

before February 18, 2003 to receive our consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Written data or comments should be submitted to the Chief, Endangered Species, Ecological Services, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 911 NE., 11th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97232-4181 (fax: (503) 231-6243). 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:** 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, by any party who submits a written request for a copy of such documents within 20 days of the date of publication of this notice to the address above (telephone: (503) 231-2063). Please refer to the respective permit number for each application when requesting copies of documents.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **Permit No. TE-006112**

*Applicant:* Gretchen Padgett-Flohr, Fremont, California.

The permittee requests an amendment to take (harass by survey, capture, release, and collect voucher specimens) the Sonoma and Santa Barbara distinct population segments of the California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*) in conjunction with demographic research in Sonoma and Santa Barbara Counties, California for the purpose of enhancing their survival.

##### **Permit No. TE-065493**

*Applicant:* Peter Trenham, Davis, California.

The applicant requests a permit to take (harass by survey, collect, and sacrifice) the Conservancy fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta conservatio*), the longhorn fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta longiantenna*), the vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*), and the vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardii*) in conjunction with population demographic studies throughout the range of each species for the purpose of enhancing their survival.

##### **Permit No. TE-065741**

*Applicant:* John Lovio, San Diego, California.

The applicant requests a permit to take (monitor nests) the least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), take (harass by survey and monitor nests) the

southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*), and take (survey by pursuit) the Quino checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha quino*) in conjunction with surveys throughout the range of each species in California for the purpose of enhancing their survival.

##### **Permit No. TE-065923**

*Applicant:* Jon Winter, Santa Rosa, California.

The permittee requests an amendment to take (harass by survey, capture, and release) the Sonoma distinct population segment of the California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*) in conjunction with demographic research in Sonoma County, California for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

We solicit public review and comment on each of these recovery permit applications.

Dated: December 13, 2002.

**Rowan Gould,**

*Regional Director, Region 1, Fish and Wildlife Service.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310-55-P**

## **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

### **Fish and Wildlife Service**

#### **Notice of Availability of the Draft Recovery Plan for the Zapata Bladderpod (*Lesquerella thamnophila*) for Review and Comment**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of document availability.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces the availability for public review of the draft Recovery Plan for the Zapata bladderpod (*Lesquerella thamnophila*). Six populations are still known to exist in varying numbers. The Service solicits review and comment from the public on this draft plan.

**DATES:** The comment period for this draft Recovery Plan closes on February 18, 2003. Comments on the draft Recovery Plan must be received by the closing date.

**ADDRESSES:** Persons wishing to review the draft Recovery Plan can obtain a copy from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Corpus Christi Ecological Services Field Office, c/o TAMUCC, Box 338, 6300 Ocean Drive, Corpus Christi, Texas, 78412. If you wish to comment, you may submit your comments and materials concerning this draft Recovery

Plan to the Field Supervisor at the address above.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Loretta Pressly, Corpus Christi Ecological Services Field Office, at the above address; telephone (361) 994-9005, facsimile (361) 994-8262.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **Background**

The Zapata bladderpod (*Lesquerella thamnophila*), a plant of the Brassicaceae Family, is listed as endangered with critical habitat. Historically, 10 populations of the plants have been located and described. Currently, six of those 10 populations remain; three of the populations are located in Starr County, and three in Zapata County. This species is threatened by increasing urban development, highway construction, increased oil and gas activities, alteration and conversion of native plant communities to improved pastures, overgrazing, and vulnerability from low population numbers. The plant in all likelihood has a more extensive range than what is currently known; access for surveying on private land has been limited. This draft Recovery Plan includes information about the species and provides objectives and actions needed to downlist, then delist the species. Recovery activities designed to achieve these objectives include protecting known populations, searching for additional populations, performing outreach activities to educate and obtain assistance from the general public to conserve the species and its habitat, and establishing additional populations through reintroduction in the known range of the plant.

Restoring an endangered or threatened animal or plant to the point where it is again a secure, self-sustaining member of its ecosystem is a primary goal of the Service's endangered species program. To help guide the recovery effort, the Service is working to prepare Recovery Plans for most of the listed species native to the United States. Recovery Plans describe actions considered necessary for conservation of species, establish criteria for downlisting or delisting them, and estimate time and cost for implementing the recovery measures needed.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) requires the development of Recovery Plans for listed species unless such a Plan would not promote the conservation of a particular species. Section 4(f) of the Act, as amended in