

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service**

[FWS-HQ-IA-2013-N136;
FXIA1671090000P5-123-FF09A30000]

Endangered Species; Marine Mammals; Receipt of Applications for Permit

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of applications for permit.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, invite the public to comment on the following applications to conduct certain activities with endangered species, marine mammals, or both. With some exceptions, the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and [Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) prohibit activities with listed species unless Federal authorization is acquired that allows such activities.

DATES: We must receive comments or requests for documents on or before July 22, 2013. We must receive requests for marine mammal permit public hearings, in writing, at the address shown in the **ADDRESSES** section by July 22, 2013.

ADDRESSES: Brenda Tapia, Division of Management Authority, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 212, Arlington, VA 22203; fax (703) 358-2280; or email DMAFR@fws.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brenda Tapia, (703) 358-2104 (telephone); (703) 358-2280 (fax); DMAFR@fws.gov (email).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Public Comment Procedures**

A. How do I request copies of applications or comment on submitted applications?

Send your request for copies of applications or comments and materials concerning any of the applications to the contact listed under **ADDRESSES**. Please include the **Federal Register** notice publication date, the PRT-number, and the name of the applicant in your request or submission. We will not consider requests or comments sent to an email or address not listed under **ADDRESSES**. If you provide an email address in your request for copies of applications, we will attempt to respond to your request electronically.

Please make your requests or comments as specific as possible. Please confine your comments to issues for which we seek comments in this notice, and explain the basis for your comments. Include sufficient

information with your comments to allow us to authenticate any scientific or commercial data you include.

The comments and recommendations that will be most useful and likely to influence agency decisions are: (1) Those supported by quantitative information or studies; and (2) Those that include citations to, and analyses of, the applicable laws and regulations. We will not consider or include in our administrative record comments we receive after the close of the comment period (see **DATES**) or comments delivered to an address other than those listed above (see **ADDRESSES**).

B. May I review comments submitted by others?

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the street address listed under **ADDRESSES**. The public may review documents and other information applicants have sent in support of the application unless our allowing viewing would violate the Privacy Act or Freedom of Information Act. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

II. Background

To help us carry out our conservation responsibilities for affected species, and in consideration of section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), along with Executive Order 13576, “Delivering an Efficient, Effective, and Accountable Government,” and the President’s Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies of January 21, 2009—Transparency and Open Government (74 FR 4685; January 26, 2009), which call on all Federal agencies to promote openness and transparency in Government by disclosing information to the public, we invite public comment on these permit applications before final action is taken. Under the MMPA, you may request a hearing on any MMPA application received. If you request a hearing, give specific reasons why a hearing would be appropriate. The holding of such a hearing is at the discretion of the Service Director.

III. Permit Applications*A. Endangered Species*

Applicant: Smithsonian Institution, Division of Birds, Washington DC; PRT-01637B

The applicant requests a permit to import biological samples taken from a kakapo (*Strigops habroptilus*) on Codfish Island, New Zealand for the purpose of scientific research.

Applicant: Hahn Laboratory, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Philadelphia, PA; PRT-03772B

The applicant requests a permit to import necropsy tissue samples from a deceased female chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*) from the Sanaga-Yong Chimpanzee Rescue Center for the purpose of scientific research on the incidence of disease.

Applicant: Kent Hall, Destrehan, LA; PRT-04823B and PRT-04822B

The following applicants each request a permit to import the sport-hunted trophy of two male bontebok (*Damaliscus pygargus pygargus*) culled from a captive herd maintained under the management program of the Republic of South Africa, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

Multiple Applicants

The following applicants each request a permit to import the sport-hunted trophy of one male bontebok (*Damaliscus pygargus pygargus*) culled from a captive herd maintained under the management program of the Republic of South Africa, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

Applicant: John Martins, Palm Harbor, FL; PRT-01784B

Applicant: Manny Hemmerling, Monte Vista, CO; PRT-07611B

B. Endangered Marine Mammals and Marine Mammals

Applicant: Gordon Bauer, New College of Florida, Sarasota, FL; PRT-837923

The applicant requests to renew his permit to conduct auditory studies on captive held Florida manatees (*Trichechus manatus*) for the purpose of scientific research. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

Applicant: Office of Sponsored Programs and Research Administration, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL; PRT-99215A

The applicant requests a permit to import biological samples of polar bear

(*Ursus maritimus*) which are collected throughout the range of the species and imported from Queen's University, Ontario, Canada, for the purpose of scientific research on the development of genetic markers that would be useful in monitoring polar bear populations. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

Concurrent with publishing this notice in the **Federal Register**, we are forwarding copies of the above applications to the Marine Mammal Commission and the Committee of Scientific Advisors for their review.

