

The applicant requests a permit to take (capture and release) the fanshell mussel (*Cyprogenia stegaria*), clubshell (*Pleurobema clava*), northern riffleshell (*Epioblasma torulosa*), pink mucket pearlymussel (*Lampsilis abrupta*), snuffbox (*Epioblasma triquetra*), and white catspaw (*Epioblasma obliquata perobliquata*) within the States of Indiana and Ohio. Proposed activities are to survey and monitor populations for the recovery and enhancement of survival of the species in the wild.

**Permit Application Number: TE113009**

*Applicant:* Steve A. Ahlstedt, Norris, TN.

The applicant requests a permit renewal to take (capture and release) the white catspaw within the States of Indiana and Ohio. Proposed activities are to survey and monitor populations for the recovery and enhancement of survival of the species in the wild.

**Permit Application Number: TE023666**

*Applicant:* Eric R. Britzke, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—ERDC, Clinton, MS.

The applicant requests a permit renewal, with amendment, to take (capture and release; conduct non-lethal sampling) Indiana bats (*Myotis sodalis*), gray bats (*Myotis grisescens*), Virginia big-eared bats (*Corynorhinus townsendii virginianus*), Ozark big-eared bat (*C. t. ingens*), and Northern flying squirrel (*Glaucomys sabrinus*) throughout the range of the species in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. Proposed activities are for the recovery of the species through research and population monitoring.

**Permit Application Number: TE82666A**

*Applicant:* Justin G. Boyles, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL.

The applicant requests a permit renewal, with amendments, to take (capture and release; conduct non-lethal sampling) Indiana bats and gray bats throughout the range of the species in Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

Proposed activities are for the recovery of the species and enhancement of survival of the species in the wild.

**Public Comments**

We seek public review and comments on these permit applications. Please refer to the permit number when you submit comments. Comments and materials we receive are available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the address shown in the **ADDRESSES** section. Before including your address, phone number, email 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: August 22, 2012.

**Lynn Lewis,**

*Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, Midwest Region.*

[FR Doc. 2012-21500 Filed 8-30-12; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE P**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Geological Survey**

[USGS-GX12EE000101000]

**Coastal and Marine Ecological Classification Standard**

**AGENCY:** Department of the Interior, U.S. Geological Survey.

**ACTION:** Notice of endorsement of coastal and marine ecological classification standard.

**SUMMARY:** The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) has endorsed the Coastal and Marine Ecological Classification Standard (CMECS) as the first-ever comprehensive federal data standard for classifying and describing coastal and marine ecosystems.

CMECS provides a means of classifying ecological and habitat units using a common terminology. It provides a uniform protocol for identifying, characterizing and naming ecological units in support of monitoring, protection, and restoration of unique biotic assemblages, protected species, critical habitat, and important ecosystem components.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Documentation for the standard is available for download at [www.csc.noaa.gov/cmeecs](http://www.csc.noaa.gov/cmeecs). A searchable

online catalog of CMECS units and their descriptions is available at [www.cmeccscatalog.org](http://www.cmeccscatalog.org).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Rebecca Allee, NOAA Coastal Services Center—Gulf Coast Region, Building 1100, Suite 232, Stennis Space Center, MS 39529, Email: [nos.csc.cmeecs\\_ig@noaa.gov](mailto:nos.csc.cmeecs_ig@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** CMECS offers a simple standard framework and common terminology for describing natural and human influenced ecosystems, from the upper tidal reaches of estuaries to the deepest portions of the ocean. The framework is organized into two settings, biogeographic and aquatic, and four components, water column, geform, substrate, and biotic. Each describes a separate aspect of the environment and biota. Settings and components can be used in combination or independently to describe ecosystem features. The hierarchical arrangement of units in the settings and components allows users to apply CMECS to the scale and specificity that best suits their needs. Modifiers allow users to customize the classification to meet specific needs.

CMECS is designed to meet the needs of many users, including coastal resource managers and planners, development interests, engineers, mappers, and researchers from government, industry, and academia. The system was also developed to address applications on scales ranging from local and regional to national and beyond.

FGDC member agencies the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Geological Survey, along with NatureServe, worked with over one hundred scientists and coastal managers to develop and test the standard. CMECS has been applied in projects in a variety of geographies. A rigorous four month public and peer review process led to consideration of and response to more than 800 individual comments from 31 individuals and organizations.

The use and application of CMECS will improve our knowledge of marine ecosystems and may bring to light other necessary additions and adjustments to the standard. Users are encouraged to provide suggestions about possible changes to CMECS, which will follow a regular peer review and revision cycle. Protocols and tools for this process are currently in development.

Practical applications for CMECS include:

- Ecosystem inventory and mapping
- Coastal and marine spatial planning

- Marine Protected Area selection, evaluation, and assessment
- Resource management and monitoring
- Conservation status assessment
- Habitat modeling

The FGDC coordinates the development of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI), which encompasses the policies, standards, and procedures for organizations to cooperatively produce and share geospatial data. Federal agencies that make up the FGDC develop the NSDI in cooperation with organizations from State, local and tribal governments, the academic community, and the private sector. The authority for the FGDC is OMB Circular No. A-16, "Revised on Coordination of Geographic Information and Related Spatial Data Activities (Revised August 19, 2002)." Additional information on the FGDC and the NSDI is available at [www.fgdc.gov](http://www.fgdc.gov).

