

contributing toward the mission of the NWRS, consistent with sound principles of fish and wildlife management, conservation, legal mandates, and our policies. In addition to outlining broad management direction on conserving wildlife and their habitats, CCPs identify compatible wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities available to the public, including, where appropriate, opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education and interpretation. We will review and update the CCPs at least every 15 years in accordance with the Administration Act.

Each unit of the NWRS was established for specific purposes. We use these purposes as the foundation for developing and prioritizing the management goals and objectives for each unit within the NWRS, and to determine how the public can use each refuge. The planning process is a way for us and the public to evaluate management goals and objectives that will ensure the best possible approach to wildlife, plant, and habitat conservation, while providing for wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities that are compatible with each refuge unit's establishing purposes and the mission of the NWRS.

Our CCP process provides participation opportunities for Tribal, State, and local governments; agencies; organizations; and the public. At this time, we encourage input in the form of issues, concerns, ideas, and suggestions for the future management of the Charles M. Russell WMD, Hailstone WPA and NWR, Grass Lake NWR, Lake Mason NWR, and Warhorse NWR. Only the aforementioned units of the Charles M. Russell Complex are covered by this CCP process. The CCP for the Charles M. Russell NWR has been completed, and we are not seeking public input for the management of Charles M. Russell NWR at this time.

#### *National Environmental Policy Act*

We will conduct the environmental review of this project in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*; NEPA); NEPA regulations (40 CFR parts 1500–1508 and 43 CFR part 46); other appropriate Federal laws and regulations; and our policies and procedures for compliance with those laws and regulations.

#### **Units Under Scoping**

##### *Charles M. Russell Wetland Management District (WMD)*

The Charles M. Russell WMD is located in south-central Montana and includes parts of five counties: Golden Valley, Musselshell, Petroleum, Stillwater, and Yellowstone. The WMD includes three WPAs and several types of easements. The Clark's Fork WPA is a 271-acre (ac) tract of land located along the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River. Spidel WPA is a 1,246-ac tract of land located nearly 3 miles northeast of Broadview, Montana. The Tew WPA is 692 ac, and is located 15 miles northeast of Broadview in Musselshell County. Additional information about these WPAs is available at <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/charles-m-russell-wetland-management-district>.

##### *Hailstone Waterfowl Production Area and National Wildlife Refuge*

Hailstone WPA and NWR were established primarily as breeding grounds for waterfowl and other wildlife. The Service purchased 1,988 ac of easement in 1979 to create the Hailstone WPA. Hailstone WPA and NWR are part of the Lake Basin area and are managed as a flowage and refuge easement. The current size of the flowage easement at Hailstone is 760 ac.

##### *Grass Lake National Wildlife Refuge*

Grass Lake NWR is a 4,318-ac refuge that is one of the most productive migratory bird areas in central Montana. This Refuge is currently closed to all public uses.

##### *Lake Mason National Wildlife Refuge*

Lake Mason NWR consists of three separate tracts of land in central Montana: the Lake Mason Unit, Willow Creek Unit, and North Unit. With the exception of the northern half of the Lake Mason Unit, the refuge is open to hunting of migratory game birds, upland game birds, and big game, as well as hiking and wildlife observation. The northern half of the Lake Mason Unit is closed to all public access, in order to increase the security and attractiveness of this area to migratory birds.

##### *Warhorse National Wildlife Refuge*

War Horse NWR consists of three separate land units: Wild Horse, 440 ac; War Horse, 1,152 ac; and Yellow Water, 1,640 ac. War Horse NWR was established in 1958 as a "refuge and breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife" through a transfer of lands by the authority of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act. More information on the above NWRs can be

found at <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/charles-m-russell>.

#### **Public Comment Process**

We have considered comments received in response to our previous scoping activities. With this notice, we respectfully request comments that may contain information not previously provided. You may send comments any time during the planning process by mail or email (see **ADDRESSES**). There will be additional opportunities for the public to provide input once we have prepared a draft CCP.

