

surveys and population monitoring for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

Permit No. 836079

Applicant: Richard E. Hill, Fair Oaks, California.

The applicant requests a permit to take (harass by survey, capture and release, collect and sacrifice voucher specimens) the Conservancy fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta conservatio*), longhorn fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta longiantenna*), vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardii*), San Diego fairy shrimp (*Brachinecta sandiegonensis*), and the Riverside fairy shrimp (*Streptocephalus woottoni*) in conjunction with presence or absence surveys and ecological research in vernal pools, throughout the species range in California for the purpose of enhancing their survival.

DATES: Written comments on these permit applications must be received on or before December 22, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Written data or comments should be submitted to the Chief, Division of Consultation and Conservation Planning, Ecological Services, Fish and Wildlife Service, 911 N.E. 11th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97232-4181; fax (503) 231-6243. Please refer to the respective permit number for each application when submitting comments. All comments, including names and addresses, received will become part of the official administrative record and may be made available to the public.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: 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, by any party who submits a written request for a copy of such documents within 20 days of the date of publication of this notice to the address above; telephone: 503-231-2063. Please refer to the respective permit number for each application when requesting copies of documents.

Dated: November 17, 1997.

Don Weathers,

Acting Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.

[FR Doc. 97-30610 Filed 11-20-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for Issuance of an Incidental Take Permit to the Rellim Redwood Company, Del Norte County, CA

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior; National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, Commerce; California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service (collectively "the Services"), and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection intend to prepare a joint National Environmental Policy Act Environmental Impact Statement addressing approval and implementation of a Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (Plan) submitted by the Rellim Redwood Company (Rellim) as part of an application for an incidental take permit, pursuant to section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). The Plan will cover forest management activities on Rellim's forestlands in Del Norte County, California. Rellim intends to request an incidental take permit for the northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*), marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus marmoratus*) and coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*); these species listed as threatened or endangered under the Act. Rellim is also seeking coverage under specific provisions of the permit for approximately 40 currently unlisted species (including those with State, proposed Federal or State, or other special status) should these species be listed under the Act in the future. The Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection are acting as joint lead agencies on the project. Under the California Environmental Quality Act and the state Z'berg Nejedly Forest Practice Act, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection must conduct its own environmental assessment, and has determined that a Program Timberland Environmental Impact Report will be prepared. In accordance with Federal and State regulations, a joint Environmental Impact Statement/Program Timberland Environmental Impact Report will be prepared.

Public Involvement

This notice is being furnished pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR sections 1501.7 and 1508.22) to obtain suggestions and information from other agencies and the public on the scope of issues and alternatives to be considered in preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before December 24, 1997. Public scoping meetings, at which oral and written comments can be submitted, are scheduled for Monday, November 24, 1997, 2:00-4:00 p.m., at the Cultural Center Atrium, 1001 Front Street, Crescent City, California, and from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Eagles Hall, 1005 J Street, Arcata, California.

ADDRESSES: Comments regarding the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement should be addressed to Mr. Ken Hoffman, Coastal California Fish and Wildlife Office, 1125 16th Street, Room 209, Arcata, California 95521. Written comments may also be sent by facsimile to (707) 822-8411. Comments received will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours (Monday through Friday; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) at the above address. All comments received, including names and addresses, will become part of the official administrative record and may be made available to the public.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Ken Hoffman, at the address above, or telephone (707) 822-7201.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Rellim manages approximately 30,000 acres in Del Norte County, California, as commercial forestlands that will be considered for inclusion in the Plan. Rellim is developing a comprehensive 50-year multi-species Plan, covering both listed and certain unlisted species. Rellim's Plan is expected to combine several mitigation strategies to ensure species protection.

Rellim's multi-species planning approach is anticipated to include the northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet, and coho salmon, which are listed as threatened or endangered under the Act. In addition, about 40 currently unlisted species (including those with State, proposed Federal or State, or other special status) are being considered for inclusion in the Plan.

Once completed, it is expected that Rellim will submit the Plan as part of the incidental take permit application

process, as required under the provisions of section 10(a) of the Act. The Services will evaluate the incidental take permit application and associated Plan in accordance with section 10(a) of the Act and its implementing regulations. The environmental review of the permit application and the Plan will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act and its implementing regulations. A No Action alternative will be considered consistent with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. Another possible alternative is a "Listed Species Only" alternative. A revised Plan under this alternative would only address the habitat needs of the northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet, and coho salmon; there would be no permit coverage for species currently not listed under the Act. Further consideration of a reasonable range of project alternatives will be given during and subsequent to this scoping process.

Dated: November 14, 1997.

