

application includes a draft Safe Harbor Agreement (SHA) between the Applicant and the Service. The proposed SHA and permit would become effective upon signature of the SHA and issuance of the permit and would remain in effect for 15 years. We are requesting comments on the permit application and on the Service's preliminary determination that the proposed SHA qualifies as a categorical exclusion (516 DM 6 Appendix 1, 1.4C(1)) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended. Further, the Service is specifically soliciting information regarding the adequacy of the SHA as measured against the Service's Safe Harbor Policy and the implementing regulations.

DATES: Written data or comments must be received on or before October 20, 2005.

ADDRESSES: 1. Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services, 1 Federal Drive, Fort Snelling, Minnesota 55111-4056.

2. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services, 620 South Walker Street, Bloomington, Indiana 47403-2121.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Peter Fasbender, (612) 713-5343.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Availability of Documents

Individuals requesting copies of the enhancement of survival permit application and SHA should contact the Service by telephone at (612) 713-5343 or by letter (see **ADDRESSES**). Copies of the proposed SHA also are available for public inspection during regular business hours at the Bloomington, Indiana, Field Office (see **ADDRESSES**) or at the Service's Regional Web site at: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/NEPA>. All comments received from individuals become part of the official public record. Requests for such comments will be handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act and the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA regulations [40 CFR 1506.6(f)]. Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. If a respondent wishes us to withhold his/her name and/or address, this must be stated prominently at the beginning of the comment.

Background

The Karner blue butterfly was once a locally common species ranging from New England across the Great Lakes Region, extending as far west as eastern Minnesota. In Indiana, the Karner was originally distributed across the northern tier of counties on outwash and lake deposited sands. Currently there are approximately 1,000 acres of dune and swale topography remaining in the West Gary Recovery Unit, of this approximately 650 acres is potential habitat. By 1990, the Karner blue butterfly survived at only two dune and swale remnants: Ivanhoe Nature Preserve and Tolleston Ridges Nature Preserve. At Ivanhoe Nature Preserve, the butterfly was found within scattered openings until it disappeared there in 1998. After several years of habitat restoration effort, the Nature Conservancy began a re-introduction program in 2001. Despite recent success, the Karner blue butterfly continues to persist at limited habitat patches within three relatively isolated natural areas. Ecological fragmentation, combined with complex landownership and land use patterns, has created a difficult landscape for developing and implementing conservation strategies in the West Gary Recovery Unit.

The purpose of the SHA is to allow the Applicant and the Service to address the regional needs of the species by working with individual landowners to develop site specific restoration and management plans for a variety of properties. These plans will be designed to maximize Karner blue butterfly habitat within the constraints of the site's landscape setting and current land use and management needs. In addition they will document baseline conditions, monitoring protocols, timeframes, legal and regulatory responsibilities of participants, and will serve as a framework for coordinating conservation work in the West Gary Recovery Unit.

The SHA will allow willing property owners to enroll private and non-federal governmental lands into a regional program under an umbrella section 10(a)(1)(A) permit issued to the Applicant by means of a Certification of Inclusion. In addition, the Applicant will develop individual restoration and management plans to address the specific conservation benefits that enrolled properties contribute to establishing a viable metapopulation.

The area encompassed by the SHA may contain facilities eligible to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Additionally, other historical or archeological resources

may be present. The National Historic Preservation Act and other laws require these properties and resources be identified and considered in project planning. The public is requested to inform the Service of concerns about archeological sites, buildings, and structures; historic events; sacred and traditional areas; and other historic preservation concerns.

Dated: August 23, 2005.

Wendi Weber,

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

[FR Doc. 05-18682 Filed 9-19-05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

**Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Candidate Conservation Agreement
With Assurances and Enhancement of
Survival Permit Application for the
Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake**

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has received an application from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (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). The Applicant proposes to implement conservation measures for the Eastern Massasauga rattlesnake (*Sistrurus sistrurus catenatus*) by removing the threats to the survival and protecting and managing its habitat within the Rome State Nature Preserve. The Service announces receipt of the ESP application as well as the availability of a proposed Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) intended to facilitate the implementation of conservation measures for the species by the Applicant. Compliance under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the proposed action was addressed in an Environmental Assessment (EA) approved July 26, 2005. A copy of the final EA and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is available at: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/NEPA>.