All information provided voluntarily by mail, by phone, or at public meetings (e.g., names, addresses, letters of comment, input recorded during meetings) becomes part of the official public record. Before submitting comments that include your address or other personal identifying information, you should be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. If requested under the Freedom of Information Act by a private citizen or organization, the Service may provide copies of such information. While you may 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.

**Anna Munoz,**

*Deputy Regional Director, Mountain-Prairie Region.*

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**BILLING CODE 4333–15–P**

## **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

### **Fish and Wildlife Service**

[Docket No. FWS–HQ–IA–2022–0076; FXIA1671090000–223–FF09A30000]

#### **Foreign Endangered Species; Receipt of Permit Applications**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of receipt of permit applications; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, invite the public to comment on applications to conduct certain activities with foreign species that are listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). With some exceptions, the ESA prohibits activities with listed species unless Federal authorization is issued that allows such activities. The ESA also requires that we invite public comment before issuing permits for any activity

otherwise prohibited by the ESA with respect to any endangered species.

**DATES:** We must receive comments by July 29, 2022.

**ADDRESSES:**

*Obtaining Documents:* The applications, application supporting materials, and any comments and other materials that we receive will be available for public inspection at <https://www.regulations.gov> in Docket No. FWS-HQ-IA-2022-0076.

*Submitting Comments:* When submitting comments, please specify the name of the applicant and the permit number at the beginning of your comment. You may submit comments by one of the following methods:

- *Internet:* <https://www.regulations.gov>. Search for and submit comments on Docket No. FWS-HQ-IA-2022-0076.
- *U.S. mail:* Public Comments Processing, Attn: Docket No. FWS-HQ-IA-2022-0076; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Headquarters, MS: PRB/3W; 5275 Leesburg Pike; Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.

For more information, see Public Comment Procedures under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Brenda Tapia, by phone at 703-358-2185 or via email at [DMAFR@fws.gov](mailto:DMAFR@fws.gov). Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Public Comment Procedures**

*A. How do I comment on submitted applications?*

We invite the public and local, State, Tribal, and Federal agencies to comment on these applications. Before issuing any of the requested permits, we will take into consideration any information that we receive during the public comment period.

You may submit your comments and materials by one of the methods in **ADDRESSES**. We will not consider comments sent by email or fax, or to an address not in **ADDRESSES**. We will not consider or include in our administrative record comments we receive after the close of the comment period (see **DATES**).

When submitting comments, please specify the name of the applicant and

the permit number at the beginning of your comment. Provide sufficient information 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.

*B. May I review comments submitted by others?*

You may view and comment on others' public comments at <https://www.regulations.gov>, unless our allowing so would violate the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a) or Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552).

*C. Who will see my comments?*

If you submit a comment at <https://www.regulations.gov>, your entire comment, including any personal identifying information, will be posted on the website. If you submit a hardcopy comment that includes personal identifying information, such as your address, phone number, or email address, you may request at the top of your document that we withhold this information from public review. However, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Moreover, 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.

**II. Background**

To help us carry out our conservation responsibilities for affected species, and in consideration of section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), we invite public comments on permit applications before final action is taken. With some exceptions, the ESA prohibits certain activities with listed species unless Federal authorization is issued that allows such activities. Permits issued under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA allow otherwise prohibited activities for scientific purposes or to enhance the propagation or survival of the affected species. Service regulations regarding prohibited activities with endangered species, captive-bred wildlife registrations, and permits for any activity otherwise prohibited by the ESA with respect to any endangered species are available in title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations in part 17.

**III. Permit Applications**

We invite comments on the following applications.

**Endangered Species**

*Applicant:* Greensboro Science Center, dba Natural Science Center of Greensboro, Greensboro, NC; Permit No. PER0003859

The applicant requests a permit to export one male captive-bred silvery Javan gibbon (*Hylobates moloch*) to the Tasmania Zoo, Riverside, Tasmania, for the purpose of enhancing the propagation or survival of the species. This notification is for a single export.

