

for the collection of information, as described below, to OMB for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

The Notice lists the following information: (1) the title of the information collection proposal; (2) the office of the agency to collect the information; (3) the OMB approval number, if applicable; (4) the description of the need for the information and its proposed use; (5) the agency form number, if applicable; (6) what members of the public will be affected by the proposal; (7) how frequently information submissions will be required; (8) an estimate of the total number of hours needed to prepare the information submission including number of respondents, frequency of response, and hours of response; (9)

whether the proposal is new, an extension, reinstatement, or revision of an information collection requirement; and (10) the names and telephone numbers of an agency official familiar with the proposal and of the OMB Desk Officer for the Department.

Authority: Section 3507 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 35, as amended.

Dated: December 29, 1998.

David S. Cristy,
Director, IRM Policy and Management Division.

Notice of Submission of Proposed Information Collection to OMB

Title of Proposal: Home Equity Conversion Mortgages; Consumer Protection Measures.

Office: Housing.

OMB approval number: 2502-xxx.

Description of the need for the information and its proposed use: This RULE provides for the collection of data to protect the homeowners in the HECM program from becoming liable for payment for excessive fees for third-party provided services of little or no value.

Form number: N/A.

Respondents: Individuals or Households.

Frequency of submission: One-Time Submission.

	Number of respondents	×	Frequency of response	×	Hours per response	=	Burden hours
Reporting burden:	8,000		1		.10		800
	16,000		1		.25		4,000
	8,000		1		.25		2,000

Total estimated burden hours: 6,800.
Status: New Collection.

Contact: Jeanette F. Walton, HUD, (202) 708-2700 x 3694, Joseph F. Lackey, Jr., OMB, (202) 395-7316.
[FR Doc. 99-157 Filed 1-5-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Availability of Draft Recovery Plan for Six plants from the Mountains Surrounding the Los Angeles Basin for Review and Comment

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announces the availability for public review of a draft Recovery Plan for Six Plants from the Mountains Surrounding the Los Angeles Basin. These plants occur in the mountains surrounding the Los Angeles Basin in Ventura, Los Angeles, and Orange counties, California.

DATES: Comments received on the draft recovery plan by April 6, 1999, will be considered by the Service.

ADDRESSES: Requests for copies of the draft recovery plan and written comments and materials regarding this plan should be addressed to the Field Supervisor at the Ventura Fish and

Wildlife Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2493 Portola Road, Suite B, Ventura, California 9393 (phone: 805/644-1766).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tim Thomas, Botanist, at the Ventura address.

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 the Service's endangered species program. To help guide the recovery effort, the Service is working to prepare recovery plans for most of the listed species native to the United States. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for the conservation of the species, establish criteria for the recovery levels for downlisting or delisting them, and estimate time and cost for implementing the recovery measures needed.

The Endangered Species Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) (Act), requires the development of recovery plans for listed species unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of a particular species. Section 4(f) of the Act as amended in 1988 requires that public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment be provided during recovery plan development. The Service will consider all information presented during the public comment period prior

to approval of each new or revised Recovery Plan. Substantive technical comments will result in changes to the plans. Substantive comments regarding recovery plan implementation may not necessarily result in changes to the recovery plans, but will be forwarded to appropriate Federal or other entities so that they can take these comments into account during the course of implementing recovery actions. Individualized responses to comments will not be provided.

The six plants from the mountains surrounding the Los Angeles Basin addressed in this recovery plan were added to the list of endangered and threatened plants on January 29, 1997 (62 FR 4172). Two of the plant species, Braunton's milkvetch (*Astragalus brauntonii*) and Lyon's pentachaeta (*Pentachaeta lyonii*), were listed as endangered. The remaining four species were listed as threatened. They are Conejo dudleya (*Dudleya abramsii* ssp. *parva*), marcescent dudleya (*Dudleya cymosa* ssp. *marcescens* (*marcescent dudleya*), Santa Monica Mountains dudleya (*Dudleya cymosa* ssp. *ovatifolia*), and Verity's dudleya (*Dudleya verityi*). These plants occur in grassland, chaparral, or coastal sage scrub vegetation in the mountains surrounding the Los Angeles Basin,

California. The six plants are threatened by one or more of the following—urban development, recreational activities, alteration of fire cycles and fire suppression activities, excessive collecting, habitat fragmentation and degradation, and competition from invasive weeds. Several of the plants are also threatened with stochastic extinction by virtue of their small numbers and small population sizes.

