

Permit No. TE-834782

Applicant: WestLand Resources, Inc., Tucson, Arizona

Applicant requests an amendment to an existing permit to allow presence/absence surveys for Yuma clapper rail (*Rallus longirostris yumanensis*) within Arizona.

Permit No. TE-077699

Applicant: Charles H. Lewis, Phoenix, Arizona

Applicant requests a new permit for research and recovery purposes to conduct presence/absence surveys for the cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl (*Glaucidium brasilianum cactorum*) within Arizona.

Permit No. TE-076050

Applicant: McAlester Army Ammunition Plant, McAlester, Oklahoma

Applicant requests a new permit for research and recovery purposes to conduct presence/absence surveys for the American burying beetle (*Nicrophorus americanus*) within Oklahoma.

Permit No. TE-078070

Applicant: University of Arizona, Environmental Research Laboratory, Tucson, Arizona

Applicant requests a new permit for research and recovery purposes to receive bonytail chub (*Gila elegans*) and Apache trout (*Oncorhynchus apache*), in order to assess the effects of water quality on the endocrine system function of these species.

Permit No. TE-078189

Applicant: Adkins Consulting, Farmington, New Mexico

Applicant requests a new permit for research and recovery purposes to conduct presence/absence surveys for the following species within New Mexico: black-footed ferret (*Mustela nigripes*), southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*), Knowlton cactus (*Pediocactus knowltonii*), and Mancos milk-vetch (*Astragalus humillimus*).

Permit No. TE-078127

Applicant: The Dallas World Aquarium Corporation, Dallas, Texas

Applicant requests a new permit for research and recovery purposes to allow education display of the hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and Kemp's ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*).

Permit No. TE-078304

Applicant: Terri L. Symonds, Dallas, Texas

Applicant requests a new permit for research and recovery purposes to conduct presence/absence surveys for the following species where they occur within Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Texas: black-capped vireo (*Vireo atricapilla*), cactus ferruginous pygmy owl (*Glaucidium brasilianum cactorum*), golden-cheeked warbler (*Dendroica chrysoparia*), least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*), and Yuma clapper rail (*Rallus longirostris yumanensis*).

Permit No. TE-078347

Applicant: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ajo, Arizona

Applicant requests a permit for individuals to possess, capture, administer health care, introduce, manage, monitor, maintain, and breed Sonoran pronghorn (*Antilocapra americana sonoriensis*) within the Semi-Captive Breeding Facility located on the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge.

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

Dated: October 14, 2003.

Bryan Arroyo,

Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, Region 2, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service****Southern Idaho Ground Squirrel Programmatic Candidate Conservation Agreement With Assurances**

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, this notice advises the public that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), in cooperation with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) and the Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation, intends to gather information necessary to prepare an environmental document (environmental assessment and/or environmental impact statement) regarding a proposed Southern Idaho Ground Squirrel Programmatic Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) and enhancement of

survival permit under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA). The IDFG is the proposed permit applicant.

The Service is furnishing this notice in order to: (1) Advise other Federal and State agencies, affected tribes, and the public of our intentions; (2) announce the initiation of a 21-day public scoping period; and (3) to obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues to be addressed in the environmental document.

DATES: Written comments from all interested parties must be received on or before November 24, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to Carmen Thomas, Project Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1387 S. Vinnell Way, Room 368, Boise, Idaho 83709; facsimile: (208) 378-5262.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carmen Thomas at the above address or telephone: (208) 378-5243.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances contain a strategy for covered lands and activities that constitute an applicant's contribution to avoid listing or remove the need to list a covered species as threatened or endangered under the ESA. In return, an applicant receives assurances that it will not be required to provide additional conservation measures if any of the covered species become listed under the ESA in the future.

The proposed CCAA planning document would cover approximately 1,000,000 acres in Adams, Washington, Payette, and Gem Counties, Idaho; within this area, individual non-Federal landowners could voluntarily enroll lands under the proposed CCAA. It is unknown how many landowners would participate and enroll lands under the CCAA, however, we expect the acreage of enrolled lands to be substantially less than 1,000,000 acres.

The primary goal of the proposed CCAA would be to implement habitat and population conservation measures on non-Federal lands enrolled under the CCAA for the southern Idaho ground squirrel (*Spermophilus brunneus endemicus*). Habitat conservation measures would focus on restoration or protection of native plant communities, including shrub/steppe habitat, or other habitat management measures to benefit this species. Other conservation measures could include: minimization of impacts from land use activities in southern Idaho ground squirrel-occupied habitat to conserve ground squirrel populations; prohibition of shooting, trapping, and poisoning of