

reintroduction into suitable sites identified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

Permit Application Number TE207946

Applicant: Bureau of Reclamation,
Denver Federal Center, Denver, CO.

The applicant requests a permit to conduct presence/absence surveys for the New Mexico meadow jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius luteus*) in New Mexico to identify and avoid occupied habitat during reclamation activities for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

Permit Application Number TE227446

Applicant: Clifton Sanitation District,
3217 D Road, Clifton, CO.

The applicant requests the renewal of a permit for educational display and propagation of bonytail (*Gila elegans*), Colorado pikeminnow (*Ptychocheilus lucius*), humpback chub (*Gila cypha*), and razorback sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*) at the Clifton Sanitation District facility for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

National Environmental Policy Act

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), we have made an initial determination that the proposed activities in these permits are categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement (516 DM 6 Appendix 1, 1.4C(1)).

Public Availability of Comments

All comments and materials we receive in response to these requests will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the address listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice.

Before including your address, phone number, email 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.

Authority

We provide this notice under section 10 of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Michael G. Thabault,

Assistant Regional Director, Mountain-Prairie Region.

[FR Doc. 2015-06520 Filed 3-20-15; 8:45 am]

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Background

The Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) prohibits certain activities with endangered and threatened species unless authorized by a Federal permit. Along with our implementing regulations at 50 CFR 17, the Act provides for permits and requires that we invite public comment before issuing these permits.

A permit granted by us under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Act authorizes the permittees to conduct activities with U.S. endangered or threatened species for scientific purposes, enhancement of propagation or survival, or interstate commerce (the latter only in the event that it facilitates scientific purposes or enhancement of propagation or survival). Our regulations implementing section 10(a)(1)(A) for these permits are found at 50 CFR 17.22 for endangered wildlife species, 50 CFR 17.32 for threatened wildlife species, 50 CFR 17.62 for endangered plant species, and 50 CFR 17.72 for threatened plant species.

Applications Available for Review and Comment

We invite local, State, and Federal agencies and the public to comment on the following applications. Documents and other information the applicants have submitted with their applications are available for review, subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a) and Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552).

Permit Application Number TE43046A

Applicant: Kirk Mammoliti, Greenwood, MO.

The applicant requests a permit to conduct presence/absence surveys for Topeka shiner (*Notropis topeka*) in Kansas to identify and avoid occupied habitat during reclamation activities for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

Permit Application Number TE060668

Applicants: Bellini Environmental Consulting, Midway, UT.

The applicants request an amendment to expand the geographic survey area for Southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) from Utah to range-wide authorization for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

Permit Application Number TE207946

Applicant: Bureau of Reclamation, Denver, CO.

The applicant requests a permit to conduct presence/absence surveys for New Mexico meadow jumping mouse

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kathy Konishi, Recovery Permits Coordinator, Ecological Services, (719) 628-2670 (phone); *permitsR6ES@fws.gov* (email).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

(*Zapus hudsonius luteus*) in Colorado to identify and avoid occupied habitat during land reclamation activities for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

Permit Application Number TE56902B

Applicant: Bureau of Reclamation, Denver, CO.

The applicant requests a permit to conduct presence/absence surveys for pallid sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*) in the Yellowstone River of Montana to develop a baseline analysis of occupied habitat. These data will assist in the evaluation of the effectiveness of a proposed fish bypass structure. The proposed structure will provide passage of pallid sturgeon and other native fishes around current impediments constructed in 1907 for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

National Environmental Policy Act

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), we have made an initial determination that the proposed activities in these permits are categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement (516 DM 6 Appendix 1, 1.4C(1)).

Public Availability of Comments

All comments and materials we receive in response to these requests will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the address listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice.

Before including your address, phone number, email 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.

Authority

We provide this notice under section 10 of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Michael G. Thabault,

Assistant Regional Director, Mountain-Prairie Region.

[FR Doc. 2015-06521 Filed 3-20-15; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R3-R-2015-N032; FXRS1265030000-156-FF03R06000]

Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge, Bayfield County, Wisconsin; Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce the availability of a draft comprehensive conservation plan (CCP) and environmental assessment (EA) for the Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge, NWR) for public review and comment. In this draft CCP/EA we describe how we propose to manage the Refuge for the next 15 years.

DATES: To ensure consideration, we must receive your written comments by April 22, 2015. We will hold an open house-style meeting during the comment period to receive comments and provide information on the draft plan. In addition, we will use special mailings, newspaper articles, Internet postings, and other media announcements to inform people of opportunities for input.

ADDRESSES: Send your comments or requests for more information by any of the following methods:

- **Email:** r3planning@fws.gov. Include “Whittlesey Creek Draft CCP/EA” in the subject line of the message.
- **Fax:** Attention: Refuge Manager, Whittlesey Creek NWR, 715-685-2680.
- **U.S. Mail:** Attention: Refuge Manager, Whittlesey Creek NWR, Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center, 29270 County Highway G, Ashland, WI 54806.
- **In-Person Drop Off:** You may drop off comments during regular business hours at the above addresses.

You will find the draft CCP/EA, as well as information about the planning process and a summary of the CCP, on the planning Web site at <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/planning/whittlesey creek/index.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tom Kerr, 715-246-7784.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Introduction

With this notice, we continue the CCP process for Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge, which we began by publishing a notice of intent in the

Federal Register (78 FR 3909) on January 17, 2013. For more about the initial process and the history of this Refuge, see that notice.

Background

The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 668dd–668ee) (Administration Act), requires us to develop a CCP for each national wildlife refuge. The purpose in developing a CCP is to provide refuge managers with a 15-year strategy for achieving refuge purposes and contributing toward the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS), consistent with sound principles of fish and wildlife management, conservation, legal mandates, and Service policies. In addition to outlining broad management direction on conserving wildlife and their habitats, CCPs identify wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities available to the public, including opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education and interpretation. We will review and update the CCP at least every 15 years in accordance with the Administration Act.

Each unit of the NWRS was established for specific purposes. We use these purposes as the foundation for developing and prioritizing the management goals and objectives for each refuge within the NWRS mission, and to determine how the public can use each refuge. The planning process is a way for us and the public to evaluate management goals and objectives that will ensure the best possible approach to wildlife, plant, and habitat conservation, while providing for wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities that are compatible with each refuge's establishing purposes and the mission of the NWRS.

Additional Information

The draft CCP/EA may be found at <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/planning/whittlesey creek/index.html>. That document incorporates an EA, prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (43 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*). The draft CCP/EA includes detailed information about the planning process, refuge, issues, and management alternatives considered and proposed. The EA includes discussions of four alternative refuge management options. The Service's preferred alternative is reflected in the draft CCP.