

All existing large woody structures will be preserved and defective portions of logs from harvested trees will be left on the forest floor. Brush and thickets will be preserved as much as possible. Hardwood trees, young seedlings, snags, and cavity sites in conifer trees, will be preserved as much as possible. Existing roads, trails and landings will be utilized where possible. New construction for access and disturbances to ground cover will be minimized. Skid trails will utilize existing openings to the maximum extent practical. Erosion, which is unlikely to occur under dry soil conditions, will be handled by acceptable conservation practices such as reseeded if it becomes a problem. Most large residual trees from previous harvest will be preserved, and all large residual trees with old-growth characteristics will not be harvested.

The Service has determined that the Grover Tree Farm Plan qualifies as a "Low Effect" Plan as defined by the Service's Habitat Conservation Planning Handbook. Low Effect Plans are those involving: (1) minor or negligible effects on federally listed and candidate species and their habitats; and (2) minor or negligible effects on other environmental values or resources. The Grover Tree Farm Plan qualifies as a Low Effect Plan for the following reasons:

1. Approval of the Plan will result in minor or negligible effects on the murrelet. The Service does not anticipate significant direct or cumulative effects to the murrelet or owl will result from the proposed thinning.
2. The proposed thinning will not have adverse effects on unique geographic, historic or cultural sites, or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.
3. Approval of the Plan will not result in any cumulative or growth inducing impacts and, therefore, will not result in significant adverse effects on public health or safety.
4. The project does not require compliance with Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), or the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, nor does it threaten to violate a Federal, State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.
5. Approval of this Plan will not establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.

The Service has therefore determined that approval of the Grover Tree Farm Plan qualifies as a categorical exclusion

under the National Environmental Policy Act, as provided by the Department of Interior Manual (516 DM2, Appendix 1 and 516 DM 6, Appendix 1). No further National Environmental Policy Act documentation will therefore be prepared.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act. The Service will evaluate the permit application, Plan, and comments submitted thereon to determine whether the application meets the requirements of section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act. If it is determined that the requirements are met, a permit will be issued for the incidental take of the marbled murrelet. The final permit decision will be made no sooner than 30 days from the date of this notice.

Dated: June 9, 1997.

Thomas J. Dwyer,

Acting Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.

[FR Doc. 97-15514 Filed 6-12-97; 8:45 am]

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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-830412]

Applicant: Carnivore Preservation Trust, Pittsboro, NC.

The applicant requests a permit to import one captive-bred male ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis*) from Tierpark Herstein, Austria for the purpose of enhancement of the species through captive propagation.

[PRT-830142]

Applicant: Andrew Merriwether, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.

The applicant requests a permit to import chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*) shed hair samples collected in the Kibale National Park, Uganda, for the purpose of scientific research.

[PRT-830530]

Applicant: James McKeown, Jr., Clearwater, FL.

The applicant requests a permit to import the sport-hunted trophy of one male bontebok (*Damaliscus pygargus dorcas*) 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.

[PRT-830569]

Applicant: Melissa Etheridge, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO.

The applicant requests a permit to import blood samples collected from captive chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) held by the Uganda Wildlife Education Center, Entebbe, Uganda, for the purpose of scientific research.

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 430, Arlington, Virginia 22203 and must be received by the Director within 30 days of the date of this publication.

The public is invited to comment on the following application(s) for permits to conduct certain activities with marine mammals. The application(s) was/were 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).

[PRT-801652]

Applicant: Alaskan Science Resource Center, Anchorage, AK.

Type of Permit: Scientific Research.

Name and Number of Animals:

Walrus (*Odobenus rosmarus*), 230.

Summary of Activity to be

Authorized: The applicant has requested a second amendment to the permit for scientific research of Pacific walrus in Alaska to include use of alternative drugs for anaesthesia of walrus, and the effects of helicopter overflights on walrus behavior. This request follows the first amendment request published April 24, 1997 [62 FR 20019] which is still pending.

Source of Marine Mammals for Research/Public Display: Alaska.

Period of Activity: through 12/31/2000, the expiration date of the current permit.

[PRT-827717]

Applicant: Pfennig Wildlife Museum, Beulah, ND.

Type of Permit: Public Display.

Name and Number of Animals: polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*); 1.

Summary of Activity to be

Authorized: the applicant has requested a permit to import a taxidermied and mounted polar bear for the purposes of public display.

Source of Marine Mammals for Research/Public Display: sport-hunted by the Museum director in the Northwest Territories, Canada.

Period of Activity: Up to five years from date of permit issuance, if issued.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, the Office of Management Authority is forwarding copies of these applications to the Marine Mammal Commission and the Committee of Scientific Advisors for their review.

