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Within the Departmental office, manual records are stored in a locked Aisle Saver System (file unit) in a room locked with an off-master key. Automated records are maintained in conformance with safeguards based on recommendations of the National Bureau of Standards contained in "Computer Security Guidelines for Implementing the Privacy Act of 1974" (FIPS Pub.41, May 30, 1975). Within bureau offices, records are maintained with appropriate administrative, technical, and physical safeguards to insure their security and confidentiality.

#### RETENTION AND DISPOSAL:

Records are retained and disposed of in compliance with the National Archives and Records Administration's General Records Schedule No.1, Item No.26.

#### SYSTEM MANAGER(S) AND ADDRESS:

(1) Director, Office for Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW, MS-5221 MIB, Washington, DC 20240:

For complaints of discrimination arising under Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2000d and 42 U.S.C. 2000e, respectively), Departmental Manual 373 DM 7, dated December 1, 1998, section 501 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. 791, et seq); section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. 794, et seq.) and its implementing regulations; the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, as amended (29 U.S.C. 621, et seq); and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Pub. L. 92-318).

(2) Director, Alaska State Office, Bureau of Land Management, 222 West 7th Avenue #13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513:

For complaints arising under section 493 of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Authorization Act (Pub. L. 93-153, 87 Stat. 576).

(3) Associate Solicitor, Division of General Law, Office of the Solicitor, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW, MS-6530 MIB, Washington, DC 20240:

For complaints of discrimination arising under Title VII of the Civil Rights of 1964, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2000e) which are filed against the Departmental Office for Equal Opportunity.

#### NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES:

Inquiries regarding the existence of records shall be addressed to the appropriate System Manager. The request must be in writing, signed by the requester, and meet the content requirements of 43 CFR 2.60.

#### RECORD ACCESS PROCEDURES:

A request for access to records shall be addressed to the appropriate System Manager. The request must be in writing, signed by the requester, and meet the content requirements of 43 CFR 2.63.

#### CONTESTING RECORD PROCEDURES:

A request for amendment of records shall be addressed to the appropriate System Manager. The request must be in writing, signed by the requester, and meet the content requirements of 43 CFR 2.71.

#### RECORD SOURCE CATEGORIES:

Complainants; recipients of permits, rights-of-way, public land orders, or other Federal authorizations, and their agents, contractors, subcontractors, and employees under section 403 of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Authorization Act (87 Stat. 576); administrators and recipients of Government funds from programs administered by the Department of the Interior; Federal, State, and local government agencies; community, minority, civil rights, and women's organizations; unions; Members of Congress and their staffs; bureaus and offices of the Department of the Interior; and confidential informants, to the extent they possess relevant data otherwise unavailable.

#### EXEMPTIONS CLAIMED FOR THE SYSTEM:

None.

[FR Doc. 99-9281 Filed 4-13-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-RE-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Endangered and Threatened Species Permit Application

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

**ACTION:** Notice of receipt of permit application and availability of Habitat Conservation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

**SUMMARY:** This notice advises the public that the Department of Natural Resources, State of Wisconsin (WDNR) 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). This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531, et seq.).

Permit Number TE 010064

*Applicant:* Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, State of Wisconsin, and Twenty-five Partners.

The applicant requests a permit to authorize the incidental take associated with habitat modification (i.e., harm), of the Karner Blue Butterfly (*Lycaeides melissa samuelis*) which is federally listed as endangered. The permit is requested for the State of Wisconsin, in its entirety, for a period of 10 years.

The Service requests comments from the public on the incidental take permit application and the accompanying Wisconsin Statewide Habitat Conservation Plan (Plan). The Plan fully describes the proposed activities and the measures the WDNR and 25 HCP Partners will undertake to conserve the species while conducting otherwise lawful land use activities. 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 Draft Environmental Impact Statement Number DES 99-9, prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, and the Department of the Interior Manual (516 DM 2, Appendix 1 and 516 DM 6, Appendix 1).

**DATES:** Written comments on the permit application and Plan should be received on or before June 14, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Individuals wishing copies of the permit application, Habitat Conservation Plan, or Draft Environmental Impact Statement, may contact the office and personnel listed below. The Habitat Conservation Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement may be accessed through the internet at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Web Page (<http://www.fws.gov/r3pao>) or the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Web Page (<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er/publications/karner/karner.htm>). Documents also will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the address below.

*Document Availability:* U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1015 Challenger Court, Green Bay, Wisconsin 54311, (920) 465-7440; FAX (920) 465-7410.

