

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Receipt of Application for Endangered Species Permit

The following applicants have applied for permits 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-836697

Applicant: Bernice Constantin, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services, Gainesville, Florida

The applicant requests authorization to take (harass or translocate specimens to alleviate depredation of agricultural commodities and reduce hazards to human health or safety) the bald eagle, *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*, wood stork, *Mycteria americana*, peregrine falcon, *Falco peregrinus*, whooping crane, *Grus americana*, Puerto Rican plain pigeon, *Columba inornata wetmorei*, and roseate tern, *Sterna dougallii dougallii*, throughout the species ranges in Florida, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands, for the purpose of enhancement of survival of the species.

PRT-837136

Applicant: Paul J. Marangelo, West Sand Lake, New York

The applicant requests authorization to take (salvage dead shells, and harass during surveys) the dwarf wedge mussel, *Alasmidonta heterodon*, throughout the species range in North Carolina, for the purpose of enhancement of survival of the species.

Written data or comments on these applications should be submitted to: Regional Permit Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 200, Atlanta, Georgia 30345. All data and comments must be received by January 12, 1998.

Documents and other information submitted with this application 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 to the following office within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 200, Atlanta, Georgia 30345 (Attn: David Dell, Permit Biologist). Telephone: 404/679-7313; Fax: 404/679-7081.

Dated: November 26, 1997.

Bill A. Grabill,

Acting Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 97-32371 Filed 12-10-97; 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.*):

Applicant: James Meehan, Edgewater, MD, PRT-837140.

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.

Applicant: Linda Winkler, University of Pittsburgh, Titusville, PA, PRT-835441.

The applicant requests a permit to import mantled howler monkey (*Alouatta palliata*) blood and feces samples collected at LaSuerte, Costa Rica, for the purpose of scientific research.

Applicant: Carla Cicero, University of California, Berkeley, CA, PRT-836805.

The applicant requests a permit to export hair samples collected from museum specimens of cheetah (*Acononyx jubatus*), Southern sea otter (*Enhydra lutris nereis*), clouded leopard (*Neofelis nebulosa*), and leopard cat (*Felis (Prionailurus) bengalensis bengalensis*), to Yeong-Tyi Day, National Pingtung Polytechnic Institute, Taiwan, for the purpose of scientific research.

Applicant: Randy Miller, Acton, CA, PRT-835825.

The applicant requests a permit to export and reimport two captive born leopard (*Panthera pardus*) and progeny of the animals currently held by the applicant and any animals acquired in the United States by the applicant to/from worldwide locations to enhance the survival of the species through conservation education. This notification covers activities conducted by the applicant over a three year period.

Applicant: Gentle Jungle, Lebec, CA, PRT-837241.

The applicant requests a permit to export and reimport one captive born tiger (*Panthera tigris*), and progeny of the animals currently held by the applicant and any animals acquired in the United States by the applicant to/from worldwide locations to enhance the survival of the species through conservation education. This notification covers activities conducted by the applicant over a three year period.

Applicant: White River Bison Farm, Anderson, IN, PRT-836462.

The applicant requests a permit to import one male and one female captive born yearling wood bison (*Bison bison athabasca*) for the purpose of enhancement of the species through captive propagation.

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 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203 and must be received by the Director on or before January 12, 1998.

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

Applicant: Monterey Bay Aquarium, Monterey, CA, PRT-837131.

Permit Type: Take for enhancing the survival or recovery of the species [Sec 104(c)(4)(A) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act].

Name and Number of Animals: Southern sea otter (*Enhydra lutris nereis*). Opportunistic recovery of beached/stranded animals.

Summary of Activity to be Authorized: The applicant proposes to take (rescue, rehabilitate, and display) southern sea otters. Public display of these sea otters will be limited to specially constructed facilities which the applicant proposes allows the public to view normal rehabilitation procedures, while shielding otters undergoing rehabilitation from the sight and sounds of the viewing public. The applicants purpose for this exhibit is enhancement of the species through rehabilitation of stranded specimens and public education.

Source of Marine Mammals: Natural range of southern sea otters in California waters.

Period of Activity: Up to 5 years from issuance date of permit, if issued.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, the Office of Management Authority is

forwarding copies of this application to the Marine Mammal Commission and the Committee of Scientific Advisors for their review.

Applicant: George Kalb, Las Vegas, NV, PRT-837107.

