

following Mississippi counties: Harrison, Hancock, Jackson, Pearl River, Stone, George, Lamar, Forrest, Perry, Greene, Jones, and Wayne. The specimens will be deposited into an actively curated herbarium.

Applicant: Steve M. Lohr, Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina TE039592-0.

The applicant requests authorization to take (harass during capturing, banding, releasing, monitoring, and habitat management) the Red-cockaded woodpecker, *Picoides borealis*, for the purposes of managing the populations on Poinsett Electronic Combat Range. The proposed activities will take place in Sumter County, South Carolina.

Applicant: Carlos E. Diez, Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources, San Juan, Puerto Rico TE039589-0.

The applicant requests authorization to take (capture, collect, relocate, and euthanize) Hawksbill sea turtle, *Eretmochelys imbricata*, for the purposes of conducting genetic studies on 200 eggs and 420 hatchlings to determine the sex ratios of the hatchlings that are being produced on Mona Island. The proposed study consists of three phases: (1) Determination of the pivotal temperature (the incubation temperature at which both sexes are produced in equal proportion); (2) a methodological validation; and (3) the estimation of the sex ratio in hatchlings incubated on Mona Island's beaches. The proposed activities will take place on Mona Island, Puerto Rico.

Dated: March 7, 2001.

Judy Jones,

Acting Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 01-6806 Filed 3-19-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Receipt of Applications for Permit

Endangered Species

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.*). Written data or comments should be submitted to the Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division 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.

PRT-039865

Applicant: The Los Angeles Zoo, Los Angeles, CA

The applicant requests a permit to import 1.0 captive-born mandrill (*Mandrillus sphinx*) from The Toronto Zoo, Ontario, Canada, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species through captive propagation.

PRT-039950

Applicant: Linda Jennings, Department of Botany, University of British Columbia, British Columbia, Canada

The applicant requests a permit to export flower heads, leaves, and whole plants of 400 plants of *Townsendia aprica* for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species through scientific research.

Marine Mammals

The public is invited to comment on the following application(s) for a permit to conduct certain activities with marine mammals. The application(s) was submitted to satisfy requirements of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, *as amended* (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) and the regulations governing marine mammals (50 CFR 18).

Written data, comments or requests for copies of these complete applications or requests for a public hearing on these applications should be sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Management Authority, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203, telephone 703/358-2104 or fax 703/358-2281. These requests must be received within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice. Anyone requesting a hearing should give specific reasons why a hearing would be appropriate. The holding of such a hearing is at the discretion of the Director.

PRT-040021

Applicant: Donald L. Fetterolf, Somerset, PA

The applicant requests a permit to import a polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) sport hunted from the Lancaster Sound polar bear population in Canada for personal use.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife has information collection approval from OMB through February 28, 2001. OMB Control Number 1018-0093. Federal Agencies may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a current valid OMB control number.

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, Division of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203. Phone: (703/358-2104); FAX: (703/358-2281).

Dated: March 9, 2001.

Anna Barry,

Senior Permit Biologist, Branch of Permits, Division of Management Authority.

[FR Doc. 01-6839 Filed 3-19-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Availability of a Draft Environmental Assessment and Preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact, and Receipt of an Application for an Incidental Take Permit for Residential Lot Construction and Timber Harvest in North Carolina

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

Crescent Resources, Inc. (Applicant) has requested an incidental take permit (ITP) pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), as amended (Act). The Applicant anticipates incidental take of the American bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) over the next 50 years associated with the construction of residential housing and during forest management activities. The level of incidental take requested in the ITP application is one existing bald eagle nest. This take will be in the form of harm and harassment associated with planned construction and forest management activities. The incidental take and measures to minimize and mitigate this take will occur on approximately 11,700 acres owned by the Applicant that surround Lake James in Burke and McDowell counties, North Carolina.

To compensate for the likely effects of these actions, the Applicant will provide six undeveloped sites, each with a 300-foot radius primary buffer zone (i.e., approximately 6.5 acres of land each), along the periphery of Lake James for bald eagle habitat conservation. Each mitigation site will be protected for the duration of the proposed permit and will contain at least one large, prominent pine tree that

is suitable for bald eagle nest construction. In addition, several other impact minimization measures will occur including: (1) The habitat surrounding each potential nest tree on the six mitigation sites will be enhanced, if necessary; (2) two of the six mitigation sites will have a basic nesting structure installed to encourage bald eagle nest development at those sites; and (3) subdivision ordinances will be implemented that will maintain a 65-foot undeveloped setback and buffer along the shoreline of Lake James and eliminate cutting of trees greater than four inches in diameter. In addition, if, during the duration of the HCP, bald eagles construct a nest at a site other than one of the six mitigation sites, then the Applicant will protect that site instead of one of the previously chosen mitigation sites. A more detailed description of the mitigation and minimization measures to address the effects of the proposed project on bald eagles is provided in the Applicant's Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), the draft Implementing Agreement (IA), the Service's draft Environmental Assessment (EA), and in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section below.

