

implement efficient management practices for Federal credit programs. OMB Circulars A-129 and A-70 were issued under the authority of the Budget and Accounting Act of 1921, as amended; the Budget and Accounting Act of 1950, as amended; the Debt Collection Act of 1982, as amended; and, the Deficit Reduction Act of 1984, as amended.

Objectives to be Met by the Matching Program: The matching program will allow VA access to a system which permits prescreening of applicants for loans or loans guaranteed by the Federal Government to ascertain if the applicant is delinquent in paying a debt owed to or insured by the Government. In addition, HUD will be provided access to VA's debtor data for prescreening purposes.

Records to be Matched: HUD will utilize its system of records entitled HUD/DEPT-2, *Accounting Records*. The debtor files for HUD programs involved are included in this system of records. HUD's debtor files contain information on borrowers and co-borrowers who are currently in default (at least 90 days delinquent on their loans); or who have any outstanding claims paid during the last three years on Title II insured or guaranteed home mortgage loans; or individuals who have defaulted on Section 312 rehabilitation loans; or individuals who have had a claim paid in the last three years on a Title I loan. For the CAIVRS match, HUD/DEPT-2, System of Records, receives its program inputs from HUD/DEPT-28, Property Improvement and Manufactured (Mobile) Home Loans—Default; HUD/DEPT-32, Delinquent/Default/Assigned Temporary Mortgage Assistance Payments (TMAP) Program; and HUD/CPD-1, Rehabilitation Loans-Delinquent/Default.

The VA will provide HUD with debtor files contained in its system of records entitled SS-VA26, Loan Guaranty Systems of Records. Central Accounts Receivable On Line System is a subsidiary of SS-VA26. HUD is maintaining VA's records only as a ministerial action on behalf of VA, not as a part of HUD's HUD/DEPT-2 system of records. VA's data contain information on individuals who have defaulted on their guaranteed loans. The VA will retain ownership and responsibility for their systems of records that they place with HUD. HUD serves only as a record location and routine use recipient for VA's data.

Notice Procedures: HUD and the VA will notify individuals at the time of application (ensuring that routine use appears on the application form) for guaranteed or direct loans that their

records will be matched to determine whether they are delinquent or in default on a Federal debt. HUD and the VA will also publish notices concerning routine use disclosures in the **Federal Register** to inform individuals that a computer match may be performed to determine a loan applicant's credit status with the Federal Government.

Categories of Records/Individuals Involved: The debtor records include these data elements from HUD's systems of records, HUD/Dept-2: SSN, claim number, program code, and indication of indebtedness. Categories of records include: records of claims and defaults, repayment agreements, credit reports, financial statements, and records of foreclosures.

Categories of individuals include former mortgagors and purchasers of HUD-owned properties, manufactured (mobile) home and home improvement loan debtors who are delinquent or in default on their loans, and rehabilitation loan debtors who are delinquent or in default on their loans.

Period of the Match: Matching will begin at least 40 days from the date copies of the signed (by both Data Integrity Boards) computer matching agreements are sent to both Houses of Congress or at least 30 days from the date this Notice is published in the **Federal Register**, whichever is later, providing no comments are received which would result in a contrary determination. The matching program will be in effect and continue for 18 months with an option to renew for 12 additional months unless one of the parties to the agreement advises the other in writing to terminate or modify the agreement.

Dated: May 30, 2000.

Gloria R. Parker,

Chief Information Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Receipt of an Application for an Incidental Take Permit and Availability of the Draft Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan/Draft Environment Impact Statement for Clark County, NV

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: Clark County, Nevada; the Cities of Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, Henderson, Boulder City, and Mesquite; and the Nevada Department of

Transportation (Applicants) have applied to the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for an incidental take permit pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). The proposed 30-year permit would authorize the incidental take of 2 federally threatened and endangered species, and 77 non-listed species of concern in the event that these species become listed under the Act during the term of the permit, in connection with economic growth and development of up to 145,000 acres of non-Federal lands in Clark County.