Three public information meetings are scheduled to provide the public an additional forum to learn about the HCP/EIS and proposed activities. Representatives from the U.S. Fish and

Wildlife Service, the WDNR, and others will be available at these meetings. Meetings will begin at 5:00 with question and answer period, followed by presentations and gathering of comments at 6:00pm. Meeting locations are as follows:

Tuesday, May 11, 1999—Siren,

Wisconsin, at the Burnett County Government Center, 7410 County Road K, Siren, WI 54872, (Room number to be posted)

Wednesday, May 12, 1999—Black River Falls, at the County Courthouse, 307 Main Street, Black River Falls, WI 54615, (County Board Room)

Thursday, May 13, 1999—Wisconsin Rapids, at the Midstate Technical College, 500 32nd Street, N, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494, (L Building Auditorium)

Written comments regarding the permit application, the HCP or Draft EIS should be addressed to the Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1 Federal Drive, Fort Snelling, Minnesota 55111-4056. Comments must be submitted to this address to be considered by the Service in its final decision. Please refer to permit number TE 010064 when submitting comments.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Lisa Mandell, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Fort Snelling, Minnesota, telephone 612-713-5343.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under Section 9 of the Act and applicable federal regulations, the "taking" of a species listed as endangered or threatened is prohibited. 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 endangered species are promulgated in 50 CFR 17.22. Regulations governing permits for threatened species are promulgated in 50 CFR 17.32.

### Background

The Karner blue butterfly (*Lycaeides melissa samuelis*) was federally-listed as endangered on December 14, 1992. Historically, the Karner blue butterfly occurred in a narrow band extending from eastern Minnesota, across portions of Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Ohio, Canada (Ontario), Pennsylvania, New York, Maine, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire. At the time of listing, the butterfly was considered to be extirpated from Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Ontario. To date, recovery efforts have included conservation of existing populations

and reintroduction of the Karner blue butterfly into Ohio. At the time of listing, the primary threats to the Karner blue butterfly were habitat loss due to modification and destruction, habitat loss due to the absence of natural disturbances, silviculture and fragmentation of remaining habitat.

The habitat of the Karner blue butterfly is characterized by the presence of wild lupine (*Lupinus perennis*), a member of the pea family. Wild lupine is the only known larval food plant for the species and is, therefore, closely tied to the butterfly's ecology and distribution. In the Midwest, the habitat is dry and sandy, including oak savanna and jack pine areas, and dune/sandplain communities. It is believed that the Karner blue butterfly originally occurred as shifting clusters of populations, or metapopulations, across a vast fire-swept landscape covering thousands of acres. While the fires resulted in localized extirpation, post-fire vegetational succession promoted colonization and rapid population buildups (Schweitzer 1989).

In Wisconsin, Karner blue butterfly populations are concentrated across the central counties and in the northwest. The populations occur primarily on sandy soil areas that support wild lupine, although presence of this habitat alone does not indicate presence of Karner blue butterflies. It appears that other climatic and biological factors also influence suitability of habitat. Currently, abandoned agricultural fields, transportation corridors, rights-of-way, managed forests, managed barrens, savannas, and prairies are areas where one might find Karner blue butterflies in Wisconsin.

Following the listing of the butterfly, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources recognized the need to address take of the butterfly while conducting otherwise lawful land use activities, including forest management, savanna management, etc. A coalition was formed, and the result of the effort is the Habitat Conservation Plan summarized below, which is currently under consideration for an incidental take permit.

### Summary of the Habitat Conservation Plan

The WDNR is interested in administering the Incidental Take Permit for lands throughout the state. Twenty-six partners are included in the application. The WDNR has developed a Species and Habitat Conservation Agreement (SHCA) for state lands and twenty-five partners to the HCP have entered into an SHCA with the WDNR.

New partners to the HCP that enter into the process after the proposed permit is issued will be provided with Certificates of Inclusion by the Service once they have signed an SHCA that meets Service and State criteria.

The WDNR and partners have identified a variety of conservation activities that will be undertaken to minimize harm to the butterfly and mitigate unavoidable permanent take during otherwise lawful land use activities. Strategies are included for conservation in forestry management, right-of-way management, barrens management, transportation corridor management, and management of areas to benefit recovery of the species. WDNR proposes to be responsible to ensure compliance and supervise monitoring of take activities.

The WDNR, in the HCP and application, is proposing a statewide Participation Plan that identifies the roles and responsibilities of the current partners and describes: (a) The process for incorporating new partners into the Permit, (b) articulates when and what activities require a separate, individual permit or authorization, and (c) encourages private landowner participation in conservation of the Karner blue butterfly throughout Wisconsin on a voluntary basis. The latter strategy involves encouraging conservation of the Karner blue butterfly through a geographically focused education and outreach program implemented by partners with no regulatory mandate attached to this group of landowners (conservation by this group is optional). This is an extremely innovative approach, but has been proposed based on an extensive, biologically justified analysis of the risk involved in terms of potential to take the butterfly, a rigorous outreach program, and conservation commitments by the WDNR and 25 partners. The WDNR developed the risk assessment associated with implementation of the Participation Plan, which graphically demonstrates (by county) the biological risk and mitigation potential associated with implementation of the Participation Plan. The expectation is that the combination of mitigation by the DNR and Partners, realized through their conservation and recovery commitments and efforts to maximize outreach in the areas most critical to survival and conservation of the species, will provide a net benefit to the species. The Service proposes to condition approval of this Participation Plan on a three year trial period for implementation of this strategy, along with a detailed and extensive reporting requirement

designed to monitor the success of its implementation.

