

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Receipt of Applications for Permit

The following applicants have applied for a permit to conduct certain activities with endangered species. This notice is provided pursuant to Section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531, et seq.):

PRT-677336

Applicant: Florida Museum of Natural History, Gainesville, FL

The applicant requests renewal of their permit to export and re-import non-living museum specimens of endangered and threatened species of plants and animals previously accessioned into the permittee's collection for scientific research. This notification covers activities conducted by the applicant for a five year period.

PRT-840644

Applicant: International Crane Foundation, Baraboo, WI

The applicant requests a permit to export 3 Siberian crane (*Grus leucogeranus*) eggs to VogelPark Zoo, Walsrode, Germany for the purpose of enhancement to the survival and propagation of the species through isolation-rearing and re-introduction of specimens to the wild.

Written data or comments should be submitted to the Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203 and must be received by the Director within 30 days of the date of this publication.

Documents and other information submitted with these applications are available for review, *subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act*, by any party who submits a written request for a copy of such documents to the following office within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203. Phone: (703/358-2104); FAX: (703/358-2281).

Dated: March 23, 1998.

MaryEllen Amtower,

Acting Chief, Branch of Permits, Office of Management Authority.

[FR Doc. 98-8000 Filed 3-26-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Availability of Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Establishment of the Northern Tallgrass Prairie Habitat Preservation Area in Western Minnesota and Northwestern Iowa

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has prepared a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) which is available for public review. The FEIS evaluates the establishment of a Northern Tallgrass Prairie Habitat Preservation Area as a means of working with individuals, groups, and governmental entities to permanently preserve remnant tracts of northern tallgrass prairie. Three alternatives, including a No Action alternative are being considered. The action alternatives are aimed at permanently protecting and enhancing prairie remnants.

The Service's preferred alternative (Alternative B) is to permanently protect and enhance prairie remnants through partnerships, incentives, education, and cooperative agreements. Any conservation easements, or acquisition of full title would be done by the Service and Service Partners. Service acquisition of easements and fee interest in lands would be on a voluntary basis from willing sellers.

DATES: A decision whether to implement the preferred alternative will be made after a 30-day waiting period from the date of this notice.

ADDRESSES: Individuals wishing copies of the FEIS for review should contact: Jane West, Project Manager, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, BHW Federal Building, 1 Federal Drive, Fort Snelling, MN 55111-4056.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jane West at the address listed above or by telephone at 612/713-5314.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: America's native grasslands are a vanishing ecosystem, and mounting evidence indicates that many species are disappearing as fast as the prairie habitats on which they depend. Few other ecosystem types have experienced as great a degree of loss and alteration. In Minnesota and Iowa, the native northern tallgrass prairie has declined to less than 1 percent of its original 25 million acres (10.1 million hectares).

Through an integrated ecosystem approach, the Service, with its partners, proposes to protect and restore fish and wildlife habitats through holistic

management strategies using a wide variety of tools, and techniques. The Service proposes to participate in public and private partnerships at many levels, complimenting other prairie projects such as those of the Iowa County Conservation Boards, Iowa and Minnesota Departments of Natural Resources, the Nature Conservancy, and others.

Dated: March 17, 1998.

Robb M. Morin,

Acting Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 98-7410 Filed 3-26-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Proposals To Register An Operation Breeding Appendix-I Species in Captivity for Commercial Purposes According to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announces that it intends to submit to the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) proposals to register a breeding operation for Sky-Out Falcons, a breeding facility for gyrfalcons (*Falco rusticolus*) and peregrine falcons (*Falco peregrinus*), both specific and hybrid offspring, owned and operated by David H. Jamieson, Reno, Nevada (one of each species). The registration of this facility will allow specimens to be designated as bred in captivity for commercial purposes and deemed to be specimens of species included in Appendix II, as provided for in Article VII, paragraph 4 of CITES. Public comments are solicited.

DATES: Comments will be accepted until April 27, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Please send correspondence concerning this notice to the Office of Scientific Authority, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Mail stop ARLSQ 750, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22203. Fax number 703-358-2276. Copies of the full text of the registration proposals are available from the Office of Scientific Authority and will be mailed upon request. Comments and other information received are available for public inspection by appointment from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, at the Arlington, Virginia, address.