This notice advises the public that the Service has opened the comment period on the permit application, the draft environmental assessment (EA), and the preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The permit application includes the Applicant's habitat conservation plan and a draft Implementation Agreement. This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(a) of the Act and National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) regulations (40 CFR 1506.6) and advises the public that the Service has made a preliminary determination that issuing the ITP is not a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment within the meaning of section 102(2)(C) of NEPA. The FONSI is based on information contained in the draft EA, HCP, and other permit documents. The final determination on this action will be made no sooner than 30 days from the date of this notice.

The Service specifically requests information, views, and opinions from the public via this Notice on this Federal action, including the identification of any other aspects of the human environment not already identified in the Service's draft EA. Further, the Service specifically solicits information regarding the adequacy of the HCP as measured against the Service's ITP issuance criteria found in 50 CFR parts 13 and 17.

If you wish to comment, you may submit comments by any one of several methods. Please reference permit number TE034491-0 in such comments. You may mail comments to the Service's Regional Office (see **ADDRESSES**). You may also comment via the internet to "lee_andrews@fws.gov". Please submit comments over the internet as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Please also include your name and return address in your internet message. If you do not receive a confirmation from the Service that we have received your internet message, contact us directly at either telephone number listed below (see **FURTHER INFORMATION**). Finally, you may hand deliver comments to either Service office listed below (see **ADDRESSES**). 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 administrative record. We will honor such requests to the extent allowable by law. There may also be other circumstances in which we would withhold from the administrative record a respondent's identity, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. We will not, however, consider anonymous comments. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

DATES: Written comments on the ITP application, draft EA, draft Implementing Agreement, and HCP should be sent to the Service's Regional Office (see **ADDRESSES**) and should be received on or before April 19, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the application, HCP, draft Implementing Agreement, and draft EA may obtain a copy by writing the Service's Southeast Regional Office in Atlanta, Georgia. Documents will also be available for public inspection by appointment during normal business hours at the Regional Office, 1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 200, Atlanta, Georgia 30345 (Attn: Endangered Species Permits), or Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 160 Zillicoa Street, Asheville, North Carolina 28801. Written data or comments concerning the application, or HCP should be submitted to the Regional Office. Please reference permit

number TE034491-0 in requests of the documents discussed herein.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Lee Andrews, Regional Permit Coordinator (see **ADDRESSES** above), telephone: 404/679-7217, facsimile: 404/679-7081; or Mr. Mark Cantrell, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, Asheville Field Office, North Carolina (see **ADDRESSES** above), telephone: 828/258-3939, Ext. 227.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The bald eagle is a large, brown North American fish eagle that ranges from 27 to 35 inches in length, weighs from 7 to 14 pounds, and has a wingspan of up to 7 feet. Adults have a pure white head and tail while juveniles have mottled plumage. The species can be found throughout much of North America, generally in association with mature coniferous forests close to large water bodies such as rivers, lakes, estuaries, or coastlines where it feeds primarily on fish but may also hunt or scavenge other prey items.

The bald eagle below the 40th parallel was listed as endangered in 1967 in response to significant population declines due to habitat destruction, nest disturbance, illegal shooting, and food source contamination by the pesticide DDT. By the mid 1990s, efforts to reduce these threats were successful, and bald eagle populations rebounded to the point that bald eagles were reclassified as threatened in July 1995. The species is currently being considered for delisting under the Act.

By 1962, bald eagle populations in North Carolina had dwindled to only one nesting territory. However, their populations have slowly increased such that in 1999, 29 bald eagle nesting territories were documented, most of which were in the eastern portion of North Carolina, and no active nests were known west of Stanly County prior to 1999. The nest associated with the proposed project on Lake James is one of two known nests west of Stanly County, and this nest was initiated in February 1999, although successful fledging has not yet occurred at the site. No other bald eagle nests are known to occur on the Applicant's property or on other property around Lake James, but bald eagles have occasionally been observed on Lake James where other potential habitat occurs.

