

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service****Endangered Species Recovery Permit Application**

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior

ACTION: Notice of receipt of permit application, request for comment.

SUMMARY: We, the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), invite the public to comment on the following application to conduct certain activities with an endangered species.

DATES: We must receive comments on this permit application on or before January 11, 2008.

ADDRESSES: Submit written data or comments to the Chief, Endangered Species, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 300 Westgate Center Drive, Hadley, Massachusetts 01035 (telephone: 413-253-8615; fax: 413-253-8482). Please refer to the permit number when submitting comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Martin Miller, at the above address.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following applicant has applied for a scientific research permit to conduct specific activities with an endangered species pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). We solicit review and comment from local, State, and Federal agencies and the public on the following permit request:

Permit No. 166622

Applicant: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Southwest Virginia Field Office, Abingdon, Virginia. The applicant requests a permit to take (capture and kill) the Lee County Cave isopod (*Lirceus usdagalun*) for the purpose of defining populations genetically and determining the degree of genetic separation between populations.

Public Review of Comments

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail 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.

Comments and materials received will be available for public inspection, by

appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

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

Dated: November 8, 2007.

Thomas J. Healy,

Acting Regional Director, Region 5, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service****Recovery Plan for *Hackelia venusta* (Showy Stickseed)**

AGENCY: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, announce the availability of the Recovery Plan for *Hackelia venusta* (Showy Stickseed).

ADDRESSES: Copies of the final recovery plan are available by request from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Central Washington Field Office, 215 Melody Lane, Wenatchee, Washington 98801. Requests for copies of the final recovery plan and materials regarding this plan should be addressed to the Supervisor, Central Washington Field Office, at the above Wenatchee address. An electronic copy of the final recovery plan will also be made available online at <http://www.fws.gov/pacific/ecoservices/endangered/recovery/plans.html>. Printed copies of the recovery plan will be available for distribution in 4 to 6 weeks.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tim McCracken, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, at the above address, by calling 509-665-3508, extension 17, or by electronic mail to: Tim_McCracken@fws.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

Restoring endangered or threatened animals and plants to the point where they are again secure, self-sustaining members of their ecosystems is a primary goal of our endangered species program. The Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) (ESA) requires the development of recovery plans for listed species unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of a particular species. Recovery plans help guide the recovery effort by describing actions considered necessary for the conservation of the species, establishing criteria for downlisting or delisting

listed species, and estimating time and cost for implementing the measures needed for recovery.

Section 4(f) of the ESA requires that public notice, and an opportunity for public review and comment, be provided during recovery plan development. The Draft Recovery Plan for *Hackelia venusta* (Showy Stickseed) was available for public comment from March 13 through May 12, 2006 (71 FR 12711). All information presented during the public comment period has been considered prior to approval of this final recovery plan, and is summarized in an appendix to the recovery plan. Some substantive technical comments resulted in changes to the recovery plan. Some substantive comments regarding recovery plan implementation did not result in changes to the recovery plan, but were forwarded to appropriate Federal or other entities so that they can take these comments into account during the course of implementing recovery actions. Individual responses to comments were not provided.

Hackelia venusta is an attractive perennial plant with showy white or blue-tinged flowers in the forget-me-not family (Boraginaceae). The species is a narrow endemic, being known from only 1 population of roughly 600 individuals in Chelan County, Washington. It occurs primarily on Federal lands, but a very small portion of the population is on private lands. Within its limited range, *Hackelia venusta* is found in open areas of steeply sloping, highly unstable granitic sand and granite cliffs. The common feature to its habitat appears to be the relatively sparse cover of other vascular plants and low canopy cover.

Hackelia venusta was listed as an endangered species in 2002 (67 FR 5515). The major threats to *Hackelia venusta* include: collection and physical disturbance to the plants and habitat by humans; mass wasting (landslides); nonnative noxious weeds; competition and shading from native trees and shrubs due to fire suppression; some highway maintenance activities; and low seedling establishment. The small population size and limited geographic extent of the species exacerbates all of these threats, and renders *Hackelia venusta* highly vulnerable to extirpation or extinction from either human-caused or random natural events.

The objective of the recovery plan is to reduce the threats to *Hackelia venusta* sufficient to accomplish increases in population size and geographic distribution across its estimated historical range so that the species is no longer in danger of