The Service has assisted in the preparation of the Draft Clark County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (Multispecies Plan) and Implementation Agreement, and has directed the preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement addressing the potential effects on the human environment that may result from the granting of an incidental take permit and other Federal actions associated with implementation of the Multispecies Plan.

The Draft Multispecies Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement, and associated Implementation Agreement, are available for public review and comment. All comments received, including names and addresses, will become part of the administrative record and may be made available to the public.

DATES: We must receive your written comments on or before July 24, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Mr. Bob Williams, Field Supervisor, Fish and Wildlife Service, Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office, 1340 Financial Boulevard, Suite 234, Reno, Nevada, 89502; or by facsimile to (775) 861-6301.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Bob Williams, Field Supervisor, Fish and Wildlife Service, Reno, Nevada, at (775) 861-6331; or Ms. Janet Bair, Assistant Field Supervisor, Fish and Wildlife Service, Las Vegas, Nevada, at (702) 647-5230.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: You may request a copy of the document on CD-ROM by calling Ms. Sandy Helvey, Administrative Secretary, Clark County Department of Comprehensive Planning, at (702) 455-4181. To view the document, you will need access to an IBM or Macintosh computer with the capacity to read CD-ROMs.

Alternatively, you may view the document at the following Internet website: www.clark.co.nv.us. Click on "Health and the Environment," then click on "Environmental Planning", and finally click on "Habitat Conservation."

In addition, you may review paper copies of the document at the following government offices and library:

Government Offices—Fish and Wildlife Service, Southern Nevada Field Office, 1510 North Decatur Boulevard, Las Vegas, Nevada 89108, tel: (702) 647-5230; Fish and Wildlife Service, Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office, 1340 Financial Boulevard, Suite 234, Reno, Nevada 89502, (775) 861-6300; Bureau of Land Management, Las Vegas Field Office, 4765 Vegas Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada 89108, (702) 647-5000; U.S. Forest Service, 2881 South Valley View Boulevard, Las Vegas, Nevada 89102, (702) 873-8800; National Park Service, Lake Mead National Recreation Area, 601 Nevada Highway, Boulder City, Nevada 89005, (702) 293-8946; Nevada Department of Transportation, Environmental Services Division, 1263 South Stewart Street, Room 104A, Carson City, Nevada 89712, (775) 888-7889; Clark County Department of Comprehensive Planning, 500 South Grand Central Parkway, Third Floor, Las Vegas, Nevada 89155, (702) 455-3859; Clark County Northeast Office, Moapa Community Center, 320 North Moapa Valley Boulevard, Overton, Nevada 89040, (702) 397-6475; City of Las Vegas, Department of Public Works, 731 South Fourth Street, Las Vegas, Nevada 89101, (702) 229-6541; City of North Las Vegas Public Works, 2266 Civic Center Drive, North Las Vegas, Nevada 89030, (702) 633-1225; City of Henderson, 240 Water Street, Henderson, Nevada 89015, (702) 565-2474; City of Boulder City, City Hall, 401 California Avenue, Boulder city, Nevada 89005, (702) 293-9200; and the City of Mesquite 10 East Mesquite Boulevard, Mesquite, Nevada 89027, (702) 346-2835.

Library—Clark County Public Library, Main Branch, 833 Las Vegas Boulevard North, Las Vegas, Nevada 89101, (702) 382-3493.

Background

Section 9 of the Act and Federal regulation prohibit the “take” of animal species listed as endangered or threatened. That is, no one may harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture or collect listed animal species, or attempt to engage in such conduct (16 USC 1538). “Harm” is defined by regulation to include significant habitat modification or degradation where it actually kills or injures wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding, or sheltering (50 CFR 17.3). Under certain circumstances, the Service may issue permits to authorize “incidental” take of

listed animal species (defined by the Act as take that is incidental to, and not the purpose of, the carrying out of an otherwise lawful activity). The taking prohibitions of the Act do not apply to listed plants on private land unless their destruction on private land is in violation of State law. The Applicants have considered plants in the Multispecies Plan and request permits for them to the extent that State law applies. Regulations governing permits for threatened and endangered species, respectively, are at 50 CFR 17.32 and 50 CFR 17.22.