Thomas Dwyer,

Acting Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.

[FR Doc. 97-30609 Filed 11-20-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Geological Survey

Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC); Application Notice Announcing the Opening Date for Transmittal of Applications Under Three FGDC National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) Partnership Funding Programs for Fiscal Year (FY) 1998 Under the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance No. 15.809 National Spatial Data Infrastructure Competitive Cooperative Agreements Program

AGENCY: U.S. Geological Survey, Interior.

ACTION: Notice inviting applications for the NSDI Cooperative Agreements Program awards, the NSDI Benefits Program awards, and the NSDI Framework Demonstration Projects Program awards, for fiscal year 1998, with performance to begin in September 1998.

SUMMARY: The purpose of the FGDC National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) Partnership Funding Programs is to facilitate and foster partnerships and alliances within and among various public and private entities to assist in

building the NSDI. The NSDI consists of policies, standards, agreements, and partnerships among a variety of sectors and disciplines that promotes more cost-effective production, ready availability, and greater use of high quality geospatial data. Three separate but related programs constitute the FGDC Partnership Funding Programs: the NSDI Cooperative Agreements Program, the NSDI Benefits Program, and the NSDI Framework Demonstration Projects Program.

The Cooperative Agreements Program funds projects focused on promoting metadata collection and creating clearinghouses of geographic data linked to the Internet, developing NSDI standards, advancing the NSDI through education, and organizing and strengthening State-wide or regional programs for geographic data sharing.

The Benefits Program funds projects that assess the qualitative or quantitative benefits of using a shared data resource to solve particular problems over a given geographic area.

The Framework Demonstration Projects Program funds projects that demonstrate technical, operational and business capabilities to collaboratively create and maintain certain categories of commonly needed "Framework" data. Activities initiated under each of the three mentioned programs will promote development and maintenance of and access to data sets that are needed for national, regional, State, and local analyses.

Applications must involve partnering between two or more organizations. Applications may be submitted by Federal agencies, State and local government agencies, educational institutions, private firms, private foundations, and Federally acknowledged or State-recognized Native American tribes or groups. Applications from Federal agencies will not be competed against applications from other sources. Participants are expected to cost share in the project. Authority for this program is contained in the Organic Act of March 3, 1879, 43 U.S.C. 31 and Executive Order 12906.

DATES: The program announcements and application forms for each of the three aforementioned programs are expected to be available on or about November 29, 1997. Applications must be received on or before February 28, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Copies of Program Announcement #1434-HQ-98-PA-00044 for the NSDI Cooperative Agreements Program, Program Announcement #1434-HQ-98-PA-00046 for the NSDI Benefits Program,

and Program Announcement #1434-HQ-98-PA-00045 for the NSDI Framework Demonstration Projects Program may be obtained by writing to Ms. Karen Staubs, U.S. Geological Survey, Office of Acquisition and Federal Assistance, Mail Stop 205B, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, Virginia 20192, (703) 648-7372, fax (703) 648-7901. Also, copies of each Program Announcement will be available through the Internet at <www.usgs.gov/contracts/index.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

For the NSDI Cooperative Agreements Program contact Ms. Kathleen Craig, U.S. Geological Survey, Office of Acquisition and Federal Assistance, Mail Stop 205B, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, Virginia 20192; (703) 648-7357, fax (703) 648-7901.

For the NSDI Benefits Program contact Ms. Deborah Walsh, U.S. Geological Survey, Office of Acquisition and Federal Assistance, Mail Stop 205B, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, Virginia 20192; (703) 648-7384, fax (703) 648-7901.

For the NSDI Framework Demonstration Projects Program contact Ms. Tammy Fanning, U.S. Geological Survey, Office of Acquisition and Federal Assistance, Mail Stop 205B, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, Virginia 20192; (703) 648-7363, fax (703) 648-7901.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the NSDI Cooperative Agreements Program proposals are to be directed towards any of four components of the NSDI. The first is the establishment of a National Geospatial Data Clearinghouse for finding and accessing geospatial data. Second is the development and promulgation of standards in data collection, documentation, transfer, and search and query. Third is the development and implementation of educational outreach programs to increase the awareness and understanding of the NSDI vision and concepts. Fourth is the building and strengthening of relationships among organizations to support digital geographic data coordination.

Under the NSDI Benefits Program, proposals are to be directed towards projects that assess the benefits of using shared geographic data, or spatially referenced information, to aid a public decision-making process within a particular geographic area. Assessment of the benefits of data sharing can be by quantitative or qualitative measures. No restriction is placed on the primary issue or problem being addressed. The problem may be environmental, economic, social, or cultural. Defined