

Fish and Wildlife Service**Availability of an Environmental Assessment and Receipt of an Application for a Permit To Allow Incidental Take of the Endangered Pahrump Poolfish by the Nevada Division of State Parks, Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, Clark County, Nevada**

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the Nevada Division of State Parks (Applicant) has applied to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for an incidental take permit pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). The application includes the proposed habitat conservation plan fully describing the proposed project and mitigation, and the accompanying implementing agreement. The application has been assigned permit number PRT-804120. The requested permit would authorize the incidental take of the endangered Pahrump poolfish (*Empetrichthys latos latos*) in the irrigation storage reservoir at the Spring Mountain Ranch State Park (Park) in Clark County, Nevada. The proposed incidental take would occur during the renovation and operation of the reservoir in which the Pahrump poolfish occupies.

The Service also announces the availability of an environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed issuance of the incidental take permit. This notice is provided pursuant to section 10 of the Act and National Environmental Policy Act regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

DATES: Written comments on the permit application and EA should be received on or before August 2, 1995.

ADDRESSES: Comments regarding the application or adequacy of the EA should be addressed to Mr. Carlos H. Mendoza, State Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Nevada State Office, 4600 Kietzke Lane, Building C-125, Reno, Nevada 89502. Please refer to permit number PRT-804120 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: Mr. Mark Maley, at the above Reno, Nevada, address or at telephone number (702) 784-5227. Individuals wishing copies of the application or EA for review should immediately contact the above individual.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under section 9 of the Act, "taking" of the Pahrump poolfish, an endangered species, is prohibited. However the Service, under limited circumstances, may issue permits to take endangered wildlife species if such taking is incidental to, and not the purpose of, otherwise lawful activities. Regulations governing permits for endangered species are in 50 CFR 17.22.

The Applicant proposes to implement a habitat conservation plan (HCP) for the Pahrump poolfish that would allow the renovation and operation of the Park reservoir. The proposed reservoir renovation would include dredging of the reservoir to restore its holding capacity and construction of a dam to control sedimentation. The Applicant estimates that there would be no incidental take of Pahrump poolfish during renovation activities and an unquantifiable number of poolfish during the 30-year operation of the reservoir. However, if an unanticipated accident should occur during renovation of the reservoir, the incidental take of the reservoir's Pahrump poolfish population (estimated at 15,039 \pm 1,127 poolfish in 1994) could occur. The likelihood for such an accident to occur would be greatly reduced by the implementation of the proposed minimizing and monitoring measures outlined in the HCP. These measures include modification of construction activities to minimize poolfish mortalities and installation of two protective barriers between the construction zone and the inundated portion of the reservoir. The Applicant, as mitigation for the incidental take of Pahrump poolfish, proposes over the term of the permit, to continue to manage the reservoir jointly for irrigation and Pahrump poolfish. Management actions would include the termination of the annual practice of drawing down the reservoir to minimum pool, except for those years when maintenance is necessary. In addition, if renovation activities resulted in the total loss of the reservoir population of Pahrump poolfish within 1 year after completion of these activities, the Applicant would assist the Nevada Division of Wildlife and the Service in the reintroduction of poolfish from existing refugia back into the reservoir.

The EA considers the environmental consequences of three alternatives, the No-Action Alternative, Sediment Control Alternative, and the Reservoir Renovation Alternative (Preferred Alternative). The Reservoir Renovation Alternative would allow the renovation and continued operation of the

reservoir, the short-term modification of suitable Pahrump poolfish habitat, and the incidental take of Pahrump poolfish. Under the No-Action Alternative, reservoir renovation would not occur and the permit would not be issued. Without reservoir dredging, increasingly restricted reservoir capacity would inevitably result in shortened irrigation and grazing seasons, most noticeably reflected in the shorter periods that Park pastures remained green. As a consequence, ranching, one of the Park's scenic and historic qualities, would be diminished, or lost. Over the long-term, gradual sedimentation of the reservoir would shrink Pahrump poolfish habitat and eventually fish numbers would decline. The Sediment Control Alternative would forego reservoir renovation in favor of a earth dam to reduce the rate of further sedimentation. The construction of the sediment dam would not result in any immediate adverse effects to the Pahrump poolfish population in the reservoir.

Dated: June 27, 1995.

Thomas Dwyer,

Deputy Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.

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INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY**Agency For International Development****Housing Guaranty Program; Notice of Investment Opportunity**

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has authorized the guaranty of loans to the Banco General S.A., Panama ("Borrower") as part of USAID's development assistance program. The proceeds of these loans will be used to finance shelter and shelter-related infrastructure for the benefit of low-income families in Panama. At this time, the Banco General S.A. has authorized USAID to request proposals from eligible lenders for a loan under this program of \$7.0 Million U.S. Dollars (US\$7,000,000). The name and address of the Borrower's representative to be contacted by interested U.S. lenders or investment bankers, the amount of the loan and project number are indicated below:

Banco General S.A., Panama

Project No: 525-HG-013

Housing Guaranty Loan No.: 525-HG-014 A02

Amount: US\$7,000,000