DATES: Written data or comments must be received on or before October 20, 2005.

ADDRESSES: 1. Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological

Services, 1 Federal Drive, Fort Snelling, Minnesota 55111-4056.

2. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Field Office, 6950 Americana Pkwy, Suite H, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068-4127.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Peter Fasbender, (612) 713-5343, or peter_fasbender@fws.gov; or Ms. Angela Zimmerman, telephone: (614) 469-6923.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Availability of Documents

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 eastern massasauga rattlesnake, also known as the swamp rattler or black snapper, is a resident of many glaciated areas of Ohio. The massasauga was once common throughout much of the Great Lakes basin, but now is restricted to scattered, often isolated populations. Extensive farming, draining of their wetland habitats, vegetation succession and other forms of habitat fragmentation has contributed to their reduced numbers. Loss of habitat and persecution by humans are thought to be the primary causes of decline. Current records from the Heritage Database (Division of Natural Areas and Preserves) place the snake in only 15 Ohio counties. At least eight of these populations occur on state-owned and/or managed land. The Division of Natural Areas and Preserves (the Division) manages three sites, the Division of Wildlife manages four sites and the Ohio Historical Society manages another. The massasauga was listed as an endangered species in Ohio in 1996. In October 1999, the Service designated it a candidate species for Federal protection by the Endangered Species Act.

The Rome State Nature Preserve is located within Ashtabula County, Ohio. Containing approximately 105 acres, the preserve is located between Rome and

Hartsgrove Townships and lies within the Grand River watershed. Under the CCAA, the Applicant has agreed to implement several conservation measures that will reduce and/or eliminate potential threats to the species. The Applicant will: (1) Maintain and manage the Rome State Nature Preserve in a mosaic of habitats essential for the massasauga; (2) control the spread of invasive vegetation species; and (3) implement protective measures to reduce losses from human and natural predators.

Implementation of the CCAA is expected to protect and conserve habitat for the covered species, eliminate unauthorized human disturbances within Rome State Nature Preserve 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 massasauga. These benefits will be obtained through restoration and protection of 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. 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 eastern massasauga rattlesnake is listed as a threatened or endangered species under the Act.

Written data or comments concerning the CCAA or ESP application should be submitted to the Regional Director. (see **ADDRESSES** section). Further, persons wishing to review the CCAA and ESP application may obtain copies by writing to the same address or they can be viewed on the Service's Regional Web site at: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/NEPA>. Comments must be submitted in writing to be adequately considered in the Service's decision-making process. Please reference permit number TE-101451 in your comments, or in requests of the documents discussed herein. Documents will also be available for public inspection by appointment during normal business hours at the Reynoldsburg, Ohio, Ecological Services Field Office (see **ADDRESSES** section).

Dated: August 29, 2005.

Wendi Weber,

Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, Region 3, Fort Snelling, Minnesota.
[FR Doc. 05-18683 Filed 9-19-05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WO-310-1310-PB-24 1A]

Extension of Approved Information Collection, OMB Control Number 1004-0185

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is requesting the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to extend existing approvals to collect certain information from lessees, operators, record title holders, operating rights owners, and the general public on oil and gas and operations on Federal lands.

DATES: You must submit your comments to BLM at the address below on or before November 21, 2005. BLM will not necessarily consider any comments received after the above date.

ADDRESSES: You may mail comments to: Bureau of Land Management, (WO-630), Eastern States Office, 7450 Boston Blvd., Springfield, Virginia 22153.

You may send comments via e-mail to: comments_washington@blm.gov. Please include "Attn: 1004-0185" and your name and return address in your Internet message.

You may deliver comments to the Bureau of Land Management, Administrative Record, Room 401, 1620 L Street, NW., Washington, DC.

All comments will be available for public review at the L Street address during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.), Monday through Friday except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: You may contact Barbara Gamble, on (202) 452-0338 (Commercial or FTS). Persons who use a telecommunication device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) on 1-800-877-8330, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to contact Ms. Gamble.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: 5 CFR 1320.12(a) requires that we provide a 60-day notice in the **Federal Register** concerning a collection of information to solicit comments on:

(1) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper functioning of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(2) The accuracy of our estimates of the information collection burden, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions we use;