

packardii) in conjunction with surveys throughout the range of each species in California, for the purpose of enhancing their survival.

Permit No. TE-170389

Applicant: Travis B. Cooper, San Juan Capistrano, California.

The applicant requests a permit to take (harass by survey, and nest monitor) the least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), and the Southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) in conjunction with surveys and monitoring throughout the range of each species in California, for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

Permit No. TE-004939

Applicant: Gordon F. Pratt, Riverside, California.

The applicant requests an amendment to take (capture, release, remove from the wild, and captive breed) the El Segundo Blue butterfly (*Euphilotes battoides allyni*) in conjunction with genetic research at Vandenberg Air Force base, Santa Barbara County, California, for the purposes of enhancing its survival.

Permit No. TE-170403

Applicant: Melissa A. Amarello, Carbondale, California.

The applicant requests a permit to take (harass by survey, capture, mark, and monitor) the San Francisco garter snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis tetrataenia*) in conjunction with population monitoring and research activities at the Cloverdale Ranch, San Mateo County, California, for the purpose of enhancing their survival.

Permit No. TE-795930

Applicant: Helm Biological Consulting, Lincoln, California.

The permittee requests an amendment to take (harass by survey, capture, handle, and release) the California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*) in conjunction with surveys throughout the range of the species in California, for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

Permit No. TE-168282

Applicant: Normandeau Associates, Inc., Stevenson Washington.

The permittee request a permit to take (harass by survey) the razorback sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*) and bonytail chub (*Gila elegans*) in conjunction with surveys and backwater inventories along the lower Colorado river in Imperial County, California, for the purpose of enhancing their survival.

Permit No. TE-170681

Applicant: Stanley C. Spencer, Riverside, California.

The applicant requests an amendment to take (survey by pursuit) the Quino checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha quino*) and Delhi sands flower loving fly (*Rhaphiomidas terminatus abdominalis*), and take (capture, collect, and kill) the Conservancy fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta conservatio*), the longhorn fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta longiantenna*), the Riverside fairy shrimp (*Streptocephalus wootoni*), the San Diego fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta sandiegonensis*), and the vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardii*) in conjunction with surveys throughout the range of each species in California, for the purpose of enhancing their survival.

Permit No. TE-053085

Applicant: Bureau of Reclamation, Boulder City, Nevada.

The permittee request a permit to take (harass by survey, electroshock, capture, collect, mark, transport, captive rear, captive propagate, reintroduce) the razorback sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*) and bonytail chub (*Gila elegans*) in conjunction with surveys, population monitoring, and research along the Colorado river in Clark County, Nevada, and San Bernardino, Riverside, and Imperial County, California, for the purpose of enhancing their survival.

We solicit public review and comment on each of these recovery permit applications. Comments and materials we receive will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the address listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice.

Dated: February 6, 2008.

Michael Fris,

Acting Regional Director, Region 8, Sacramento, California.

[FR Doc. E8-2586 Filed 2-12-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Recovery Plan for the Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep (*Ovis canadensis californiana*)

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

ACTION: Notice of document availability.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce the availability of the recovery plan for the Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis californiana*). The Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep occurs primarily on lands managed by the U.S. Forest

Service (Inyo and Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forests) and the National Park Service (Yosemite National Park) in the Sierra Nevada in western Inyo and Mono Counties, California. This recovery plan describes the status, current management, recovery objectives and criteria, and specific actions needed to reclassify the Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep from endangered to threatened, and to ultimately delist it.

ADDRESSES: You may obtain a copy of the plan by either of the following methods:

Internet: Download a copy at <http://endangered.fws.gov/recovery/index.html#plans>, or *U.S. mail:* Send a request to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office, 2493 Portola Road, Suite B, Ventura, CA 93003. Printed copies of the recovery plan will be available for distribution in 4 to 6 weeks.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brian Croft, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, at the above address (telephone 951-697-5365).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Recovery of 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. To help guide the recovery effort, we are working to prepare recovery plans for most listed species native to the United States. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for the conservation of the species, establish criteria for downlisting or delisting listed species, and estimate time and cost for implementing the recovery measures needed.

The Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531, *et seq.*) (Act) requires us to develop recovery plans for listed species unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of a particular species. Section 4(f) of the Act requires us to provide public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment during recovery plan development. We made the draft recovery plan for the Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep available for public comment from July 30, 2003, through September 29, 2003 (68 FR 44808), and again from October 9, 2003, through December 8, 2003 (68 FR 58355). We considered information we received during these public comment periods and information from peer reviewers in our preparation of this final recovery plan, and also summarized that information in Appendix J of the

recovery plan. We will forward substantive comments regarding recovery plan implementation to appropriate Federal and State agencies or other entities so they can consider these comments during the course of implementing recovery actions. We developed this recovery plan with input from the Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep Recovery Team, including a science team and a stakeholder team. We also coordinated with the California Department of Fish and Game.

