

Activity	Number of annual responses	Completion time per response (hours)	Total annual burden hours
Onsite Monitoring and Observation Reports .....	300	1.5	450
Final Monitoring Report .....	25	10	250
<b>TOTALS</b> .....	<b>352</b>	.....	<b>1,500</b>

<sup>1</sup> Occurs once every 5 years.

**Abstract:** This revised information collection combines requirements associated with specified marine mammal activities in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas. The Office of Management and Budget approved the information collection requirements associated with oil and gas exploration activities in the Chukchi Sea and assigned OMB Control No. 1018-0139, which expires June 30, 2011. If OMB approves this combined request, we will discontinue OMB Control No. 1018-0139.

The Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) imposed, with certain exceptions, a moratorium on the taking of marine mammals. Section 101(a)(5)(A) of the MMPA directs the Secretary of the Interior to allow, upon request by citizens of the United States, the taking of small numbers of marine mammals incidental to specified activities (other than commercial fishing) if the Secretary makes certain findings and prescribes specific regulations that, among other things, establish permissible methods of taking.

Applicants seeking to conduct activities must request a Letter of Authorization (LOA) for the specific activity and submit onsite monitoring reports and a final report of the activity to the Secretary. This is a nonform collection. Regulations at 50 CFR 18.27 outline the procedures and requirements for submitting a request. Specific regulations governing authorized activities in the Beaufort Sea are in 50 CFR 18, subpart J. Regulations governing authorized activities in the Chukchi Sea are in 50 CFR 18, subpart I. These regulations provide the applicant with a detailed description of information that we need to evaluate the proposed activity and determine whether or not to issue specific regulations and, subsequently, LOAs.

We use the information to verify the finding required to issue incidental take regulations, to decide if we should issue an LOA, and, if issued, what conditions should be in the LOA. In addition, we will analyze the information to determine impacts to the marine mammals and the availability of those

marine mammals for subsistence purposes of Alaska Natives.

**Comments:** On July 20, 2010, we published in the **Federal Register** (75 FR 42118) a notice of our intent to request that OMB approve this information collection. In that notice, we solicited comments for 60 days, ending on September 20, 2010. We received one comment. The commenter expressed opposition to authorization of activities for the oil and gas industry. We note the concerns raised by this individual; however, we do not grant authorization for industry activities. Instead, we are required under Section 101(a)(5)(A) of the MMPA to take certain actions with regard to the "incidental taking" of marine mammals that may result from specified activities. The regulations at 50 CFR 18.27(c) define incidental, but not intentional, taking as "takings which are infrequent, unavoidable, or accidental. It does not mean that the taking must be unexpected." The commenter did not address the information collection requirements, and we did not make any changes to our information collection.

We again invite comments concerning this information collection on:

- Whether or not the collection of information is necessary, including whether or not the information will have practical utility;
- The accuracy of our estimate of the burden for this collection of information;
- Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. 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 OMB in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that it will be done.

Dated: October 28, 2010.

**Hope Grey,**

*Information Collection Clearance Officer,  
Fish and Wildlife Service.*

[FR Doc. 2010-27694 Filed 11-2-10; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-55-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

**[FWS-R1-R-2010-N187; 1265-0000-10137 S3]**

#### **Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge, Washington and Yamhill Counties, OR**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare a comprehensive conservation plan and environmental assessment; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), intend to prepare a comprehensive conservation plan (CCP) for Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge (refuge) in Sherwood, Oregon. We will also prepare an environmental assessment (EA) to evaluate the potential effects of various CCP alternatives. We provide this notice in compliance with our CCP policy to advise other Federal and State agencies, Tribes, and the public of our intentions and to obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues to consider during the CCP planning process.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, please send your written comments by January 10, 2011. We will announce opportunities for public input in local news media, through mailings of planning updates, and by postings on the refuge's Web site throughout the CCP planning process.

**ADDRESSES:** Send your comments or requests for more information by any of the following methods:

*E-mail:* [TualatinCCP@fws.gov](mailto:TualatinCCP@fws.gov). Include "Tualatin River CCP/EA" in the subject line of the message.

*Fax:* Attn: Project Leader, (503) 625-5947.

*U.S. Mail:* Attn: Project Leader, Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge,

19255 SW Pacific Highway, Sherwood, OR 97140.

*In-Person Drop-off:* You may drop off comments during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.) at 19255 SW Pacific Highway, Sherwood, OR 97140.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ralph Webber, Project Leader, (503) 625-5944.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Introduction**

With this notice, we initiate our process for developing a CCP for the Tualatin River Refuge. This notice complies with our CCP policy to (1) advise the public, other Federal and State agencies, Tribes, and other organizations of our intention to conduct comprehensive conservation planning for this refuge, and (2) obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues to consider in the environmental document and during development of the CCP.

