The American peregrine falcon (Falco peregrinus anatum) was removed from the List on August 25, 1999, due to recovery. We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), are requesting public comments on the proposed monitoring plan for the American peregrine falcon in the United States.

DATES: Comments from all interested parties on the proposed American peregrine falcon monitoring plan must be received on or before August 30, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Comments and other information concerning the proposed American peregrine falcon monitoring plan should be sent to Robert Mesta, Sonoran Joint Venture Coordinator, Office of Migratory Birds, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 12661 E. Broadway Blvd. Tucson, Arizona 85748 (facsimile (520) 258–7238, phone (520) 258–7227). Comments and materials received will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address. A copy of the draft plan is available upon request from Robert Mesta at (520) 258–7227, or Chief, Division of Conservation, Habitat Conservation Plans, Recovery, and State Grants at (703) 358–2061. The draft plan is also available through the internet at http://endangered.fws.gov/recovery/docs/peregrine_monitoring.pdf.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Section 4(g)(1) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) (ESA), requires that we implement a plan, in cooperation with the States, to effectively monitor for not less than 5 years, the status of all species that have been recovered and delisted. In order to meet the ESA’s monitoring requirement, and to facilitate the efficient collection of data, a sampling method capable of assessing the population status of the American peregrine falcon (Falco peregrinus anatum) will be implemented.

The proposed American peregrine falcon monitoring plan was developed in cooperation with State resource agencies, recovery team members, and interested scientists, and will be carried out in collaboration with Federal, State, and private cooperators. The proposed American peregrine falcon monitoring plan will start in the spring of 2002. Surveys will be conducted every 3 years for a total of five surveys. Monitoring will include the collection of information on the population trends and nesting success. At the end of each triennial monitoring we will review all available information to determine the state of the falcon.

The final delisting rule was published on August 25, 1999 (64 FR 46542). The final delisting rule also removed designated critical habitat for the American peregrine falcon, and the designation of endangered due to similarity of appearance for any free-flying peregrine falcons within the 48 conterminous United States. Available data indicated that this species had recovered following Environmental Protection Agency restrictions on organochlorine pesticides in the United States and Canada, and also due to implementation of successful management activities.

Public Comments Solicited

We request comments on the proposed American peregrine falcon monitoring plan. All comments received by the date specified above will be considered prior to approval of this plan.

Authority

The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).


Rowan W. Gould,
Acting Regional Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service

Availability of an Environmental Assessment and Receipt of an Application for an Incidental Take Permit for the Dos Pueblos Golf Links, Santa Barbara County, CA

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: CPH Dos Pueblos Associates, L.L.C., and ARCO Environmental Remediation, L.L.C. (Applicants) have applied to the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for Incidental Take Permits (Permits) pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). The proposed Permits would authorize take of the California red-legged frog (Rana aurora draytonii) and the tidewater goby (Eucyclogobius newberryi) incidental to otherwise lawful activities west of Goleta, Santa Barbara County, California. The proposed permit duration is 25 years for CPH Dos Pueblos Associates and 10 years for ARCO Environmental Remediation.
The application includes: (1) The proposed Habitat Conservation Plan (Plan), which fully describes the proposed project and the measures that the Applicant would undertake to minimize and mitigate anticipated take of the California red-legged frog and tidewater goby, as required in section 10(a)(2)(B) of the Act; and (2) the proposed Implementing Agreement. The Service also announces the availability of an Environmental Assessment for the permit application. This notice is provided to section 10(a) of the Act and National Environmental Policy Act regulations (40 CFR 1506.6). The Plan, Implementing Agreement, and the Environmental Assessment are available for review and comment by other agencies and the public. All comments received, including names and addresses, will become part of the public record and will be available for review pursuant to section 10(c) of the Act.

DATES: Written comments must be received no later than October 1, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to Diane Noda, Field Supervisor, Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office, 2493 Portola Road, Ventura, California 93003. Comments may also be sent by facsimile to (805) 644–3958.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bridget Fahey, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, at the above address or by calling (805) 644–1766.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Document Availability

You may obtain copies of these documents by contacting the Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office at the above address and telephone number. Documents also will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office.