We listed the Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep as an endangered distinct population segment (DPS) on January 3, 2000 (65 FR 20), following initial emergency listing on April 20, 1999 (64 FR 19300). At the time of listing, the Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep population consisted of about 125 adults, known to exist among 5 geographic areas, with little probability of interchange among those areas. In 2000, on the basis of concurrence between genetic and morphometric data, Wehausen and Ramey (2000) reassigned populations of California bighorn outside of the Sierra Nevada to other subspecies, leaving bighorn sheep in the Sierra Nevada as their own subspecies. By the rules of zoological nomenclature, they again assume Grinnell's (1912) subspecies name *sierrae* (Wehausen *et al.* 2005). With that nomenclature change, the California bighorn subspecies was terminated. Concurrent with the proposed designation of critical habitat for Sierra Nevada bighorn, on July 25, 2007, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service formally proposed a taxonomic revision to amend the final listing rule from DPS to subspecies, *Ovis canadensis sierrae*.

The Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep is threatened primarily by mountain lion predation, small population size, and the potential for disease transmission due to contact with domestic sheep and goats. Key elements for immediate action are: (1) Predator management; (2) augmentation of small herds with sheep from larger ones; and (3) elimination of the threat of a pneumonia epizootic resulting from contact with domestic sheep or goats. Actions needed to recover the bighorn sheep include: (1) Protection, maintenance, and enhancement of bighorn sheep habitat; (2) enhancing survivorship and reproductive output of bighorn sheep in order to increase population; (3) increasing the use of low-elevation winter ranges; (4) increasing the numbers of herds, and thereby the number of bighorn sheep; (5) developing and implementing a genetic management plan to maintain genetic diversity; (6) developing sources of translocation stock; (7) developing and

implementing a captive breeding program, if necessary; (8) monitoring status and trends of bighorn sheep herds and their habitat; (9) research; and (10) providing information to and working with the public.

Authority: The authority for this action is section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1533(f).

Dated: February 6, 2008.

Ken McDermond,

Acting Regional Director, Region 8, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. E8-2627 Filed 2-12-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Geological Survey

Office of the Secretary; Notice of Renewal of the Advisory Committee on Water Information Charter.

AGENCY: United States Geological Survey.

ACTION: Notice of Renewal of the Advisory Committee on Water Information Charter

SUMMARY: Following consultation with the General Services Administration, notice is hereby given that the Secretary of the Interior is renewing the Advisory Committee on Water Information (ACWI).

The ACWI has been established under the authority of Office of Management and Budget Memorandum No. M-92-01 and the Federal Advisory Committee act. The purpose of this Presidential Committee is to represent the interests of water-information users and professionals in advising the Federal Government on Federal water-information programs and their effectiveness in meeting the Nation's water-information needs. Member organizations help to foster communications between the Federal and non-Federal sectors of sharing water information.

Membership represents a wide range of water resources interests and functions. Representation on the ACWI includes all levels of government, academia, private industry, and professional and technical societies. Member organizations designate their representatives and alternates. Membership is limited to a maximum of 35 organization.

The Committee will function solely as an advisory body, and in compliance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The Charter will be filed under the Act, 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Toni M. Johnson (Executive Secretary), Chief, Water Information Coordination Program, U.S. Geological Survey, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, MS 417, Reston, Virginia 20192. Telephone: 703-648-6810; Fax: 703-648-5644.

Dated: February 1, 2008.

Dirk Kempthorne,

Secretary of the Interior.

[FR Doc. 08-612 Filed 2-12-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Geological Survey

Notice of an Open Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Water Information (ACWI)

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the 2008 annual meeting of the ACWS. This meeting is to discuss broad policy topics relating to National water initiatives; and the development and dissemination of water information, through reports from the eight ACWS subgroups. The agenda will include an update on the three pilot studies of the National Water Quality Monitoring Network for U.S. Coastal Waters and their Tributaries and the first report from the Subcommittee on Ground Water on a National Ground Water Framework, as well as other water initiatives.

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Membership represents a wide range of water resources interests and functions. Representation on the ACWI includes all levels of government, academia, private industry, and professional and technical societies. Member organizations designate their representatives and alternates. Membership is limited to a maximum of 35 organizations.

DATES: The formal meeting will convene at 8:30 a.m. on February 20, 2008, and will adjourn on February 21, 2008 at 4:30 p.m.