**Multiple Trophy Applicants**

The following applicants request permits to import sport-hunted trophies of 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 enhancing the propagation or survival of the species.

*Applicant:* Robert Wier, Hockley, TX;

Permit No. 42192D

*Applicant:* Roger Bennett, Ardmore, TN;

Permit No. 93048C

*Applicant:* Danny Hendrickson,

Abilene, TX; Permit No. 47478C

*Applicant:* Michael Stein, Francisco, IN;

Permit No. 97800C

*Applicant:* Jorge Vazquez, Homestead,

FL; Permit No. 78078C

*Applicant:* Bernard McMasters, Belton,

TX; Permit No. 46595D

*Applicant:* Arnold Beck, Spring Creek,

NV; Permit No. 32317D

*Applicant:* Ronnie Williams, Highland

Village, TX; Permit No. 37469D

*Applicant:* David Seeno, Concord, CA;

Permit No. 72306C

*Applicant:* Mathew Bell, Midland, TX;

Permit No. 03114D

*Applicant:* Owen Lawrence, Memphis,

TN; Permit No. 02698D

*Applicant:* Stewart Schanzenbach,

Grand Forks, ND; Permit No. 73080C

*Applicant:* Hugh Richardson, Houston,

TX; Permit No. 08288D

*Applicant:* John Maditz, Nokesville, VA;

Permit No. 82173D

*Applicant:* Robert Buker Jr., Moore

Haven, FL; Permit No. 41797D

*Applicant:* Edwin Whitney, San

Antonio, TX; Permit No. 60580C

*Applicant:* Jeremy Hammond, Cody,

WY; Permit No. PER0042600

**IV. Next Steps**

After the comment period closes, we will make decisions regarding permit issuance. If we issue permits to any of the applicants listed in this notice, we will publish a notice in the **Federal Register**. You may locate the notice

announcing the permit issuance by searching <https://www.regulations.gov> for the permit number listed above in this document. For example, to find information about the potential issuance of Permit No. 12345A, you would go to [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) and search for "12345A".

#### V. Authority

We issue this notice under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and its implementing regulations.

#### Brenda Tapia,

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

[FR Doc. 2022-13846 Filed 6-28-22; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4333-15-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Indian Gaming Commission

#### Notice of Approved Class III Tribal Gaming Ordinance

**AGENCY:** National Indian Gaming Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The purpose of this notice is to inform the public of the approval of Big Sandy Rancheria of Western Mono Indians' Class III gaming ordinance by the Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission.

**DATES:** This notice is applicable June 29, 2022.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dena Wynn, Office of General Counsel at the National Indian Gaming Commission, 202-632-7003, or by facsimile at 202-632-7066 (not toll-free numbers).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) 25 U.S.C. 2701 *et seq.*, established the National Indian Gaming Commission (Commission). Section 2710 of IGRA authorizes the Chairman of the Commission to approve Class II and Class III tribal gaming ordinances. Section 2710 (d) (2) (B) of IGRA, as implemented by NIGC regulations, 25 CFR 522.8, requires the Chairman to publish, in the **Federal Register**, approved Class III tribal gaming ordinances and the approvals thereof.

IGRA requires all tribal gaming ordinances to contain the same requirements concerning tribes' sole proprietary interest and responsibility for the gaming activity, use of net revenues, annual audits, health and safety, background investigations and licensing of key employees and primary

management officials. The Commission, therefore, believes that publication of each ordinance in the **Federal Register** would be redundant and result in unnecessary cost to the Commission.

Thus, the Commission believes that publishing a notice of approved Class III tribal gaming ordinances in the **Federal Register**, is sufficient to meet the requirements of 25 U.S.C. 2710 (d) (2) (B). Every ordinance and approval thereof is posted on the Commission's website ([www.nigc.gov](http://www.nigc.gov)) under General Counsel, Gaming Ordinances within five (5) business days of approval.

