



United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

UTAH FIELD OFFICE
2369 WEST ORTON CIRCLE, SUITE 50
WEST VALLEY CITY, UTAH 84119

In Reply Refer To
FWS/R6
ES/UT

February 5, 2010

Subject: 2010 Threatened and Endangered Species Training Opportunities

Dear Interested Parties:

In coordination with the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, and Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, we will be offering four threatened and endangered species survey trainings this year. These trainings are mandatory for those who plan to conduct surveys in Utah in 2010 for listed plant species, Mexican spotted owls, Utah prairie dogs, or southwestern willow flycatchers. We might receive more requests to enroll in the training courses than can be accommodated in the classroom and in the field. If this is the case, we will consider a number of factors in approving applicants to attend. These factors will include if you have previously completed similar training; if you are enrolled in a survey course in another State; and your survey plans for the species in Utah.

Please note that two of the trainings are scheduled for early to mid March and registration for the first training is due to our office by February 19, 2010.

Vernal BLM Field Office Rare and Listed Plant Orientation Workshop

This workshop emphasizes identification of rare plants in the basin and their habitats. Completion of the workshop is mandatory for all persons who plan to conduct plant surveys in the Uinta Basin. For those who have previous experience, we strongly encourage participation because the listing status for some rare plants has changed, potential habitat polygons were expanded and new protocols were established with the 2008 Vernal Resource Management Plan.

- **When:** Tuesday March 2, 2010 – 8:00 AM to 4:45 PM
- **Where:** Western Park Convention Center, 302 East 200 South, Vernal, Utah
- **Registration Deadline:** Close of business on Friday, February 19, 2010
- **Contact for registration and additional information:** Jessi Brunson via e-mail at jessica_brunson@blm.gov or by telephone at (435) 781-4448

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DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

Mexican Spotted Owl Survey Training

This training emphasizes identification of owl habitats and use of the Fish and Wildlife Service 2003 Mexican spotted owl survey protocol in canyon habitats. Completion of this survey training is mandatory for all currently permitted and future permit applicants who plan to conduct Mexican spotted owl surveys in Utah; unless you have completed a previous training session for canyon habitats that included a field portion and evaluation. Please bring binoculars, field clothes, sun screen, and, if you wish, food and beverages for yourself for the Tuesday field session.

- **When:** March 15-16, 2010 – course will begin at 1:00 PM on Monday, March 15, and end at approximately 3:30 PM on Tuesday, March 16
- **Where:** BLM Field Office, 82 East Dogwood, Suite M, Moab, Utah
- **Registration Deadline:** Close of business on Friday, February 26, 2010. By Friday, March 5, we will inform you as to whether or not you are approved to attend.
- **Contact for registration and additional information:** Katie Richardson via e-mail at katherine_richardson@fws.gov or by telephone at (801) 975-3330 ext 125

In order to conduct Mexican spotted owl surveys, you must possess an ESA section 10(a)(1)(A) endangered species permit from the Service, and completion of the survey training course is a requirement for obtaining a permit. If you intend to conduct surveys this year in Utah and do not hold a permit, please complete a permit application form as soon as possible (available on-line at <http://www.fws.gov/permits/>).

Utah Prairie Dog Survey Training

This training emphasizes identification of Utah prairie dogs and their habitat and use of the Fish and Wildlife Service 2010 Utah prairie dog survey protocol. Please keep in mind that any individual conducting Utah prairie dog surveys must attend our Utah Prairie Dog Survey Training and obtain a certification card. If an organization/agency employs multiple surveyors to conduct Utah prairie dog surveys, each of those surveyors must attend the training and become certified. Surveys conducted by individuals who have not successfully completed the training will be invalid.

There are significant changes to the Utah Prairie Dog Survey Protocol. Therefore, to retain your certification, all surveyors are required to attend the classroom portion of the 2010 training even if you attended the 2009 training. New trainees must attend the classroom session plus one of the field sessions.

- **When:** One classroom session and two field sessions are scheduled to accommodate all participants.
 - Field sessions – May 4 and May 6, 2010
 - Classroom session – May 5, 2010
- **Where:**
 - Field Sessions – to be determined
 - Classroom Portion – Southern Utah University (SUU) 351 West University Blvd, Cedar City, UT

- **Registration Deadline:** Close of business on Friday, April 2, 2010. We will notify you of acceptance and assign a field session date to you by April 16.
- **Contact for registration and additional information:** Jen Fox via e-mail at jennifer_fox@fws.gov or by telephone at (801) 975-3330 ext 128

Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Survey Training

This training emphasizes identification of southwestern willow flycatcher habitats, species identification by sight and sound, and use of the 1997 and 2000 survey protocols. Completion of this survey training is mandatory for all currently permitted and future permit applicants who plan to conduct southwestern willow flycatcher surveys in Utah; unless you have completed a previous training session that included a field portion and evaluation. Please bring binoculars, field clothes, mosquito repellent, sunscreen, and, if you wish, food and beverages for yourself for the Tuesday morning field session.

- **When:** May 10-11, 2010 – course will begin at 1:00 PM on Monday, May 10, and end at approximately 12:00 PM on Tuesday, May 11
- **Where:** Washington County Library, 88 West 100 South, St. George, Utah
- **Registration Deadline:** Close of business on Monday, April 26, 2010. By Friday, April 30, we will inform you as to whether or not you are approved to attend.
- **Contact for registration and additional information:** Nathan Darnall via, e-mail at nathan_darnall@fws.gov, by telephone at (801) 975-3330 ext. 137, or by facsimile at (801) 975-3331

In order to conduct southwestern willow flycatcher surveys, you must possess an ESA section 10(a)(1)(A) endangered species permit from the Service, and completion of the survey training course is a requirement for obtaining a permit. If you intend to conduct surveys this year in Utah and do not hold a permit, please complete a permit application form as soon as possible (available on-line at <http://www.fws.gov/permits/>).

The above trainings are free. However, you are responsible for arranging and paying for your own transportation, lodging, and meal expenses. Please share this information with others who may be interested. If you need more information about a specific training course, please contact the appropriate individual listed above or visit our website <http://www.fws.gov/utahfieldoffice/>.

Sincerely,



Larry Crist
Utah Field Supervisor