The monitoring program includes three components: (1) An effectiveness monitoring protocol implemented yearly to detect statewide trends of the Karner blue butterfly habitat, presence and relative abundance, (2) self-monitoring to integrate partner survey and management information, and (3) an adaptive management approach. As part of an adaptive management approach, the partners have agreed that modified conservation measures and alternative management regimes will be implemented if monitoring indicates that conservation efforts do not produce the anticipated, desirable result for the butterfly.

The stated biological goal of this HCP is no-net-loss of habitat for the Karner blue butterfly over the life of the plan. A primary objective is to maintain a shifting mosaic of habitat across the Wisconsin landscape over time, which will provide for the ecological needs of the species.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the Act. The Service will evaluate the permit application, HCP, Implementation Agreement, Partners' Species and Habitat Conservation Agreements, and comments submitted relative to the proposed action to determine whether the application meets the requirements of section 10(a) of the Act. If it is determined that the requirements are met, a permit will be issued for the incidental take of Karner blue butterfly.

#### Reference Cited

Schweitzer, D.F. 1989. Fact sheet for the Karner blue butterfly with special reference to New York. The Nature Conservancy, internal document, 7 pp.

Dated: April 6, 1999.

**Marvin E. Moriarty,**

*Acting Regional Director, Region 3, Fort Snelling, Minnesota.*

[FR Doc. 99-9247 Filed 4-13-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Endangered and Threatened Species Permit Applications

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

**ACTION:** Notice of receipt of application.

The following applicant has applied for a permit to conduct certain activities with endangered species. This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of

the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531, *et seq.*).

PRT-697830

**Applicant:** Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, Region 3, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Fort Snelling, Minnesota.

The applicant requests an amendment to his permit for scientific take activities of listed species in Region 3 to add the Topeka shiner (*Notropis topeka*), a recently listed species, for scientific purposes and the enhancement of propagation or survival of the species in the wild, in accordance with listing, recovery outlines, recovery plans and/or other Service work for the species.

Written data or comments should be submitted to the Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Operations, 1 Federal Drive, Fort Snelling, Minnesota 55111-4056, and must be received within 30 days of the date of this publication.

Documents and other information submitted with these applications are available for review by any party who submits a written request for a copy of such documents to the following office within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Operations, 1 Federal Drive, Fort Snelling, Minnesota 55111-4056. Telephone: (612/713-5343); FAX: (612/713-5292).

Dated: April 7, 1999.

**Charles M. Wooley,**

*Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, Region 3, Fort Snelling, Minnesota.*

[FR Doc. 99-9248 Filed 4-13-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Availability of an Environmental Assessment and Receipt of Application for an Incidental Take Permit for the Hord Residential Development Project, in Los Osos, San Luis Obispo County, California

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** Joe and Cindy Hord have applied for an incidental take permit from the Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. The Hords are requesting a 10-year permit to allow the incidental take of the federally endangered Morro shoulderband snail (*Helminthoglypta walkeriana*) associated with a proposed 4.2-acre residential development project

in the community of Los Osos, San Luis Obispo County, California. The permit application includes a Habitat Conservation Plan and an Implementation Agreement, both of which are available for public review and comment. The Service also announces the availability of an Environmental Assessment for the proposed issuance of the incidental take permit. All comments on the Assessment and permit application will become part of the administrative record and may be released to the public.

**DATES:** Written comments should be received on or before May 14, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be addressed to Diane Noda, Field Supervisor, Fish and Wildlife Service, 2493 Portola Road, Suite B, Ventura, California 93003; facsimile (805) 644-3958.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kate Symonds, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, at the above address or telephone (805) 644-1766.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Document Availability

If you would like copies of the documents for review, please contact the office listed above immediately. Documents also are available for inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

##### Background

Under Section 9 of the Endangered Species Act and its implementing regulations, taking of threatened and endangered wildlife species is prohibited. Under the Act, the term "take" means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, capture or collect listed wildlife, or attempt to engage in such conduct. Harm includes habitat modification that kills or injures wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding, or sheltering. Under limited circumstances, the Service may issue permits to take threatened or endangered wildlife species if such taking is incidental to, and not the purpose of, otherwise lawful activities. Regulations governing permits for threatened and endangered species are found at 50 CFR 17.22 and 17.32.

The Hords need an incidental take permit because the proposed construction of their residential development project would result in the permanent loss of 1.5 acres of habitat that supports the Morro shoulderband snail within the 4.2-acre project site. The Hord's permit application includes a Habitat Conservation Plan (Plan) that