On June 22, 2022, the Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission approved Big Sandy Rancheria's Class III Gaming Ordinance. A copy of the approval letter is posted with this notice and can be found with the approved ordinance on the NIGC's website ([www.nigc.gov](http://www.nigc.gov)) under General Counsel, Gaming Ordinances. A copy of the approved Class III ordinance will also be made available upon request. Requests can be made in writing to the Office of General Counsel, National Indian Gaming Commission, Attn: Dena Wynn, 1849 C Street NW, MS #1621, Washington, DC 20240 or at [info@nigc.gov](mailto:info@nigc.gov).

National Indian Gaming Commission.

Dated: June 23, 2022.

#### Michael Hoenig,

*General Counsel.*

June 22, 2022, Elizabeth D. Kipp, Chairwoman, Big Sandy Rancheria, 37387 Auberry Mission Rd., PO Box 337, Auberry, CA 93602.

Re: Big Sandy Rancheria Site-Specific Tribal Gaming Ordinance 02-01

Dear Chairwoman Kipp:

I am writing with respect to the April 12, 2022, request of the Big Sandy Rancheria of Western Mono Indians of California to the National Indian Gaming Commission to review and approve the Tribe's amended gaming ordinance, Ordinance 02-01. The amended gaming ordinance was adopted by Resolution No. 0122-01 of the Tribal Council.

The amended gaming ordinance contains a site-specific section that describes the original allotment of Mary McCabe (the "McCabe Allotment") as land within which the Tribe is authorized to conduct gaming. This section required the NIGC to consider whether the McCabe Allotment would constitute Indian lands on which the Tribe may conduct gaming activities under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. On May 13, 2022, the NIGC Office of General Counsel issued a legal opinion concluding that the McCabe Allotment constitutes Indian lands on

which the Tribe may conduct such gaming. On May 17, 2022, the Department of the Interior, Office of the Solicitor, issued its concurrence with that opinion. I hereby adopt the attached May 13, 2022 Indian lands opinion, its associated record, and its conclusions.

Thank you for providing the amended gaming ordinance for our review. The ordinance is approved as it is consistent with the requirements of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act and NIGC regulations. If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Senior Attorney Austin Badger at (202) 632-7003.

Sincerely,  
E. Sequoyah Simermeyer  
Chairman

#### Memorandum To The Chair

Through: Michael Hoenig, General Counsel, Sharon M. Avery, Associate General Counsel.

From: Austin Badger, Senior Attorney.

Date: May 13, 2022.

Subject: Big Sandy Rancheria of Western Mono Indians of California—(McCabe Allotment) Indian Lands Opinion.

On April 12, 2022, the Big Sandy Rancheria of Western Mono Indians of California submitted to the NIGC a request for approval of an amended gaming ordinance.<sup>1</sup> Amendments to the gaming ordinance include specifying that gaming is authorized on "the north half of Lot two of the northwest quarter of Section 18, Township 11 South, Range 22 East, Mount Diablo meridian, in Fresno County, California, being the original allotment of Mary McCabe, Sac-120 . . ." (McCabe Allotment). This Memorandum addresses whether the McCabe Allotment qualifies as Indian lands under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act on which the Tribe may conduct gaming.

On September 6, 2006, the Office of General Counsel opined that the McCabe Allotment qualified as Indian lands eligible for gaming by the Tribe. At that time, the McCabe Allotment was held in trust by the United States for the benefit of Big Sandy Rancheria tribal member Sherrill Anne Esteves. Ms. Esteves passed away on June 18, 2019,

<sup>1</sup> The Tribe provided additional information concerning the McCabe Allotment on February 21 and 25, 2022. The Tribe's submission included: Declaration of Elizabeth Kipp, Chairperson of the Tribal Council of the Big Sandy Band of Western Mono Indians (February 11, 2022) ("Kipp Declaration"), "The Public Domain Allotment of Mary McCabe and the Big Sandy Rancheria: A Preliminary Historical Report," G. Russell Overton (February 25, 2022) ("Overton Report"), and "Tribal Jurisdiction over McCabe Allotment," Peebles Kidder Bergin & Robinson, LLP (February 25, 2022).