

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service****Availability of Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge, Dugway, UT**

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announces that a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and Summary for Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge is available. This CCP, prepared pursuant to the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, describes how the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service intends to manage this Refuge for the next 15 years.

ADDRESSES: A copy of the Plan or Summary may be obtained by writing to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge, PO Box 568, Dugway, Utah, 84022; or download from <http://mountain-prairie.fws.gov/planning>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jay Banta, Refuge Manager, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge, PO Box 568, Dugway, Utah, 84022. Phone 435-831-5353; fax 435-831-5354; or e-mail: jay_banta@fws.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), comprised of 17,992 acres, is located in western Utah in Juab County. Springs flowing from the eastern base of the Fish Springs Range feed a 10,000-acre saline marsh divided into nine impoundments. The remaining portion comprises 6,000 acres of mud and alkali flat and 2,000 acres of semidesert upland. The Refuge provides the only important wetland habitat for a 70-mile radius, attracting hundreds of wetland-dependent species during migration. Since Refuge establishment, more than 278 species of birds have been seen at Fish Springs NWR, 61 of which nest on the Refuge. Fish Springs NWR was established by the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission in 1959 “* * * for use as an inviolate sanctuary, or for any other management purpose, for migratory birds.”

The availability of the Draft CCP and Environmental Assessment (EA) for 30-day public review and comment was announced in the **Federal Register** on July 20, 2004 in Volume 69, Number 138. The Draft CCP/EA identified and evaluated three alternatives for

managing Fish Springs NWR for the next 15 years. Alternative A, the No Action Alternative, would have continued current management of the Refuge. Alternative C (Preferred Alternative) emphasizes providing habitat for maximum wildlife diversity including migratory birds, and native mammal, mollusk, invertebrate, and amphibian communities. Alternative B, Marsh Restoration, would have restored the Refuge's original hydrological system and high-desert shrubland habitat to a condition resembling their historical nature prior to Refuge development.

Based on this assessment and comments received, the preferred Alternative C was selected for implementation. The preferred alternative was selected because it best meets the purpose and goals of the Refuge, as well as the goals of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The preferred alternative will also benefit migratory birds and native mammal, mollusk, invertebrate, and amphibian communities. Increased efforts in visitor services and the addition of a goose hunt will result in improved wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities. Cultural and historical resources will be protected.

Dated: September 1, 2004.

Mary G. Henry,

Regional Director, Region 6, Denver, Colorado.

[FR Doc. 04-22262 Filed 10-1-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service****Southern Conservation Corporation's Candidate Conservation Agreement With Assurances and Enhancement of Survival Permit Application for the Greater Adams Cave Beetle and Lesser Adams Cave Beetle**

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: We, the Fish and Wildlife Service, have received an application from Southern Conservation Corporation (Applicant) for an enhancement of survival permit (ESP) pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), as amended (Act). With our assistance, the Applicant proposes to implement conservation measures for the greater Adams Cave beetle (*Pseudanophthalmus pholeter*) and lesser Adams Cave beetle

(*Pseudanophthalmus cataryctos*), collectively known as the “the covered species,” by removing the threats to the survival of these species and protecting their habitat. We are announcing our receipt of the ESP application as well as the availability of a proposed Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) that is intended to facilitate the implementation of conservation measures for the species by the Applicant and the Service in support of on-going efforts to remove threats to their survival and provide protection of their habitat.

DATES: Written comments on the CCAA and ESP application should be sent to the Service's Regional Office (see **ADDRESSES**) and should be received on or before November 3, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the CCAA and ESP application may obtain copies by writing the Service's Southeast Regional Office, Atlanta, Georgia at the address below.

Documents will also be available for public inspection by appointment during normal business hours at the Regional Office, 1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 200, Atlanta, Georgia 30345 (Attn: Endangered Species Permits), or Field Supervisor, Fish and Wildlife Service, 3761 Georgetown Road, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601.

Written data or comments concerning the CCAA or ESP application should be submitted to the Regional Office at the address listed above and must be submitted in writing to be adequately considered in the Service's decision-making process. Please reference permit number TE-088168-0 in your comments, or in requests of the documents discussed herein.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Rick Gooch, Regional CCAA Coordinator, (see **ADDRESSES** above), telephone: (404) 679-7124, facsimile: (404) 679-7081; or Dr. Michael Floyd, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, Kentucky Field Office, Frankfort, Kentucky (see **ADDRESSES** above), telephone: (502) 695-0468.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Public Review and Comments Solicited**

Individuals wishing copies of the ESP application and/or copies of the full text of the proposed Agreement should contact the office and personnel listed in the **ADDRESSES** section above.

Documents also will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at this office (see **ADDRESSES**). We provide this notice pursuant to section 10(c) of the Act and pursuant to implementing regulations for the National

Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) found at (40 CFR 1506.6). All comments received on the permit application and proposed Agreement, including names and addresses, will become part of the administrative record and may be released to the public. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. All submissions from organizations or companies, or from individuals representing organizations or companies, are available for public inspection in their entirety.