Construction of the Southpointe Subdivision where the bald eagle nest is located began in November 1997, and gradual development of the Applicant's 11,700 property is expected to occur over the next 20 years. Residential lot construction has been restricted to protect the existing nest tree and the

other large trees that immediately surround it such that no trees larger than 4 inches in diameter can be cut or otherwise removed. Incidental take is expected in the form of harm and harassment from noise and movement associated with construction and timber management activities during the nesting season. These impacts may disturb eagles in the immediate area and/or prevent them from nesting, resulting in incidental take through modification of habitat in the vicinity of the existing nest or future nests and/or disturbance of nesting bald eagles. The strategy that the Applicant will employ to offset the impacts of the project to the bald eagle include efforts to avoid or minimize take, combined with management to improve bald eagle nesting and foraging habitat in selected areas as described in the Applicant's HCP.

Under section 9 of the Act and its implementing regulations, "taking" of endangered and threatened wildlife is prohibited. However, the Service, under limited circumstances, may issue permits to take such wildlife if the taking is incidental to and not the purpose of otherwise lawful activities. The Applicant has prepared an HCP as required for the ITP application.

As stated above, the Service has made a preliminary determination that the issuance of the ITP is not a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment within the meaning of section 102(2)(C) of NEPA. This preliminary information may be revised due to public comments received in response to this notice and is based on information contained in the draft EA and HCP. The Service will also evaluate whether the issuance of a section 10(a)(1)(B) ITP complies with section 7 of the Act by conducting an intra-Service section 7 consultation. The results of the biological opinion, in combination with the above findings, will be used in the final analysis to

determine whether or not to issue the ITP and sign the Implementing Agreement.

Dated: March 9, 2001.

H. Dale Hall,

Acting Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 01-6811 Filed 3-19-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

U.S. Geological Survey

Request for Public Comments on Information Collection To Be Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for Review Under the Paperwork Reduction Act

A request extending the collection of information listed below will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for approval under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. chapter 35). Copies of the proposed collection of information and related forms may be obtained by contacting the USGS Clearance Officer at the phone number listed below. Comments and suggestions on the requirement should be made within 60 days directly to the USGS Clearance Officer, U.S. Geological Survey, 807 National Center, Reston, VA 20192. As required by OMB regulations at 5 CFR 1320.8(d)(1), the U.S. Geological Survey solicits specific public comments regarding the proposed information collection as to:

1. Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the USGS, including whether the information will have practical utility;
2. The accuracy of the USGS estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
3. The utility, quality, and clarity of the information to be collected; and,

4. How to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated electronic, mechanical, or other forms of information technology.

Title: Consolidated Consumers' Report.

Current OMB approval number: 1028-0070.

Abstract: Respondents supply the U.S. Geological Survey with domestic consumption data of 12 metals and ferroalloys, some of which are considered strategic and critical. This information will be published as Annual Reports, Mineral Industry Surveys, and in Mineral Commodity Summaries for use by Government agencies, industry, and the general public.

Bureau form number: 9-4117-MA.

Frequency: Monthly and Annual.

Description of respondents: Consumers of ferrous and related metals.

Annual Responses: 3,670.

Annual burden hours: 2,791.

Bureau clearance officer: John E. Cordyack, Jr., 703-648-7313.

John H. DeYoung, Jr.,

Chief Scientist, Minerals Information Team.

[FR Doc. 01-6877 Filed 3-19-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-Y7-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Notice of Intention To Extend Concession Contracts to: December 31, 2001

SUMMARY: Pursuant to 36 CFR part 51, section 51.23, public notice is hereby given that the National Park Service proposes to extend the following expiring concession contracts.

Concessioner identification No.	Concessioner name	Park
JOTR001	Joshua Tree National Park Association	Joshua Tree National Park.
OLYM047	Allen Rancourt	Olympic National Park.
OLYM064	Sure Fire Wood	Olympic National Park.

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 1, 2001.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: All of the listed concession authorizations will expire on or before April 30, 2001. The National Park Service has determined that the proposed short-term extensions are necessary in order to avoid an interruption of visitor services and has taken all reasonable and appropriate steps to consider alternatives to avoid

such interruption. These extensions will allow the National Park Service to complete and issue prospectuses leading to the competitive selection of concessioners for new longer-term concession contracts covering these operations. This short-term extension will be until December 31, 2001. Information about this notice can be sought from: National Park Service,

Chief, Concession Program Management Office, Pacific West Region, Attn: Mr. Tony Sisto, 600 Harrison Street, Suite 600, San Francisco, California 94107-1372, or call (415) 427-1366.