

address given below, by January 20, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** 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 to the following office within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 200, Atlanta, Georgia 30345 (Attn: Victoria Davis, Permit Biologist).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Victoria Davis, telephone 404/679-4176; facsimile 404/679-7081.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The public is invited to comment on the following applications for permits to conduct certain activities with endangered species. If you wish to comment, you may submit comments by any one of the following methods. You may mail comments to the Service's Regional Office (see **ADDRESSES** section) or via electronic mail (e-mail) to "victoria\_davis@fws.gov". Please submit electronic comments as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Please also include your name and return address in your e-mail message. If you do not receive a confirmation from the Service that we have received your e-mail message, contact us directly at the telephone number listed above (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section). Finally, you may hand deliver comments to the Service office listed above (see **ADDRESSES** section).

Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the administrative record. We will honor such requests to the extent allowable by law. There may also be other circumstances in which we would withhold from the administrative record a respondent's identity, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. However, we will not consider anonymous comments. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

*Applicant:* Claudia Frosch, Gulf Shores, Alabama, TE080231-0.

The applicant requests authorization to take (trap, handle, relocate, radio-tag, PIT-tag, and release) the Alabama beach mouse (*Peromyscus polionotus ammobates*) and Perdido Key beach mouse (*Peromyscus polionotus trissyllepsis*) while conducting presence and absence studies and population monitoring. The proposed activities would occur on Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge, Baldwin County, Alabama; Johnson Beach of Gulf Island National Seashore, Escambia County, Florida; Perdido Key State Recreation Area, Escambia County, Florida; and Alabama Point, Baldwin County, Alabama.

*Applicant:* Jereme N. Phillips, Gulf Shores, Alabama, TE080229-0.

The applicant requests authorization to take (trap, mark, recapture, and release) the Alabama beach mouse (*Peromyscus polionotus ammobates*) while conducting presence and absence studies. The proposed activities would occur on Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge, Baldwin County, Alabama.

Dated: December 3, 2003.

**Jackie Parrish,**

*Acting Regional Director.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310-55-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; 90-Day Finding for a Petition to Delist the Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse in Colorado and Wyoming

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

**ACTION:** Notice of 90-day petition finding.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces a 90-day finding for a petition to delist the Preble's meadow jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius preblei*) under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. We find that the petition and additional information in our files did not present substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that delisting may be warranted. We will not be initiating a further status review in response to this petition. We ask the public to submit to us any new information that becomes available concerning the status of or threats to this species. This information will help us monitor and encourage the conservation of this species.

**DATES:** The finding announced in this document was made on December 11, 2003. You may submit new information concerning this species for our consideration at any time.

**ADDRESSES:** Questions or information concerning this petition should be sent to the Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services, 755 Parfet, Lakewood, Colorado 80215. The separate petition finding, supporting data, and comments are available for public review, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Susan Linner at 303-275-2370 (see **ADDRESSES** section).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

Section 4(b)(3)(A) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), requires that the Service make a finding on whether a petition to list, delist, or reclassify a species presents substantial scientific or commercial information to demonstrate that the petitioned action may be warranted. This finding is to be based on all information readily available to the Service at the time the finding is made. To the maximum extent practicable, the finding shall be made within 90 days following receipt of the petition and promptly published in the **Federal Register**. Following a positive finding, section 4(b)(3)(B) of the Act requires the Service to promptly commence a status review of the species.

The Preble's meadow jumping mouse is a small rodent in the family Zapodidae and is 1 of 12 recognized subspecies of the species *Zapus hudsonius*, the meadow jumping mouse. Preble's is native only to the Rocky Mountains-Great Plains interface of eastern Colorado and southeastern Wyoming. This shy, largely nocturnal mouse is 8 to 9 inches long (its tail accounts for 60 percent of its length) with hind feet adapted for jumping. It occurs in foothills riparian habitat from southeastern Wyoming to south central Colorado. Preble's meadow jumping mice regularly use upland grasslands adjacent to riparian habitat, and they may be dependent upon some amount of open water. The species hibernates near riparian zones from mid-October to early May. Loss of riparian habitats and other factors associated with urbanization appear to be the major threat to the species.

On August 16, 1994, the Service received a petition from the Biodiversity Legal Foundation to list the Preble's