[PRT-830375]

Applicant: Lee M. Wahlund, Carrington, ND.

The applicant requests a permit to import a polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) sport-hunted from the McClintock Channel polar bear population, Northwest Territories, Canada for personal use.

[PRT-830053]

Applicant: David Barkman, Goodrich, MI.

The applicant requests a permit to import a polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) sport-hunted from the Northern Beaufort Sea polar bear population, Northwest Territories, Canada for personal use.

[PRT-830055]

Applicant: Charles Antcliff, Fenton, MI.

The applicant requests a permit to import a polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) sport-hunted from the Northern Beaufort Sea polar bear population, Northwest Territories, Canada for personal use.

Written data or comments, requests for copies of the complete applications, or requests for a public hearing on any of these applications for marine mammal permits should be sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 430, Arlington, Virginia 22203, telephone 703/358-2104 or fax 703/358-2281 and 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 hearing is at the discretion of the Director.

Documents and other information submitted with all of the applications listed in this notice 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 within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice at the above address.

Dated: June 9, 1997.

Karen Anderson,

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

[FR Doc. 97-15485 Filed 6-12-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NV-030-5700-10; Closure Notice No. NV-030-97-003]

Temporary Closure of Public Lands; Washoe County, Nevada

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management.

SUMMARY: The Carson City District Manager announces the temporary closure of selected public lands under his administration. This action is being taken to provide for public safety during the 1997 Reno National Championship Air Races.

EFFECTIVE DATES: September 8 through September 14, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Daniel L. Jacquet, Acting Assistant District Manager, Division of Nonrenewable Resources, Carson City District Office, 1535 Hot Springs Road, Carson City, Nevada 89706-0638. Telephone (702) 885-6100.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This closure applies to all the public, on foot or in vehicles. The public lands affected by this closure are described as follows:

Mt. Diablo Meridian

T.21 N., R. 19 E.

Sec. 8, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ and E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$

Sec. 16, N $\frac{1}{2}$ and SW $\frac{1}{4}$

Aggregating approximately 680 acres.

The above restrictions do not apply to emergency or law enforcement personnel or event officials. The authority for this closure is 43 CFR 8364.1. Persons who violate this closure order are subject to arrest and, upon conviction, may be fined not more than \$1,000 and/or imprisoned for not more than 12 months.

A map of the closed area is posted in the Carson City District Office of the Bureau of Land Management.

Dated: June 3, 1997.

Daniel L. Jacquet,

Acting Assistant District Manager, Division of Nonrenewable Resources.

[FR Doc. 97-15505 Filed 6-12-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[AZ-040-4333-02]

Call for Gila Box Advisory Committee Nominations

AGENCY: Safford Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Call for Nominations for Gila Box Riparian National Conservation Area Advisory Committee.

SUMMARY: The purpose of this notice is to solicit public nominations to fill five positions on the Gila Box Riparian National Conservation Area Advisory Committee, pursuant to Title 2, Section 201, of the Arizona Desert Wilderness Act of 1990.

BACKGROUND: The purpose of the seven-member Advisory Committee is to provide informed advice to the Safford Field Manager on management of public lands in the Gila Box Riparian National Conservation Area in southeastern Arizona. Members are currently assisting BLM specialists with the preparation of the Final Gila Box Interdisciplinary Activity Plan. The Advisory Committee will meet approximately two times during FY 97 to assist with plan preparation. Members serve without salary, but are reimbursed for travel and per diem expenses at current rates for government employees.

To ensure membership of the Advisory Committee is balanced in terms of categories of interest represented and functions performed, nominees must be qualified to provide advice in specific areas related to the primary purposes for which the Gila Box Riparian National Conservation Area was created. These categories of expertise include wildlife conservation, riparian ecology, archaeology, hydrology, recreation, environmental education, or other related disciplines.

Three positions on the Committee are representatives for the State of Arizona, Graham County, and Greenlee County. Nominations for these representatives are submitted to the BLM from the Governor of Arizona and the Boards of Supervisors for Graham and Greenlee counties respectively. Those wishing to submit nominations for those three positions should contact the appropriate office to do so.

Nominations for the remaining two positions should be submitted directly to the BLM. Persons wishing to nominate individuals or those wishing to be considered for appointment to serve on the Advisory Committee should provide name, address, profession, biographical data, and category of expertise for each qualified nominee. Persons selected by the Secretary of the Interior to serve on the Committee will serve a three-year term ending on July 31, 2000. Nominations should be submitted to the Safford Field Manager at the address below.

DATES: All nominations should be received by July 20, 1997.