Background

The greater Adams Cave beetle (*Pseudanopthalmus pholeter*) and lesser Adams Cave beetle (*Pseudanopthalmus cataryctos*) are small, blind, predatory ground beetles (Family Carabidae) that are endemic to Adams Cave in Madison County, Kentucky. They were first collected in Adams Cave in 1964 and were later described by C. Krekler in 1973. The area surrounding Adams Cave is largely rural but is developing rapidly due to its close proximity to the city of Lexington, Kentucky. The cave is located on an approximate 1-acre parcel (Lot 3) within Adams Place subdivision, approximately 6 miles southwest of the city of Richmond, Kentucky. Construction is occurring on many of the building lots in the subdivision. Adams Cave is a large cave for the Bluegrass Region of Kentucky, with its passageways varying in height from approximately 5 to 60 feet and extending over 1,500 feet in length. The terrestrial habitat surrounding Adams Cave is dominated by abandoned pasture containing scattered groups of trees, including black walnut (*Juglans nigra*) and Kentucky coffee tree (*Gymnocladus dioica*), and small clumps of cane (*Arundinaria* sp.).

Historically, Adams Cave has experienced extensive vandalism and was littered with trash and other debris, affecting the quality of available habitat for cave beetles. In 2002, a specially designed cave gate was installed to prevent unwanted human entry. Under the CCAA, Southern Conservation Corporation has agreed to implement several conservation measures that will reduce and/or eliminate potential threats to the species. Southern Conservation Corporation will: (1) Maintain the Adams Cave property in a natural state; (2) maintain the metal gate at the entrance to Adams Cave; and (3) control and limit access to Adams Cave and the enrolled property. Implementation of the CCAA is expected to protect and conserve habitat

for the covered species, eliminate unauthorized human disturbances within Adams Cave that are believed to impact the covered species, and provide important monitoring data that can be used to develop and/or improve management strategies for the covered species and other cave-dependent species. These benefits will be obtained through restoration and protection of the above- and below-ground habitats on the enrolled property.

We will make our final determination after the end of the 30-day comment period and will fully consider all comments received during the comment period. If the final analysis shows the CCAA to be consistent with our policies and applicable regulations, we will sign the CCAA and issue the ESP. The proposed ESP would, in compliance with the CCAA Policy, only become valid on such date as the greater Adams Cave beetle and/or lesser Adams Cave beetle is listed as a threatened or endangered species under the Act.

This notice also advises the public that we have made a preliminary determination that issuance of the ESP will not result in significant environmental, economic, social, historical, or cultural impacts and is, therefore, categorically excluded from review under NEPA, pursuant to 516 Departmental Manual 2, Appendix 1 and 516 Departmental Manual 6, Appendix 1. We specifically request information, views, and opinions from the public via this notice. Further, we specifically solicit information regarding the adequacy of the CCAA as measured against our CCAA Policy.

Author

The primary author of this notice is Rick Gooch (see **ADDRESSES** section).

Authority: The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act, (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*)

Dated: September 16, 2004.

Sam D. Hamilton,

Regional Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Geological Survey

Request for Public Comments on Extension of Existing Information Collection To Be Submitted to OMB for Review Under the Paperwork Reduction Act

The proposal for the information collection described below will be submitted to the Office of Management

and Budget for approval under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). Copies of the proposed collection of information may be obtained by contacting the Bureau's clearance officer at the phone number listed below. Comments on the proposal should be made within 60 days to the Bureau Clearance Officer, U.S. Geological Survey, 807 National Center, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, Virginia, 20192, telephone (703) 648-7313.

As required by OMB regulations at 5 CFR 1320.8(d)(1), the U.S. Geological Survey solicits specific public comments as to:

1. Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions on the bureaus, including whether the information will have practical utility;
2. The accuracy of the bureau's estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
3. The quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
4. How to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other forms of information technology.

Title: North American Breeding Bird Survey.

Current OMB Approval Number: 1028-0079.

Summary: The North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) is a long-term, large-scale avian monitoring program that was initiated in 1966 to track the status and trends of continental bird populations. Each spring, interested volunteers conduct 3-minute point counts of birds along roadsides across the United States. Data can be submitted electronically via the Internet or on hard copy. These data provide an index of population abundance that can be used to estimate population trends and relative abundances at various geographic scales. Declining population trends act as an early warning system to galvanize research to determine the causes of these declines and reverse them before populations reach critically low levels. The BBS currently provides population trend estimates for 420 bird species and raw data for more than 650 species via the web.

Estimated Annual Number of Respondents: 2500.

Estimated Annual Burden Hours: 12,500 hours.

Affected Public: Primarily U.S. residents.