The goal of this plan is to stabilize and protect existing populations to allow for the downlisting of *Astragalus brauntonii* and *Pentachaeta lyonii* and their eventual delisting, and the delisting of all four of the *Dudleya* species. These plants all have very restricted distributions in specialized habitats, so the main conservation actions will be to protect existing populations of these plants, ensuring that the sites are managed for their benefit. The voluntary cooperation of private landowners will be sought.

Public comments solicited

The Service solicits written comments on the recovery plan described. All comments received by the date specified above will be considered prior to approval of this plan.

Authority

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

Dated: December 8, 1998.

Michael J. Spear,

Manager, California/Nevada Operations Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento, California.

[FR Doc. 99-252 Filed 1-5-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Availability of a Habitat Conservation Plan and Receipt of an Application for an Incidental Take Permit for the City of The Dalles Municipal Watershed, Wasco County, Oregon

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, DOI.

ACTION: Notice of receipt.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the City of The Dalles (City) has 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 application has been assigned permit number TE004366-0. The proposed permit would authorize the incidental take, in

the form of habitat modification (i.e., harm), of the northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*) which is federally listed as threatened. The permit would be in effect for up to 30 years.

We request comments from the public on the City's incidental take permit application and the accompanying proposed City of The Dalles Habitat Conservation Plan (Plan). The Plan fully describes the proposed project and the measures the City will undertake to mitigate for project impacts to the owl. These measures and associated impacts are also described in the background and summary information that follow.

We also request comments from the public on our preliminary determination that the City's Plan would qualify as a "Low Effect" Plan, eligible for a categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act, as provided by the Department of the Interior Manual (516 DM2, Appendix 1 and 516 DM 6, Appendix 1). The basis for this determination is discussed in an Environmental Action Statement, which is also available for public review.

DATES: Written comments on the permit application and Plan should be received on or before February 5, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Individuals wishing copies of the permit application, copies of the Service's preliminary Low Effect Determination, or copies of the full text of the Plan, which includes a map of the permit area, references, legal descriptions of the permit area and an associated Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. Forest Service and the City, should immediately contact the office and personnel listed below. Documents also will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the address below. Comments regarding the permit application or the Plan should be addressed to State Supervisor, Fish and Wildlife Service, Oregon State Office, 2600 S.E. 98th Avenue, Suite 100, Portland, Oregon 97266, fax number (503) 231-6195. Please refer to permit number TE004366-0 when submitting comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Joseph Zisa, Fish and Wildlife Service, Oregon State Office, telephone (503) 231-6179.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 9 of the Act and federal regulation prohibits the "taking" of a species listed as endangered or threatened. However, the Service, under limited circumstances, may issue permits to "take" listed species, provided such take is incidental to, and not the purpose of, an otherwise lawful activity.

Regulations governing permits for threatened species are promulgated in 50 CFR 17.32. Regulations governing permits for endangered species are promulgated in 50 CFR 17.22.

Background

The proposed permit area encompasses 1,432 acres of City-owned land in the South Fork Mill Creek Watershed of Wasco County, Oregon. It is an access-restricted watershed that is managed for the purposes of municipal water supply and quality. The City has determined that forest management activities in the permit area are compatible with their water supply and quality purposes. The permit area occurs in a narrow, linear distribution along the upper South Fork Mill Creek and is nearly surrounded by adjacent Forest Service land.

Much of the permit area is young or degraded Douglas Fir-White Fir and Ponderosa Pine-White Fir stands that are unsuitable for use by spotted owls. However, about 850 of the 1,432 forested acres are classified as useable by spotted owls. Nearly 500 of the 850 acres are lower quality habitat that may provide for owl dispersal opportunities but are of limited value for owl foraging or nesting. The surrounding Forest Service lands are designated as "matrix" under the Northwest Forest Plan for the purpose of providing dispersal and connectivity opportunities for the spotted owl.

The City-owned lands that provide spotted owl habitat occur within the likely home ranges of two spotted owl activity centers: one is occupied by a pair of owls, and the other is occupied by a territorial single owl. Neither of these home ranges contain habitat quantities sufficient to support the long-term viability and occupancy of the resident owls. Currently, about 79 acres of the Plan area within these likely home ranges function as suitable nesting, roosting, or foraging habitat for owls. In addition, 270 acres of suitable nesting, roosting, or foraging habitat is considered unoccupied by owls.

Summary of the Habitat Conservation Plan

The Plan would ensure that the City's timber harvest impacts to spotted owls are minimized and mitigated to the maximum extent practicable by coordinating City activities with the Forest Service to manage the land on an ecosystem-wide basis. The City has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Forest Service, Mt. Hood National Forest, to provide for coordinated and consistent management across the watershed. Standards and