprehensive management direction for all resources and uses; identifies lands that are open or available for certain uses along with associated surface restrictions; and identifies lands closed to certain uses. The Approved RMP makes broad-scale decisions to guide future site-specific project implementation for wind energy, fluid minerals, and coal resource development in the Kemmerer planning area. The agency preferred alternative (Alternative D, in the Proposed RMP/Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), with modifications) is the selected alternative for the Approved RMP.

After the publication of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS on August 22, 2008, the BLM received 10 protest letters. As a result of these protests, the BLM made modifications to the proposed plan that are reflected in the Approved RMP. The BLM eliminated Christy Canyon as a forage reserve allotment since a lack of available water and a short growing season preclude full-season emergency relief for livestock operations. The BLM also made other minor editorial modifications in preparing the Approved RMP. These modifications provided further clarification of some of the decisions.

In addition, the BLM received protests asserting that the public was not provided adequate opportunity to comment on expanded sage-grouse restrictions in the Proposed RMP/Final EIS. To resolve the issues raised in these protests, the Approved RMP adopts the sage-grouse restrictions originally presented in the Draft RMP/EIS (and reflected in the no action alternative in the Proposed RMP/Final EIS). The BLM Wyoming State Office, however, is also initiating the process to amend the Kemmerer, Casper, Pinedale, Rock Springs, Newcastle, and Rawlins RMPs. These RMP amendments will revise sage-grouse and sagebrush management direction to incorporate policies set forth in BLM Wyoming Instruction Memoranda (IM) WY-2010-012 and WY-2010-013. The IMs may be accessed at the following Web address: <http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs.wildlife.html>.

*To ensure appropriate management of sage-grouse habitat during the amendment process (and associated NEPA analysis), the BLM will undertake the following actions:*

1. The BLM will apply the direction provided in IM WY-2010-012 and IM WY-2010-013 to specific projects, as appropriate, on a case-by-case basis.