Background

Section 9 of the Act and Federal regulation prohibit the “take” of fish or wildlife species listed as endangered or threatened, respectively. Take of listed fish or wildlife is defined under the Act to mean harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. However, the Service, under limited circumstances, may issue permits to authorize incidental take; i.e., take that is incidental to, and not the purpose of, the carrying out of an otherwise lawful activity. Regulations governing incidental take permits for threatened and endangered species are found at 50 CFR 17.32 and 17.22, respectively.

The Applicants have proposed to construct a golf course on a 208-acre parcel. The project site is located 5 miles west of Goleta, south of State Highway 101 between Dos Pueblos Canyon and Eagle Canyon in Santa Barbara County, California. Typical land uses in the area surrounding the project site include several residential developments, one commercial center, and undeveloped coastal sage scrub areas. The Pacific Ocean is south of the project site. The applicant proposes to construct, operate, and maintain an 18-hole links style golf course, a 9-hole par-three golf course, driving range, putting green, turf farm, clubhouse, and other appurtenant facilities after removing contaminated soils from the site.

Biologist surveyed the project site for special-status plants and wildlife in 1999 and 2000. Based on these surveys, the Service concluded that the project may result in the take of two federally listed species; the threatened California red-legged frog and the endangered tidewater goby.

Activities covered by the requested Permits and addressed by the proposed Plan include the construction, operation, and maintenance of an 18-hole links style golf course, a 9-hole par-three golf course, driving range, putting green, turf farm, clubhouse, and other appurtenant facilities on a 208-acre site along the Pacific Coast in Santa Barbara County, California. This project would permanently alter 115 acres of upland dispersal habitat for the California red-legged frog and could indirectly affect the 0.5 acres aquatic habitat for the California red-legged frog and tidewater goby.

The Applicants propose to implement 60 measures to minimize and mitigate take of the California red-legged frog and tidewater goby, including: (1) Water quality monitoring in natural drainages and the one vernal pool on site to ensure that water quality is not being degraded; (2) conducting environmental training for construction and maintenance personnel to educate them concerning federal listed species; (3) placing restrictions pertaining to pets and using signs to educate the public and encourage protection of the adjacent biological resources; (4) seasonally closing public access to the beach at the mouth of Eagle Canyon from February 1 to May 31 to protect sensitive life stages (i.e., eggs and tadpoles) of California red-legged frogs; (5) implementing best management practices for erosion and sediment control during construction; requiring Service-approved biologists to monitor and relocate dispersing California red-legged frogs found within construction areas; (6) implementing a bullfrog monitoring and removal program for the life of the project; and (7) mitigating the take of California red-legged frogs and tidewater gobies by creating 1.15 acres of southern willow scrub and permanently protecting 7.53 acres of California red-legged frog breeding and dispersal habitat, and 0.5 acres of tidewater goby habitat under a conservation easement. The Applicants would endow the management of the off-site mitigation area at either a cost of $2,500/acre or an amount determined by the easement holder, whichever is greater.

The Environmental Assessment considers the environmental consequences of five alternatives in addition to the Proposed Project Alternative. The Proposed Project Alternative consists of the issuance of Permits and implementation of the Plan and Its Implementing Agreement, which include measures to minimize and mitigate impacts of the project to the California red-legged frog and tidewater goby.

Under the Reduced Project Alternative, the par-three golf course adjacent to Eagle Canyon would be eliminated, but coastal access would still be developed. This alternative would have similar impacts to listed species as the proposed action, although the potential for deleterious effects to water quality in Eagle Canyon Creek would be reduced.

Under the Alternative Sites Project Alternative, the golf course would be constructed at one of two other sites, the Naples Site or the Patterson Site. As the Naples Site could also contain habitat for the California red-legged frog and tidewater goby, effects to listed species would be similar to the effects of the proposed action. Effects to listed species would be reduced if the Patterson Site were chosen; however, due to restrictions on the conversion of the Patterson site from agriculture, this site is not a viable alternative.

The No Eastern Vertical Access Alternative would allow for the construction and operation of the golf course, but no vertical access into Eagle Canyon Creek would be built. Without managed access, continued foot traffic through the drainage from trespassers could result in greater effects to listed species than the proposed project alternative.