**Background**

*The CCP Process*

The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd-668ee) (Refuge Administration Act), as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, requires us to develop a CCP for each national wildlife refuge. The purpose for developing a CCP is to provide refuge managers with a 15-year plan for achieving refuge purposes and contributing toward the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System, consistent with sound principles of fish and wildlife management, conservation, legal mandates, and our policies. In addition to outlining broad management direction on conserving wildlife and their habitats, CCPs identify wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities available to the public, including opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education and interpretation. We will review and update the CCP at least every 15 years in accordance with the Refuge Administration Act.

Each unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System was established for specific purposes. These purposes are the foundation for developing and prioritizing the conservation and management goals and objectives for each refuge within the National Wildlife Refuge System mission, and determining compatible public uses of a refuge. The planning process is a way for us and the public to evaluate management goals and objectives that will insure the best possible approach to

wildlife, plant, and habitat conservation, while providing for wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities that are compatible with the refuge's establishing purposes and the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Our CCP process provides participation opportunities for Tribal, State, and local governments; agencies; organizations; and the public. At this time we encourage input in the form of issues, concerns, ideas, and suggestions for the future management of Tualatin River Refuge.

We will conduct an environmental review of this project and prepare an EA in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*); NEPA regulations (40 CFR parts 1500-1508); other appropriate Federal laws and regulations; and our policies and procedures for compliance with those laws and regulations.

*Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge*

Established in 1992 under guidelines of the Service's Urban Refuge Policy, Tualatin River Refuge is one of a handful of urban refuges in the country. Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge and the satellite Wapato Lake Unit are both located within the midsection of the Tualatin River basin at the northern portion of the Willamette Valley in Washington and Yamhill Counties, Oregon. The refuge preserves a wetland ecosystem and provides a wildlife center in the shadow of Oregon's largest metropolitan area, Portland. The overarching refuge purpose of establishment cited in the Land Protection Plan (1992) is to "protect, enhance, and manage upland, wetland, and riparian habitats for a variety of migratory birds and resident fish and wildlife, as well as for the enjoyment of people."

The satellite Wapato Lake Unit was established in 2007. The Wapato Lake Unit serves a similar refuge purpose for establishment and supports many of the same types of habitats found within core management units at Tualatin River Refuge. However, there is a greater emphasis on maintaining and enhancing biological diversity as well as providing habitats for migratory waterfowl, with a special emphasis placed on wintering tundra swan populations. The approved refuge acquisition boundary consists of 7,370 acres of primarily floodplain habitats, of which 4,310 acres make up the Wapato Lake Unit.

The refuge manages landscapes made up of predominately flat bottomland bordered by uplands. Habitats consist of rivers and streams; seasonal, scrub-

shrub, and forested wetlands; riparian forests; wet and dry meadows; oak and pine savanna; and mixed forested uplands. The refuge is home to nearly 200 species of birds; more than 50 species of mammals; 25 species of reptiles and amphibians; and a wide variety of insects, fish, and plants. The refuge opened to the public in 2006, and now nearly 100,000 annual visitors come to the refuge and participate in wildlife-dependent activities such as environmental education, resource interpretation, wildlife observation, and wildlife photography.

**Scoping: Preliminary Issues, Concerns, and Opportunities**

We have identified preliminary issues, concerns, and opportunities that may warrant consideration in the CCP. The following questions are presented to help express the types of matters under consideration. The public scoping process may identify additional issues.

*Habitat Management and Restoration:*

What actions should the Service take to sustain and restore priority species and habitats over the next 15 years? What abiotic and biologic data is needed to accomplish these actions? How much should the refuge rely on existing periods of flooding to manage floodplain habitats where natural hydrology and landscape conditions have been altered by manmade influences? Should fire be used to maintain relic habitats as part of the management of imperiled landscapes and recovery of listed and/or rare species occupying these sites? What other management efforts should be considered to expand control of exotic species such as carp, bull frogs, nutria, and other feral animals? How should the Service manage external threats to the refuge, such as urban development, stormwater runoff, and wildlife disturbance? How are species, such as mosquitoes or browsing Canada geese, affecting property or people beyond the refuge boundaries? Should the refuge use cooperative farming as an interim-only form of management, or should it also be considered a long-term management strategy for managing waterfowl populations?

*Public Use and Access:* What type and level of recreation opportunities should be provided? When refuge access points and uses are developed, are they adequate and appropriate? Do current public-use programs have an unacceptable level of impact on refuge wildlife and habitat resources? Which areas of the refuge should be managed as undisturbed sanctuary areas and which areas should be open to public use?

