

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-4514-N-02]

Notice of Responsibility Within HUD for Civil Rights Front-End Reviews of HUD Programs

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, HUD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The purpose of this notice is to advise public housing agencies, community planning and development entitlement jurisdictions, owners and managers of assisted housing, other interested parties and members of the public of: the change of responsibility within HUD for civil rights front-end reviews for HUD programs; technical amendments made to HUD's regulations on Compliance Procedures for Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing; and revisions that HUD will make to its handbook on Implementing Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing Requirements.

DATES: *Effective Date:* October 12, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Pamela Walsh, Office of Programs, Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20410; telephone (202) 708-2288 (this is not a toll-free number). Hearing or speech-impaired individuals may access this number via TTY by calling the toll-free Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Each HUD program discipline (i.e., the Office of Community Planning and Development, the Office of Public and Indian Housing, and the Office of Housing) has lead responsibility for conducting "civil rights" front-end reviews for the programs it administers. These reviews are conducted by program offices designated as Fair Housing "Monitoring" Offices. A front-end review is the first part of the civil rights program review process, and requires a review of a submission made to HUD by a HUD constituent prior to the submission's approval by HUD.

Civil rights front-end reviews encompass confirming the completeness of the review (i.e., that all required items have been fully completed, signed when applicable, and submitted) and, with respect to fair housing and equal opportunity matters, examining submissions for outside civil rights findings and issues, including fair housing marketing plans, site and neighborhood standards, or complete

and accurate applicant certification forms. These reviews are conducted using protocols that are developed by the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity in consultation with the respective program office.

When a monitoring office conducts a front-end review, the monitoring office's role is limited to screening for errors. The monitoring office is not responsible for making a determination of compliance with the law. When, during a routine front-end review, a civil rights issue is raised that the program discipline cannot resolve through its routine processing practices, the program discipline shall refer the matter to the local Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Hub (Boston, New York City, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Chicago, Fort Worth, Kansas City, Denver, San Francisco, and Seattle). These offices have been designated as "Civil Rights/ Compliance Reviewing Offices," and will determine what further actions, if any, are needed.

HUD's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity will work with the program disciplines to (1) develop any "processing" documents needed for conducting front-end reviews, and (2) a quality control system for assuring that the program disciplines are implementing their civil rights-related program responsibilities. The Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity retains statutory and regulatory authority for conducting civil rights compliance reviews and civil rights investigations, and for determining compliance with the civil rights regulations and statutes.

Part 108 of HUD's regulations (24 CFR part 108) establishes compliance procedures for affirmative fair housing marketing, and the regulations place responsibility for monitoring (which includes front-end review of Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing Plans (AFHMPs)) in the Area Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity. With the implementation of HUD 2020 Management Reform, the review of the AFHMPs now rest with the eighteen (18) Housing Hubs within the Office of Housing.

On August 12, 1999, HUD published a rule that makes technical amendments to its regulations in part 108 to reflect the transfer of responsibility for front-end reviews from the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity to the Monitoring Offices. This notice now designates 18 Housing Hubs (Boston, Buffalo, New York City, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Greensboro, Atlanta, Jacksonville, Chicago, Columbus, Detroit, Fort Worth, Kansas City, Minneapolis, Denver, Los Angeles, San

Francisco, and Seattle) as monitoring offices for purposes of carrying out the monitoring responsibilities in 24 CFR part 108. Developers and/or sponsors must now submit their AFHMPs to the Monitoring Offices.

This notice also designates FHEO's Hubs (Boston, New York City, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Chicago, Fort Worth, Kansas City, Denver, San Francisco, and Seattle) as Civil Rights/ Compliance Reviewing Offices for purposes of carrying out the civil rights compliance review responsibilities in 24 CFR part 108.

Chapter 3 (on Processing of Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing Plans and Related Documents) of the Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Handbook 8025.1, titled "Implementing Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing Requirements" is undergoing technical amendments to reflect the changes discussed above. Appendix 10 (AFHM Plans Checklist for Completeness) of this handbook, however, will remain the same.

Again, the purpose of this notice is to further disseminate information about the change in responsibilities for civil rights front-end reviews for HUD programs, and technical changes recently made, and to be made, to the applicable HUD regulations and handbooks. The procedures in the regulations and handbook remain the same. The personnel, however, responsible for carrying out the reviews has changed.

Dated: October 4, 1999.

Eva M. Plaza,

Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity.

William C. Apgar,

Assistant Secretary for Housing—Federal Housing Commissioner.

Cardell Cooper,

Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development.

Harold Lucas,

Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing.

[FR Doc. 99-26508 Filed 10-8-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210-28-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service****Endangered and Threatened Species Permit Applications**

ACTION: Notice of receipt of applications.

SUMMARY: The following applicants have applied for a permit to conduct certain activities with endangered species. This notice is provided pursuant to section

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

Permit No. TE-795602

Applicant: Mevatech Corporation, White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico.

