

degree slope on the sides, depending on soil conditions. Workspace required for HDD sites would be 300 feet by 300 feet.

Alternatives

The only alternative to the proposed action that we are considering as part of this process is the No Action alternative, in which no ROW permit would be issued. Under a No Action alternative, the FWS would not issue the requested

ROW permit; therefore, the Applicant would likely seek an alternate alignment, establishing a new ROW corridor around the refuge, as described in the dEA.

Public Availability of Documents

In addition to any methods in **ADDRESSES**, you can view or obtain documents at the following locations:

- Texas Mid-Coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex Headquarters Office, CR 316, Brazoria, TX, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

- Our Web site: <http://www.fws.gov/southwest/refuges/Plan/plansinprogress.html>.

- At the following public libraries:

Library	Address	Phone number
Brazoria County Library—City of Lake Jackson Branch	250 Circle Way, Lake Jackson, TX 77566	979-415-2590
Brazoria County Library—Angleton Branch	401 E Cedar Street, Angleton, TX 77515	979-864-1519

Submitting Comments/Issues for Comment

We consider comments substantive if they:

- Question, with reasonable basis, the accuracy of the information in the document;
- Question, with reasonable basis, the adequacy of the environmental assessment (EA);
- Present reasonable alternatives other than those presented in the EA; and/or
- Provide new or additional information relevant to the assessment.

Public Availability of Comments

Written comments we receive become part of the public record associated with this action. 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 request in your comment that we withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. We will not consider anonymous comments. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public disclosure in their entirety.

Authorities

NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations; and the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (Refuge Administration Act), as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (Refuge Improvement Act).

Dated: February 25, 2016.

Joy Nicholopoulos,

Acting Regional Director, Southwest Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 2016-04566 Filed 3-1-16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4333-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[Docket No. FWS-HQ-IA-2016-0047; FXIA16710900000-156-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 April 1, 2016. We must receive requests for marine mammal permit public hearings, in writing, at the address shown in the **ADDRESSES** section by April 1, 2016.

ADDRESSES: *Submitting Comments:* You may submit comments by one of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments on Docket No. FWS-HQ-IA-2016-0047.
- *U.S. mail or hand-delivery:* Public Comments Processing, Attn: Docket No. FWS-HQ-IA-2016-0047; U.S. Fish and

Wildlife Service Headquarters, MS: BPHC; 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.

When submitting comments, please indicate the name of the applicant and the PRT# you are commenting on. We will post all comments on <http://www.regulations.gov>. This generally means that we will post any personal information you provide us (see the Public Comments section below for more information). *Viewing Comments:* Comments and materials we receive will be available for public inspection on <http://www.regulations.gov>, or by appointment, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays, at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Management Authority, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803; telephone 703-358-2095.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brenda Tapia, (703) 358-2104 (telephone); (703) 358-2281 (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: Tonya Bryson, Winston, GA; PRT-42334B

The applicant requests a captive-bred wildlife registration under 50 CFR 17.21(g) for the following species to enhance species propagation or survival: Galapagos giant tortoise (*Chelonoidis nigra*), Aquatic box turtle (*Terrapene coahuila*), Bolson tortoise (*Gopherus flavomarginatus*), and spotted pond turtle (*Geoclemys hamiltonii*). This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

Applicant: Juliann Sweet, Scottsdale, AZ; PRT-80172B

The applicant requests a captive-bred wildlife registration under 50 CFR 17.21(g) for the following species to enhance species propagation or survival: Exuma Island iguana (*Cyclura cychlura figginsi*). This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

Applicant: The Austin Savanna, Creedmoor, TX; PRT-10982A

The applicant requests an amendment and renewal of their captive-bred wildlife registration under 50 CFR 17.21(g) for the following species to enhance species propagation or survival: Galapagos giant tortoise (*Chelonoidis nigra*), radiated tortoise, (*Astrochelys radiata*), salmon-crested cockatoo (*Cacatua moluccensis*), white cockatoo (*Cacatua alba*), yellow-crested cockatoo (*Cacatua sulphurea*), blue-throated macaw (*Ara glaucogularis*), ring-tailed lemur (*Lemur catta*), black and white ruffed lemur (*Varecia variegata*), red-ruffed lemur (*Varecia rubra*), cottontop tamarin (*Saguinus oedipus*), lar gibbon (*Hylobates lar*), Southern white rhinoceros (*Ceratotherium simum simum*), black rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis*), Indian rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*), Grevy’s zebra (*Equus grevyi*), Hartmann’s zebra (*Equus zebra hartmannae*), Przewalski’s horse (*Equus przewalskii*), Barasingha (*Rucervus duvaucelii*), Eld’s deer (*Rucervus eldii*), bontebok (*Damaliscus pygargus pygargus*), red lechwe (*Kobus leche*), and slender-horned gazelle (*Gazella leptoceros*). This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

Applicant: Kenneth Morrill, Escalon, CA; PRT-86976b

The applicant requests a permit to import a 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.

B. Endangered Marine Mammals and Marine Mammals

Applicant: Anthony Pagano, USGS/Alaska Science Center, Anchorage, AK; PRT-77245B

The applicant requests a permit to take two captive-born polar bears (*Ursus maritimus*) at Oregon Zoo by biological sampling and fitting and removal of GPS collars for the purpose of scientific research on polar bears’ diet and energetics. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant for up to 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.

[FR Doc. 2016-04565 Filed 3-1-16; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R8-2016-N019; FF08ESMF00-FXES1112080000F2-167]

Draft Environmental Assessment for the Candidate Conservation Agreement With Assurances for Fishers in the Klamath, Cascade, and Sierra Nevada Mountains

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability and request for comment; permit application, draft environmental assessment, and proposed candidate conservation plan with assurances.

SUMMARY: We, the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce receipt of an application from Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI), a California forest management and lumber manufacturing company (applicant), for an enhancement of survival permit (permit) associated with a Candidate Conservation Agreement with