The Eastern Vertical Access within Eagle Canyon Alternative would allow the construction of a foot path directly into Eagle Canyon, as was originally proposed by the Applicants, rather than down the cliff face to the mouth. This
alternative would result in increased effects to listed species, by effectively bringing people in direct contact with listed species habitat.

Under the No Action Alternative, the Service would not issue a permit and the project area would continue to remain in its present condition. As illegal trespass would likely continue within Eagle Canyon Creek, effects to California red-legged frogs and tidewater gobies would be likely.

This notice is hereby given that on June 11, 2001, the Fish and Wildlife Service, by the Baltimore Operations Office, Sacramento, California, for public display purposes.

On April 26, 2001, a notice was published in the Federal Register, Vol. 66, No. 81, Page 21007, that an application had been filed with the Fish and Wildlife Service by the Baltimore Zoo, Baltimore, Maryland, for a permit (PRT-040039) to import a live captive held polar bear (Ursus maritimus) from Jardin de Quebec Zoologique, Quebec, Canada, for public display purposes. Notice is hereby given that on June 11, 2001, as authorized by the provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.) the Fish and Wildlife Service denied the requested permit. Documents and other information submitted for this application is available for review by any party who submits a written request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Rm 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203, phone (703) 358–2104 or Fax (703) 358–2281. Dated: June 18, 2001.

Monica Farris, Senior Permit Biologist, Branch of Permits, Division of Management Authority.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Intent To Acquire Additional Habitat for Hobe Sound National Wildlife Refuge in St. Lucie and Martin Counties, FL

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to acquire additional habitat for Hobe Sound National Wildlife Refuge.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Southeast Region, has prepared a Decision Report that proposes to acquire approximately 149 acres of additional wildlife habitat for Hobe Sound National Wildlife Refuge in St. Lucie and Martin Counties, along the southeastern Atlantic coast in Florida. The purpose of the project is to protect and manage additional beachfront and upland sand pine-scrub habitats for the benefit of many species of wildlife, including federally listed threatened species such as the wood stork, Florida scrub jay, piping plover, loggerhead sea turtle, eastern indigo snake, and four-petal pawpaw, as well as federally listed endangered species including the leatherback and green sea turtles and Lakela’s mint. Other species of wildlife native to the south Florida area would also benefit from the proposed refuge additions.

A Decision Report was prepared for this project because it is categorically excluded from the requirement of preparing an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement in accordance with the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This categorical exclusion is based on the small size of the proposed refuge additions (149 acres), the general public support of the project, and the willingness of the affected landowners to sell or transfer their lands to the Service for inclusion as part of Hobe Sound National Wildlife Refuge.

DATES: The Decision Report was approved by the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service on July 4, 2001.

ADDRESS: The Decision Report is available for public inspection at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Southeast Regional Office, Land Acquisition Planning Branch, 1875 Century Boulevard, Atlanta, Georgia 30345. Written requests for copies of the Decision Report should be sent to Mr. Charles Danner, Team Leader, at the same address. Mr. Danner can also be contacted by telephone at 1–800–419–9582.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposal refuge additions are located in St. Lucie and Martin Counties, Florida, and consist of four separate areas near the refuge. Area 1 (4 acres) and Area 2 (65 acres) are adjacent to the refuge. Area 3 (70 acres) is located on Hutchinson Island about 20 miles north of the refuge. Area 4 (10 acres) is located about 45 miles north of the refuge near Vero Beach. These four areas total approximately 149 acres. The Service is proposing to acquire these lands through a combination of fee title purchases from willing sellers and leases, conservation easements, or cooperative agreements from willing landowners.

The primary objective of acquiring the project lands is to protect and maintain some of the most productive nesting habitats of the endangered leatherback and green sea turtles and threatened loggerhead sea turtle, as well as habitat for a number of other endangered and threatened species including the wood stork, Florida scrub jay, piping plover, eastern indigo snake, four-petal pawpaw, and Lakela’s mint.


Marshall P. Jones, Jr., Acting Director, Fish and Wildlife Service.

Reinstatement of Approved Information Collection, OMB Approval Number 1004–0068

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) requests the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to reinstate an existing approval to collect information that authorizes and documents the cooperative construction of range

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management

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