Brenda Tapia,

Program Analyst/Data Administrator, Branch of Permits, Division of Management Authority.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R6-ES-2013-N115;
FXES1113060000D2-123-FF06E00000]

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Recovery Permit Applications

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, invite the public to comment on the following applications to conduct certain activities with endangered or threatened species. With some exceptions, the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act), prohibits activities with endangered and threatened species unless a Federal permit allows such activity. The Act requires that we invite public comment before issuing these permits.

DATES: To ensure consideration, please send your written comments by July 22, 2013.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments or requests for copies or more information by any of the following methods. Alternatively, you may use one of the following methods to request hard copies or a CD-ROM of the documents. Please specify the permit you are interested in by number (e.g., Permit No. TE-067397).

• *Email:* permitsR6ES@fws.gov. Please refer to the respective permit number (e.g., Permit No. TE-067397) in the subject line of the message.

• *U.S. Mail:* Ecological Services, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 25486-DFC, Denver, CO 80225.

• *In-Person Drop-off, Viewing, or Pickup:* Call (303) 236-4212 to make an appointment during regular business hours at 134 Union Blvd., Suite 645, Lakewood, CO 80228.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kathy Konishi, Permit Coordinator, Ecological Services, (303) 236-4212 (phone); permitsR6ES@fws.gov (email).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) prohibits activities with endangered and threatened species unless a Federal permit allows such activity. Along with our implementing regulations in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 50 CFR part 17, the Act provides for permits, and requires that we invite public comment before issuing these permits.

A permit granted by us under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Act authorizes the permittee to conduct activities with United States endangered or threatened species for scientific purposes, enhancement of propagation or survival, or interstate commerce (the latter only in the event that it facilitates scientific purposes or enhancement of propagation or survival). Our regulations implementing section 10(a)(1)(A) for these permits are found at 50 CFR 17.22 for endangered wildlife species, 50 CFR 17.32 for threatened wildlife species, 50 CFR 17.62 for endangered plant species, and 50 CFR 17.72 for threatened plant species.

Application Available for Review and Comment

We invite local, State, and Federal agencies, and the public to comment on the following applications. Documents and other information the applicant has submitted are available for review, subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a) and Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552).

Permit Application Number: TE-067397

Applicant: Wyoming Game and Fish Department, 5400 Bishop Blvd., Cheyenne, WY 82006.

The applicant requests the amendment of an existing permit to take (capture, handle, and release) black-footed ferret (*Mustela nigripes*) for research and presence/absence surveys within the State of Wyoming under permit TE-067397 for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

Permit Application Number: TE-06665B

Applicant: Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, 1594 W. North Temple, STE 2110, Salt Lake City, UT 84114.

The applicant requests a new permit to take (capture, handle, and release) woundfin (*Plagopterus argentissimus*) under permit TE-06665B for experimental stocking in the Virgin River within the State of Utah, and outside their perceived historic range, for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

Permit Application Number: TE-165829

Applicant: Bureau of Land Management, Utah State Office, 440 West 200 South, STE 500, Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0155.

The applicant requests the renewal of an existing permit to take (collect, handle, and propagate) Barneby ridge-cress (*Lepidium barnebyanum*), Barney reed-mustard (*Schoenocrambe barnebyi*), Holmgren milk-vetch (*Astragalus holmgreniorum*), Kodachrome bladderpod (*Lesquerella tumulosa*), San Rafael cactus (*Pediocactus despainii*), Shivwitz milk-vetch (*Astragalus ampullarioides*), shrubby reed-mustard (*Schoenocrambe suffrutenscens*), and Wright fishhook cactus (*Sclerocactus wrightiae*) under permit TE-165829 for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

Permit Application Number: TE-049748

Applicant: Utah State University, Ecology Center, 5205 Old Main Hill, Logan, UT 84322-5210.

The applicant requests the renewal of an existing permit to take (collect, handle, and take) June sucker (*Chasmistes liorus*) under permit TE-049748 for research on larval June sucker in Utah Lake and its tributaries for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

National Environmental Policy Act

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), we have made an initial determination that the proposed activities in these permits are categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement (516 DM 6 Appendix 1, 1.4C(1)).

Public Availability of Comments

All comments and materials we receive in response to these requests will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business