Dated: August 23, 2012.

**Ivan DeLoatch,**

*Executive Director, Federal Geographic Data Committee.*

[FR Doc. 2012-21552 Filed 8-30-12; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Geological Survey

[USGS-GX12GG00995NP00]

#### National Earthquake Prediction Evaluation Council (NEPEC)

**AGENCY:** Department of the Interior, U.S. Geological Survey.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to Public Law 96-472, the National Earthquake Prediction Evaluation Council (NEPEC) will hold a 1½ day meeting on September 17 and 18, 2012, at the U.S. Geological Survey National Earthquake Information Center (NEIC), 1711 Illinois Avenue, Golden, Colorado 80401. The Council is comprised of members from academia and the Federal Government. The Council shall advise the Director of the U.S. Geological Survey on earthquake predictions, on the completeness and scientific validity of the available data related to earthquake predictions, and on related matters as assigned by the Director. Additional information about the Council may be found at <http://earthquake.usgs.gov/aboutus/nepec/>.

At the meeting, the Council will receive briefings on: ongoing and planned work with social and behavioral scientists on improving hazard and risk messages; development of a strategic plan for operational earthquake forecasting including

calculation of short-term aftershock probabilities; discussions with emergency managers and other decision-makers about their needs for earthquake information, scientific evaluations, and hazard and risk forecasts; status of the project intended to deliver an updated Uniform California Earthquake Rupture Forecast (UCERF3); and on the delivery of near-real-time earthquake information by the NEIC.

A draft meeting agenda is available from the Executive Secretary on request (contact information below), and will be posted to the web site (above) when finalized. In order to ensure sufficient seating and hand-outs, it is requested that visitors pre-register by September 13, 2012. Members of the public wishing to make a statement to the Council should provide notice of that intention by September 13 so that time may be allotted in the agenda.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held at the USGS National Earthquake Information Center on the campus of the Colorado School of Mines, 1711 Illinois Avenue, in Golden, Colorado 80401. The meeting will commence in the early afternoon of Monday, September 17, 2012, and continue the following day, beginning at 9 a.m. and adjourning at 4 p.m. Times are approximate. Guests are encouraged to contact the Executive Secretary for a copy of the agenda and instructions for parking and locating the meeting room.

*Contact:* Dr. Michael Blanpied, Executive Secretary, National Earthquake Prediction Evaluation Council, U.S. Geological Survey, MS 905, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, Virginia 20192, (703) 648-6696, Email: [mblanpied@usgs.gov](mailto:mblanpied@usgs.gov).

Dated: August 28, 2012.

**David J. Newman,**

*USGS Federal Register Liaison.*

[FR Doc. 2012-21602 Filed 8-30-12; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Indian Affairs

#### Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Seminole Tribe of Florida Fee-to-Trust, City of Coconut Creek, Broward County, FL

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** This notice advises the public that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) as lead agency, with the Seminole Tribe of Florida (Tribe), City of Coconut Creek (City), and Broward County serving as

cooperating agencies, intends to file a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the Seminole Tribe of Florida Fee-to-Trust Project, City of Coconut Creek, Florida, Broward County, Florida. This notice announces that the DEIS is now available for public review and the date, time, and location of a public hearing to receive comments on the DEIS.

**DATES:** The DEIS will be available for public comment beginning August 31, 2012. Written comments on the DEIS must arrive by October 15, 2012. The public hearing will be held on Tuesday, October 9, 2012, starting at 6 p.m. and will run until the last public comment is received.

**ADDRESSES:** You may mail or hand-deliver written comments to Mr. Franklin Keel, Eastern Regional Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs, 545 Marriott Drive, Suite 700, Nashville, TN 37214. The public hearing will be held at the City of Coconut Creek Commission Chamber, 4800 West Copans Road, Coconut Creek, Florida, 33063.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Chester McGhee, Environmental Protection Specialist, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Eastern Region, 545 Marriott Drive, Suite 700, Nashville, TN 37214; fax (615) 564-6701; phone (615) 564-6832.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Public review of the DEIS is part of the administrative process for the evaluation of tribal application to the BIA for the Federal trust acquisition of approximately 45 acres in Coconut Creek, Broward County, Florida. The Tribe proposes to construct a hotel/resort on the trust property subsequent to the trust acquisition. A Notice of Intent (NOI) was published in the Sun-Sentinel on August 5, 6, and 7, 2010 and in the **Federal Register** on August 6, 2010 (75 FR 47616). The BIA held a public scoping meeting for the project on September 15, 2010, at the Coral Springs High School Auditorium, in Coral Springs, Florida. Pursuant to Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations (40 CFR 1506.10), the publication of this Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register** initiates a 45-day public comment period.

#### Background

The Tribe has requested that the Secretary of the Interior acquire approximately 45 acres of Tribal-owned land in Federal trust for the Tribe in the City of Coconut Creek, Florida. The