

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-833768

Applicant: Cheyenne Mountain Zoo,
Colorado Springs, CO

The applicant requests a permit to import of one captive-bred Sumatran orangutan (*Pongo pygmaeus abelii*) from the Calgary Zoo, Alberta, Canada, to enhance the propagation of the species.

PRT-832847

Applicant: Edward Dieffenbach, Miami, FL

The applicant requests a permit to import one captive-bred American peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus anatum*) from White Feather Falcons, Ontario, Canada, to enhance the propagation of the species.

PRT-829904

Applicant: Robert W. Ehrig/Finca Cyclura,
Big Pine Key, FL

The applicant requests a permit to export two captive-bred Grand Cayman Ground iguanas (*Cyclura nubila lewisi*) to Roger Lamb in Solihull, West Midlands, United Kingdom, for the purpose of enhancement of the species through captive propagation.

PRT-833281

Applicant: Cohanzick Zoo, Bridgeton, NJ

This amends the previously published activity for the applicant to import three (3) Bengal tigers (*Panthera tigris tigris*) born in captivity from Parken Zoo, Eskiltuna, Sweden, rather than two (2) for the purpose of enhancement of the species through conservation education.

PRT-833611

Applicant: Jay L. Brasher, Salt Lake City, UT

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

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-833835

Applicant: Gary H. Dietrich, Bismarck, ND

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

PRT-833846

Applicant: Charles B. Ball, Watertown, NY

The applicant requests a permit to import a polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) sport-hunted from the Perry Channel 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: August 29, 1997.

Mary Ellen Amtower,

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

[FR Doc. 97-23513 Filed 9-4-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Emergency Exemption: Issuance

On August 21, 1997, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) issued a

permit (PRT-833379) to the Buffalo Zoo (Zoo), Buffalo, New York to export a female gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla*) to the Granby Zoo in Granby, Quebec, Canada. The 30-day public comment period required by section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act was waived. The Service determined that an emergency affecting the health and life of the gorilla existed and that no reasonable alternative was available to the applicant, for the following reasons:

a. The Buffalo Zoo applied for an export permit for the female gorilla who is suddenly not compatible with the gorilla social groups at the Zoo. The Zoo has only one gorilla facility with three social groups. Although she would like to be with the primary male, she has been rejected by the other females who have attained a higher status than she. She has taken her ostracism poorly and will not fit in with the other two groups. She has caused injuries to the other animals in all three groups.

b. The Zoo is currently confining her to one of the four holding areas available. Because of the facility's configuration, she is still in close proximity to the other animals. This proximity is harming her psychologically; she is no longer eating, and is suffering physically.

c. The Granby Zoo, which had loaned this gorilla to the Buffalo Zoo, has offered to have her return.

Dated: August 29, 1997.

Mary Ellen Amtower,

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

[FR Doc. 97-23516 Filed 9-4-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Availability of a Draft Recovery Plan for the Razorback Sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*) for Review and Comment

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability.

SUMMARY: The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces the availability for public review of a draft recovery plan for the razorback sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*). The razorback sucker currently exists in small populations in the Colorado River in the States of Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, and Arizona. The Service solicits review and comment from the public on this draft recovery plan.

DATES: Comments on the draft recovery plan must be received on or before January 5, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the draft recovery plan may obtain a copy by contacting the Associate Manager Utah, Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 25486, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225. Written comments and materials regarding this plan should be sent to the Associate Manager Utah at the Denver address given above. Comments and materials received are available on request for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Larry Shanks, Fish and Wildlife Associate Manager (see **ADDRESSES** above), at telephone (303) 236-8154.
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: .

Background

Restoring an endangered or threatened animal or plant to the point where it is again a secure, self-sustaining member of its ecosystem is a primary goal of the Service's endangered species program. To help guide the recovery effort, the Service is working to prepare recovery plans for most of the listed species native to the United States. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for conservation of the species, establish criteria for recovery levels for downlisting or delisting them, and estimate time and cost for implementing the recovery measures needed.

The Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), requires the development of recovery plans for listed species unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of a particular species. Section 4(f) of the Act, as amended in 1988, requires that public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment be provided during recovery plan development. The Service will consider all information presented during a public comment period prior to approval of each new or revised recovery plan. The Service and other Federal agencies also will take these comment into account in the course of implementing approved recovery plans.

The razorback sucker was listed as endangered on October 23, 1991 (56 FR 54957). A final rule designating critical habitat was published on March 21, 1994 (59 FR 13374). An endemic fish of mainstream rivers in the Colorado River basin, the razorback sucker was once abundant and widely distributed. It now occurs only in remnant populations in a few lakes and river reaches. The

largest extant population occurs in Lake Mohave, Arizona, and the largest riverine population occurs in the Green and Yampa rivers, near Vernal, Utah.

Razorback sucker populations have been declining for much of this century. This decline is a result of major alterations to the historical physical and biological environment. Extensive water development projects have depleted flow, altered flow regimes, changed water quality, and fragmented habitat. At the same time, the nature and composition of the fish community has been altered dramatically by the introduction of many nonnative fish species. Predation by nonnative fishes is a primary reason for the virtual failure of recruitment in razorback sucker populations.

Recovery Objectives: Protection and expansion of three existing populations, and establishment of four new ones from remnant stocks or reintroductions.

The goal of this recovery plan is to provide an adequate level of conservation for the species and its habitat so that there will be self-sustaining populations distributed throughout its extant range and to guide recovery actions to facilitate delisting of the species. Recovery efforts will focus on development and implementation of habitat restoration in selected lakes and river segments; develop and protect existing genomes in hatchery refugia; augment or reestablish populations of fish in its critical habitat; conducting biological and habitat management research; monitoring and surveys of known occurrences and potential habitat; and dissemination of educational information.

Public Comments Solicited

The Service solicits written comments on the recovery plan described above. All comments received by the date specified in the **DATES** section above will be considered prior to approval of the recovery plan.

Authority

The authority for this action is section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1533(f).

Dated: August 28, 1997.

Terry N. Sexson,

Acting Regional Director, Denver, Colorado.
[FR Doc. 97-23569 Filed 9-4-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Availability of Draft Recovery Plan for the Western Lily for Review and Comment

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces the availability for public review of a draft Western Lily Recovery Plan. The species occurs on the Pacific Coast from Coos Bay, Oregon, to Eureka, California.

DATES: Comments on the draft recovery plan must be received on or before October 6, 1997 to receive consideration by the Service.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the draft recovery plan are available for inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the following locations: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Oregon State Office 2600 S.E. 98th Ave., Suite 100 Portland, Oregon 97266-1398. Requests for copies of the draft recovery plan and written comments and materials regarding this plan should be addressed to Russell D. Peterson, State Supervisor, at the above Oregon State Office address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Andrew F. Robinson Jr., Fish and Wildlife Biologist, at the above Oregon State Office address, telephone (503) 231-6179.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Restoring endangered or threatened animals and plants to the point where they are again secure, self-sustaining members of their ecosystems is a primary goal of the Service's endangered species program. To help guide the recovery effort, the Service is working to prepare recovery plans for most of the listed species native to the United States. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for the conservation of the species, establish criteria for the recovery levels for downlisting or delisting them, and estimate time and cost for implementing the recovery measures needed.

The Endangered Species Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) (Act), requires the development of recovery plans for listed species unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of a particular species. Section 4(f) of the Act as amended in 1988 requires that public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment be provided during recovery