Applicant requests authorization for scientific research and recovery purposes to conduct population surveys and photograph aplomado falcons (*Falco femoralis septentrionalis*) in various New Mexico counties.

Permit No. TE-16215

Applicant: Andrea R. Wickham-Rowe, Port Aransas, Texas.

Applicant requests authorization for scientific research and recovery purposes to rehabilitate the Kemp's ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempi*), loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*), hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), and the leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) brought in from in and around the Texas Gulf Coast.

Permit No. TE-823354

Applicant: Angelo State University, Department of Chemistry, San Angelo, Texas.

Applicant requests authorization for scientific research and recovery purposes to conduct population surveys, map territory distribution, capture (using mist nets), band (Master Banding Permit 22280), measure and immediately release unharmed golden-cheeked warblers (*Dendroica chrysoparia*) in Real County, Texas.

Permit No. TE-004439

Applicant: Albuquerque Biological Park & Aquarium, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Applicant requests authorization for scientific research and recovery purposes to collect the Socorro isopod (*Thermosphaeroma (=exosphaeroma) thermophilum*) and the Socorro springsnail (*Pyrgulopsis neomexicana*), and the Alamosa springsnail (*Tryonia alamosae*) all in Socorro County, New Mexico.

Permit No. TE-017728

Applicant: Cameron L. Johnson, Tucson, Arizona.

Applicant requests authorization for scientific research and recovery purposes to conduct presence/absence surveys for the cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl (*Glaucidium brasilianum cactorum*) in various counties in Arizona.

Permit No. TE-825473

Applicant: Texas Department of Transportation, Austin, Texas.

Applicant requests authorization for scientific research and recovery purposes to conduct presence/absence surveys for Texas wild rice (*Zizania texana*), northern aplomado falcon (*Falco femoralis septentrionalis*), bald eagles (*haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and whooping cranes (*Grus americana*).

Permit No. TE-017942

Applicant: Arizona Biological Consultants, Peoria, Arizona.

Applicant requests authorization for scientific research and recovery purposes to conduct presence/absence surveys for southwestern willow flycatchers (*Empidonax traillii extimus*), lesser long-nosed bats (*Leptonycteris curasoae*), and Mexican long-nosed bats (*Leptonycteris nivalis*) in Arizona.

DATES: Written comments on these permit applications must be received on or before November 12, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Written data or comments should be submitted to the Legal Instruments Examiner, Division of Endangered Species/Permits, Ecological Services, P.O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103. Please refer to the respective permit number for each application when submitting comments. 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: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services, Division of Endangered Species/Permits, P.O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103. Please refer to the respective permit number for each application when requesting copies of documents. 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 30 days of the date of publication of this notice, to the address above.

Bryan Arroyo,

Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, Region 2, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

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BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[AZA 30390]

**Public Land Order No. 7414;
Withdrawal of National Forest System
Land for Hassayampa River Riparian
Corridor; Arizona**

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Public Land Order.

SUMMARY: This order withdraws 1,677.25 acres of National Forest System land from location and entry under the United States mining laws for 20 years to protect the Hassayampa River Riparian Corridor. The land has been and will remain open to mineral leasing.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 12, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Beverley Everson or Doug Franch, Prescott National Forest, 344 S. Cortez Street, Prescott, Arizona 86303, 520-445-7253.

By virtue of the authority vested in the Secretary of the Interior by Section 204 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C. 1714 (1994), it is ordered as follows:

1. Subject to valid existing rights, the following described National Forest System land is hereby withdrawn from location and entry under the United States mining laws (30 U.S.C. Ch. 2 (1994)), but not from leasing under the mineral leasing laws, to protect the Hassayampa River Riparian Corridor:

Gila and Salt River Meridian

Prescott National Forest

T. 13 N., R. 2 W.,
Sec. 31, lot 20;
Sec. 32, lots 13 to 20, inclusive;
Sec. 33, lots 11 to 14, inclusive.
T. 12½ N., R. 2 W.,
Sec. 20, lots 1 to 4, inclusive;
Sec. 21, lots 1 to 4, inclusive,
SE¼SW¼SE¼, and SE¼SE¼;
Sec. 22, SW¼SW¼ and SE¼SW¼;
Sec. 26, lot 4, lots 8 to 17, inclusive, and
MS 4051;
Sec. 27, lots 1 to 6 inclusive, W½NW¼,
and MS 4051;
Sec. 35, lots 2, 3, and 9, and MS 2648.
The area described contains 1,677.25 acres
in Yavapai County.

2. The withdrawal made by this order does not alter the applicability of those land laws governing the use of the National Forest System land under lease, license, or permit, or governing the disposal of their mineral or vegetative resources other than under the mining laws.

3. This withdrawal will expire 20 years from the effective date of this order unless, as a result of a review