On July 11, 1995, the Service issued an incidental take permit, effective August 1, 1995, to Clark County; the Cities of Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, Henderson, Mesquite, and Boulder City; and the Nevada Department of Transportation for the Clark County Desert Conservation Plan (Desert Conservation Plan). This plan provides conservation measures for the threatened desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*). In Clark County. The associated permit authorizes incidental take of the desert tortoise in Clark County consistent with the long-term viability of the species in this portion of its range.

The Desert Conservation Plan includes provisions for a proactive approach to conservation planning for multiple species in Clark County. The intent was to reduce the likelihood of future listings of plants and wildlife as threatened or endangered under the Act. The Multispecies Plan is the direct outgrowth of the provisions of the Desert Conservation Plan. If approved by the Service, The Multispecies Plan will supercede the Desert Conservation Plan and will provide stand-alone conservation measures for species included in the plan. We anticipate that implementation of the conservation measures in the Multispecies Plan will be a cooperative effort among the Applicants, the Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Nevada Division of Wildlife, and other Federal and State land managers and regulators.

Clark County and the Cities of Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, Henderson, Mesquite, and Boulder City are seeking a 30-year permit for the incidental take of federally threatened and endangered species, and other non-listed species of concern in the event that these species become listed under the Act during the term of the permit, in connection with the development of non-Federal lands within Clark County, Nevada. In addition, the Nevada Department of Transportation has joined as an Applicant for the permit to allow the

incidental take of desert tortoise within desert tortoise habitat below 5,000 feet in elevation and south of the 38th parallel in Nye, Lincoln, Mineral, and Esmeralda Counties, Nevada, and the incidental take of other non-listed species of concern within Clark County in connection with the construction and maintenance of roads, highways, and material sites.

The permit to the Applicants would authorize incidental take of 79 species on no more than 145,000 acres of land potentially available for development in Clark County. This acreage includes non-Federal lands that currently exist and non-Federal lands which result from sales or transfers from the Federal government after issuance of the permit. This acreage excludes existing development, the Boulder City Conservation Easement established under the current Desert Conservation Plan for the desert tortoise, and State lands managed for resource values. The 79 species proposed for incidental take coverage under the Multispecies Plan (covered species) include 2 listed species (the desert tortoise and the southwestern willow flycatcher, *Empidonax traillii extimus*), 1 candidate for listing (Blue diamond cholla, *Opuntia whipplei* var. *multigeniculata*), and 76 unlisted species comprised of 4 mammals, 7 birds, 14 reptiles, 1 amphibian, 10 invertebrates, and 40 plants.

To minimize and mitigate the impacts of take, the Applicants propose to impose a \$550 per-acre development fee and maintain an endowment fund that will provide up to \$4.1 million per biennial period to fund conservation measures for covered species and to administer the Multispecies Plan. The plan includes measures to implement a public information and education program; purchase grazing allotments and interest in real property and water; maintain and manage allotments, land, and water rights which have been acquired; construct barriers to wildlife movement along linear features such as roads; translocate displaced desert tortoises; participate in and fund local habitat rehabilitation and enhancement programs; and develop and implement an adaptive management process that allows for responses to new information.

The underlying purpose of the Multispecies Plan is to achieve a balance between (1) long-term conservation of natural habitat and native plant and animal diversity that are an important part of the natural heritage of Clark County, and (2) the orderly and beneficial use of land in order to promote the economy, health,

well-being, and custom and culture of the growing population of Clark County, Nevada.

On March 3, 1997, the Service published a notice in the **Federal Register** (62 FR 9443) announcing that we would take the lead in preparing an Environmental Impact Statement addressing the Federal actions associated with the Multispecies Plan. This notice invited comments on the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement. Our consideration of comments received is reflected in the Draft Multispecies Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement made available for comment through this notice.