*Invasive Species Control:* How do invasive species affect functioning native systems, and what actions should be taken to reduce the incidence and spread of invasive species, especially in a future of climate change?

*Wapato Lake:* What interim actions should the refuge take to minimize impacts to water quality of the Tualatin River? Can natural hydrology options be employed for restoring the lakebed without compromising water quality to riverine systems and down stream users? How should the refuge approach landscape-level restoration activities to enhance listed salmonid and other native fish habitat, particularly in regard to Wapato Lake? By what set of criteria and which means should the refuge consider active management strategies to control elk populations residing on the refuge?

#### Public Meetings

We will give the public opportunities to provide input at public open houses and informational meetings, and by submitting written comments. We will distribute mailings, news releases, and announcements when we have confirmed dates for the public open houses, meetings, and other public involvement opportunities.

#### Public Availability 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.

Dated: October 28, 2010.

**Theresa E. Rabot,**

Acting Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R2-ES-2010-N221; 20124-1113-0000-F5]

#### Endangered and Threatened Species Permit Applications

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

**ACTION:** Notice of receipt of applications; request for public comment.

**SUMMARY:** The following applicants have applied for scientific research permits, or the Fish and Wildlife Service is amending their existing permit, to conduct certain activities with endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). The Act requires that we invite public comment on these permit applications.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, written comments must be received on or before December 3, 2010.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be submitted to the Chief, Endangered Species Division, Ecological Services, P.O. Box 1306, Room 6034, Albuquerque, NM 87103. 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. Documents will be available for public inspection, by appointment only, during normal business hours at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 500 Gold Ave. SW., Room 6034, Albuquerque, NM 87102. Please refer to the respective permit number for each application when submitting comments.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Susan Jacobsen, Chief, Endangered Species Division, P.O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, NM 87103; (505) 248-6920.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Public Availability 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.

##### Permit TE-24623A

*Applicant:* Miller Park Zoo, Bloomington, Illinois.

Applicant requests a new permit for research and recovery purposes to hold Mount Graham red squirrels (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus grahamensis*) in captivity. The applicant's intended purpose is breeding, including (but not limited to) husbandry, maintenance, and transportation, at the Miller Park Zoo.

##### Permit TE-24625A

*Applicant:* Wendy Leonard, San Antonio, Texas.

Applicant requests a new permit for research and recovery purposes to conduct presence/absence surveys for golden-cheeked warbler (*Dendroica chrysoparia*) and black-capped vireo (*Vireo atricapilla*) within Texas.

##### Permit TE-088197

*Applicant:* High Mesa Research, Valdez, New Mexico.

Applicant requests an amendment to a current permit for research and recovery purposes to conduct presence/absence surveys for southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax trailii extimus*) within Arizona, California, Colorado, Utah, and Nevada.

##### Permit TE-821577

*Permittee:* Arizona Game and Fish Department, Phoenix, Arizona.

The Service is amending Arizona Game and Fish Department's current permit for research and recovery purposes for the range of activities they undertake, including, but not limited to presence/absence surveys, research, and reestablishment of the following species within Arizona and adjacent portions of California, Nevada, Utah, and New Mexico: Kanab ambersnail (*Oxyloma haydeni kanabensis*), Mexican long-nosed bat (*Leptonycteris nivalis*), masked bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus ridgwayi*), bonytail chub (*Gila elegans*), Gila chub (*Gila intermedia*), humpback chub (*Gila cypha*), Colorado pikeminnow (*Ptychocheilus lucius*), Quitobaquito pupfish (*Cyprinodon eremus*), Virgin River chub (*Gila seminuda*), woundfin (*Plagopterus argentissimus*), Yaqui chub (*Gila purpurea*), Yaqui topminnow (*Poeciliopsis occidentalis sonoriensis*), California condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*), thick-billed parrot (*Rhynchopsitta pachyrhyncha*), black-footed ferret (*Mustela nigripes*), southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*), jaguar (*Panthera onca*), ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis*), desert pupfish (*Cyprinodon macularius*), Sonoran tiger salamander (*Ambystoma tigrinum stebbinsi*), Mount Graham red squirrel (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus grahamensis*), razorback sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*), Gila topminnow (*Poeciliopsis occidentalis*), and Hualapai Mexican vole (*Microtus mexicanus hualpaiensis*).

##### Permit TE-25446A

*Applicant:* Gerald Monks, Flagstaff, Arizona.

Applicant requests a new permit for research and recovery purposes to conduct presence/absence surveys for southwestern willow flycatcher