

Commissioner, Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice advises of the cause and effect of termination of Direct Endorsement (DE) approval taken by HUD's Federal Housing Administration (FHA) against HUD-approved mortgages through the FHA Credit Watch Termination Initiative. This notice includes a list of mortgagees that have had their DE Approval terminated.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Quality Assurance Division, Office of Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street SW, Room B133-P3214, Washington, DC 20410-8000; telephone (202) 708-5997 (this is not a toll-free number). Persons with hearing or speech impairments may access that number through TTY by calling the Federal Information Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: HUD has the authority to address deficiencies in the performance of lenders' loans as provided in HUD's mortgagee approval regulations at 24 CFR 202.3. On May 17, 1999, HUD published a notice (64 FR 26769) on its procedures for terminating Origination Approval Agreements with FHA lenders and placement of FHA lenders on Credit Watch status (an evaluation period). In the notice, HUD advised that it would publish in the **Federal Register** a list of mortgagees that have had their Approval Agreements terminated. HUD Handbook 4000.1 section V.E.3.a.iii outlines current procedures for terminating Underwriting Authority of Direct Endorsement mortgagees.

Termination of Direct Endorsement Approval: HUD approval of a DE mortgagee authorizes the mortgagee to underwrite single family mortgage loans and submit them to FHA for insurance endorsement. The approval may be terminated on the basis of poor performance of FHA-insured mortgage loans underwritten by the mortgagee. The termination of a mortgagee's DE Approval is separate and apart from any action taken by HUD's Mortgagee Review Board under HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 25.

Cause: HUD regulations permit HUD to terminate the DE Approval of any mortgagee having a default and claim rate for loans endorsed within the preceding 24 months that exceeds 200 percent of the default and claim rate within the geographic area served by a HUD field office, and that exceeds the national default and claim rate.

Effect: Termination of DE Approval precludes the mortgagee from underwriting FHA-insured single-family mortgages within the HUD field office jurisdiction(s) listed in this notice. Mortgagees authorized to hold or service FHA-insured mortgages may continue to do so.

Loans that closed or were approved before the termination became effective may be submitted for insurance endorsement. Approved loans are those already underwritten and approved by a DE underwriter and cases covered by a firm commitment issued by HUD. Cases at earlier stages of processing cannot be submitted for insurance by the terminated mortgagee; however, the cases may be transferred for completion of processing and underwriting to another mortgagee with DE Approval in that geographic area. Mortgagees must

continue to pay existing insurance premiums and meet all other obligations associated with insured mortgages.

A terminated mortgagee may apply for reinstatement if their DE Approval in the affected area or areas has been terminated for at least six months and the mortgagee continues to be an approved mortgagee meeting the requirements of 24 CFR 202.5, 202.6, 202.7, 202.10 and 202.12. The mortgagee's application for reinstatement must be in a format prescribed by the Secretary and signed by the mortgagee. In addition, the application must be accompanied by an independent analysis of the terminated office's operations as well as its mortgage production, specifically including the FHA-insured mortgages cited in its termination notice. This independent analysis shall identify the underlying cause for the mortgagee's high default and claim rate. The analysis must be prepared by an independent Certified Public Accountant (CPA) qualified to perform audits under Government Auditing Standards as provided by the Government Accountability Office. The mortgagee must also submit a written corrective action plan to address each of the issues identified in the CPA's report, along with evidence that the plan has been implemented. The application for reinstatement must be submitted through the Lender Electronic Assessment Portal (LEAP). The application must be accompanied by the CPA's report and the corrective action plan.

Action: The following mortgagees have had their DE Approval terminated by HUD:

Mortgagee name	Mortgagee home office address	HUD office jurisdiction	Termination effective date	Homeownership center
First Hallmark Mortgage Corporation	1 Executive Drive, Suite 130, Somerset, NJ 08873-4002.	Newark	7/19/16	Philadelphia.
CityWorth Mortgage LLC	11781 Lee Jackson, Memorial Highway, Fairfax, VA 22033.	Philadelphia	5/1/18	Philadelphia.

Dated: March 28, 2019.

Brian Montgomery,

Assistant Secretary for Housing—Federal Housing Commissioner.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

**[FWS-HQ-MB-2019-N010;
FXGO1664091HCC0-FF09D00000-189]**

North American Wetlands Conservation Council; Call for Nominations

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Call for nominations.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of the Interior seeks nominations for individuals to be considered to fill one vacancy to serve as an ex officio non-voting representative on the North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Council). The Council operates under statutory procedures established under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act. Council members review and recommend grant funding for wetland protection and restoration projects in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. The Council provides

recommendations to the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, which provides final funding approval for these projects.

DATES: Written nominations must be postmarked by April 29, 2019.