The Draft Multispecies Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement analyzes the potential environmental impacts that may result from the Federal action requested in support of the proposed development of up to 145,000 acres of non-Federal land in Clark County. The document identifies various alternatives, including the No Action Alternative, the Proposed Multispecies Plan, a Low-Elevation Ecosystems Multispecies Plan, a Permit Only for Threatened or Endangered and Candidate Species, and Alternative Permit Durations for the Multispecies Plan. Alternatives considered but not advanced for further analysis include a Permit to Include the Entire Mojave Desert Ecosystem, a Permit to Mitigate Impacts Only on Non-Federal Lands, and a High-Elevation Ecosystems Multispecies Plan.

The analysis provided in the Draft Multispecies Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement is intended to accomplish the following: inform the public of the proposed action and alternatives; address public comment received during the scoping period; disclose the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental effects of the proposed action and each of the alternatives; and indicate any irreversible commitment of resources that would result from implementation of the proposed action.

The Service invites the public to comment on the Draft Multispecies Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement during a 45-day comment period. All comments received will become part of the public record and may be released. This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act and regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (40 CFR 1506.6).

Dated: May 31, 2000.

Elizabeth H. Stevens,

Deputy Manager, Region 1, California/Nevada Operations Office, Sacramento, California.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Establishment of the Little Darby National Wildlife Refuge.

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed establishment of the Little Darby National Wildlife Refuge.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) intends to gather the information necessary for the preparation of an EIS. The action to be evaluated by this EIS is the establishment of the Little Darby National Wildlife Refuge, located in Madison and Union counties, Ohio. This notice is being furnished as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulations (40 CFR 1501.7 and 1508.22). The intent of the notice is to obtain suggestions and additional information from other agencies and the public on the scope of issues to be addressed in the EIS. Comments and participation in this scoping process are solicited.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before July 10, 2000. The dates and schedule of the public scoping meetings are: June 19—(6:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.) at the Made From Scratch Conference Center, 7500 Montgomery Dr., Plain City, OH, and June 20 (6 p.m.–9 p.m.) at the Della Selsor Building located on the Madison County Fairgrounds, London, Ohio.

Public Involvement: The public will be invited to participate in the scoping process, review of the draft EIS, and a public hearing. Release of the draft EIS for public comment and the public hearing will be announced in the local news media, as these dates are established.

Comments that were received during the scoping process for the Environmental Assessment and on the draft Environmental Assessment will be considered in the draft EIS. The Service appreciates all those that have taken time to provide comments during the Environmental Assessment process. At

this stage, the Service is especially seeking new ideas or concepts beyond those that have already been raised. Written comments should be received within 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice of Intent.

All comments received from individuals become part of the official public record. Requests for such comments will be handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act and the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA regulations [40 CFR 1506.6(f)]. Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. If a respondent wishes us to withhold his/her name and/or address, this must be stated prominently at the beginning of the comment.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to: Regional Director, Region 3, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1 Federal Drive, Fort Snelling, Minnesota 55111. Electronic mail comments may also be submitted within the comment period to: <http://www.fws.gov/r3pao/planning/public/htm>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. William Hegge, Darby Creek Watershed Project Manager, Reynoldsburg Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 6950-H Americana Parkway, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068-4132; telephone 614-469-6923, extension 17; or Mr. Thomas Larson, Chief of Ascertainment and Planning, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Building, 1 Federal Drive, Fort Snelling, Minnesota 55111; telephone 612-713-5430.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose of Action

The general purpose of the refuge would be "for the development, advancement, management, conservation, and protection of fish and wildlife resources" (Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956). More specifically, the Service's interests include preservation and restoration of Federal threatened and endangered species and migratory birds and their habitats in the Little Darby Creek Watershed, ensuring that the overall Darby Creek watershed biodiversity and Federal wildlife trust resources are protected and enhanced, while providing opportunities for wildlife-dependent public uses consistent with preservation and restoration of the natural resources.