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

Applicant: Dwight Davis, Houston, TX, PRT-837238.

The applicant requests a permit to import a polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) sport hunted prior to April 30, 1994 from the Davis Strait polar bear population, Northwest Territories, Canada for personal use.

Written data or comments, requests for copies of any of these complete applications, or requests for a public hearing on these applications should be sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203, telephone 703/358-2104 or fax 703/358-2281 and must be received on or before January 12, 1998. Anyone requesting a hearing should give specific reasons why a hearing would be appropriate. The holding of such a hearing is at the discretion of the Director.

Documents and other information submitted with the application 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 to the above address within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice.

Dated: December 5, 1997.

MaryEllen Amtower,

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

[FR Doc. 97-32403 Filed 12-10-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Issuance of Permit for Marine Mammals

On September 17, 1997, a notice was published in the **Federal Register**, Vol. 62, No. 180, Page 48880, that an application had been filed with the Fish and Wildlife Service by Daniel Currier, Fargo, ND for a permit (PRT-834123) to import a sport-hunted polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) trophy, taken from the McClintock Channel population,

Northwest Territories, Canada for personal use.

Notice is hereby given that on November 13, 1997, as authorized by the provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) the Fish and Wildlife Service authorized the requested permit subject to certain conditions set forth therein.

Documents and other information submitted for these applications are available for review by any party who submits a written request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Rm 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203. Phone (703) 358-2104 or Fax (703) 358-2281.

Dated: December 5, 1997.

MaryEllen Amtower,

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

[FR Doc. 97-32404 Filed 12-10-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Operation and Maintenance Rate Adjustment: Fort Belknap Irrigation Project, Montana

ACTION: Notice of proposed irrigation Operation and Maintenance (O&M) rate adjustment.

SUMMARY: On October 2, 1997, a notice was published in the **Federal Register**, Volume 62, Number 191, Page 51680 (62 FR 51680), by the Bureau of Indian Affairs proposing to change the assessment rates for operating and maintaining the Fort Belknap Irrigation Project for 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 and subsequent years. See 62 FR 51680 for additional information concerning the proposed rate change. The notice of proposed rate adjustment provided a 30-day period for public comment. At the written request of the Fort Belknap Indian Community, Community Council, a second public comment period is being provided.

DATES: Interested parties may submit comments on the proposed rate adjustment. Comments must be submitted on or before January 12, 1998.

ADDRESSES: All comments concerning the proposed rate change must be in writing and addressed to: Director, Office of Trust Responsibilities, Attn.: Irrigation and Power, MS-4513-MIB, Code 210, 1849 "C" Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240, Telephone (202) 208-5480.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The authority to issue this document is vested in the Secretary of the Interior by 5 U.S.C. 301 and the Act of August 14, 1914 (38 Stat. 583, 25 U.S.C. 385). The Secretary has delegated this authority to the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs pursuant to Part 209 Departmental Manual, Chapter 8.1A, and memorandum dated January 25, 1994, from the Chief of Staff, Department of the Interior, to the Assistant Secretaries and heads of bureaus and offices.

Dated: December 3, 1997.

Kevin Gover,

Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

[FR Doc. 97-32396 Filed 12-10-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Operation and Maintenance Rate Adjustment: Fort Hall Irrigation Project; Idaho

ACTION: Notice of Operation and Maintenance (O&M) rate adjustment.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Indian Affairs is adjusting the assessment rates for operating and maintaining the Fort Hall Irrigation Project, Michaud Unit, for 1998, 1999, and subsequent years. The following table illustrates the impact of the rate adjustment.

Fort Hall Irrigation Project

Michaud Unit Irrigation Rate Per Assessable Acre

Rate category	Present rate	1998 rate	1999 rate
Basic rate	\$25.50	\$26.50	\$27.50
Pressure rate	37.50	38.50	39.50

COMMENTS: On August 25, 1997, a notice was published in the **Federal Register**, Volume 62, Number 164, Page 44992, by the Bureau of Indian Affairs proposing to adjust the assessment rates for operating and maintaining the Fort Hall Irrigation Project, Michaud Unit, for 1998, 1999 and subsequent years. A 30-day public comment period was provided for the proposed irrigation rate adjustment. No comments were received.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Area Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Portland Area Office, 911 N.E. 11th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97232-4169, telephone (503) 231-6702.

DATES: The new irrigation assessment rates will become effective upon publication of this notice.