ADDRESSES: Please address and submit your nomination letters via U.S. mail or hand delivery to Mr. Jerome Ford, Assistant Director—Migratory Birds; North American Wetlands Conservation Council; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; 5275 Leesburg Pike, MS:MB; Falls Church, VA 22041–3803.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kari Duncan by email (preferred) at kari_duncan@fws.gov, by telephone at 703–358–1784, by U.S. mail at the address in **ADDRESSES**, or via the Federal Relay Service at 1–800–877–8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

In accordance with the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4401 *et seq.*; NAWCA), the State-private-Federal North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Council) meets to consider wetland acquisition, restoration, enhancement, and management projects for recommendation to, and final funding approval by, the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission. NAWCA provides matching grants to organizations and individuals who have developed partnerships to carry out wetlands conservation projects in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. These projects must involve long-term protection, restoration, and/or enhancement of wetlands and associated uplands habitats for the benefit of all wetlands-associated migratory birds.

The Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) seeks nominations for individuals to be considered to fill one vacancy to serve as an ex officio non-voting representative on the Council, which operates under statutory procedures established under NAWCA. The program has two cycles per year, and eligible proposals are reviewed and ranked by the Council each cycle. For more information about the Council, visit the following website: <https://www.fws.gov/birds/grants/north-american-wetland-conservation-act/north-american-wetland-conservation-council.php>.

Council Makeup

Per 16 U.S.C. 4403, the Council consists of nine voting members (two permanent and seven appointed members), an alternate member, and ex officio members. The two permanent

members are the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Secretary of the Board of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The Secretary appoints all non-permanent members to the Council to 3-year staggered terms. Four Council members are to be directors of State fish and wildlife agencies representing the four migratory bird flyways, and three members are to represent different nonprofit organizations actively participating in wetland and migratory bird conservation activities. The alternate member, knowledgeable and experienced in matters relating to fish, wildlife, and wetlands conservation, performs the duties of a Council member in the event of a vacancy or absence. The Secretary is authorized and encouraged to include ex officio nonvoting members representing Canada, Mexico, other Federal agencies, nonprofit charitable organizations, and tribal organizations. In the event that an appointment lapses, members continue to serve until reappointed or replaced.

Nomination Method and Eligibility

Per 16 U.S.C. 4403(c), The Secretary is authorized and encouraged to include as ex officio non-voting members of the Council representatives of: Federal, provincial, territorial, or State government agencies of Canada and Mexico; the Environmental Protection Agency and other appropriate Federal agencies, in addition to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; and nonprofit charitable organizations and Native American interests, including tribal organizations. Individuals must be participating actively in one or more wetlands conservation projects under NAWCA, the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, or the Tripartite Agreement. The ex officio member will be appointed to a three-year term that will expire on March 31, 2022.

Nominations should include a resume that provides contact information and a description of the nominee's qualifications that would enable the Department of the Interior to make an informed decision regarding the candidate's suitability to serve on the Council.

Dated: April 2, 2019.

James W. Kurth,

Deputy Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS–R8–ES–2018–N170; FXES
11140800000–190–FF 08EYRE00]

Notice of Availability for the Butte Creek Ranch Safe Harbor Agreement for the Northern Spotted Owl and Gray Wolf, Siskiyou County, California; Categorical Exclusion

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability and receipt of application.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that members of the Hart Family 2003 Trust (applicant) have applied to the Fish and Wildlife Service for a 50-year enhancement of survival permit under the Endangered Species Act. If granted, the permit will authorize the take of both the northern spotted owl and the gray wolf that may occur incidental to land management activities in connection with ongoing livestock grazing and forest management operations that can restore, enhance, or maintain habitat for the species on the Butte Creek Ranch in Siskiyou County, California. The documents available for review and comment are the applicant's safe harbor agreement and our draft environmental action statement, supporting a categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act. We invite comments from the public and Federal, Tribal, State, and local governments.

DATES: *Submitting Comments:* To ensure consideration, we must receive written comments by 5 p.m. on May 8, 2019.

ADDRESSES: You may submit written comments by any one of the following methods.

- *U.S. Mail or Hand-Delivery:* Jenny Ericson, Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1829 South Oregon Street, Yreka, CA 97520.

- *Electronic mail:* fw8_yfwo_comments@fws.gov. In the subject line of the email, include "Butte Creek Ranch SHA."

- *Fax:* 530–842–4517.

Obtaining Documents: You may obtain the applicant's safe harbor agreement and our draft environmental action statement by one of the following methods.

- *U.S. Mail:* See address above.
- *In Person:* Copies of the draft SHA and environmental action statement are available for public inspection during regular business hours at the Yreka Fish and Wildlife Office (address above).
- *Internet:* www.fws.gov/yreka.