

Fishers Lane, Room 9–101, Rockville, MD 20857, 301–443–3936.

This notice is being published less than 15 days prior to the meeting due to the timing limitations imposed by the review and funding cycle.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.242, Mental Health Research Grants; 93.281, Scientist Development Award, Scientist Development Award for Clinicians, and Research Scientist Award; 93.282, Mental Health National Research Service Awards for Research Training, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: June 11, 1998.

**LaVerne Y. Stringfield,**

*Committee Management Officer, NIH.*

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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:** Horseshoe Creek Wildlife Foundation, Inc., Davenport, FL, PRT–691840

The applicant requests a permit to re-export and re-import leopards (*Panthera pardus*), 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:** Exotic Endangered Cats of World, Gibsonton, FL, PRT–798412.

The applicant requests a permit to re-export and re-import leopards (*Panthera pardus*), tiger (*Panthera tigris*), (*Panthera tigris altaica*) (*Uncia uncia*), 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:** John Horton, McKenzie, FL, PRT–843762.

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:** Peter's Taxidermy, Graham, WA, PRT–840263.

The applicant requests a permit to export one mounted jaguar (*Panthera onca*) and the articulated skeleton of one snow leopard (*Unica unica*) to a museum in Japan for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species through conservation education.

**Applicant:** Kenneth Glander, Duke University Primate Center, Durham, NC, PRT–843817.

The applicant requests a permit to import blood samples taken from wild mantled howling monkeys (*Alouatta palliata*) in Ecuador for the purpose of genetic research.

**Applicant:** Richard H. Manly, Augusta, GA, PRT–843737.

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.

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 within 30 days of the date of this publication.

The public is invited to comment on the following application for a permit 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:** Mote Marine Laboratory, Sarasota, FL, PRT–843809.

**Permit Type:** Take for Scientific Research.

**Name and Number of Animals:** Florida Manatee (*Trichechus manatus latirostris*), 70.

**Summary of Activity to be Authorized:** The applicant requests a permit to conduct controlled approaches to manatees using a variety of vessels and operating conditions, as part of a study of responses of manatees to vessels.

**Source of Marine Mammals:** Manatees occupying Sarasota Bay, Florida from April through October.

**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:** Dennis John Tucker, Deforest, WI, PRT–843445.

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.

**Applicant:** Joseph J. Sisca, Jr., Brewster, NY, PRT–843452.

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.

**Applicant:** William F. Kneer, Jr., Whitehall, MI, PRT–843647.

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.

**Applicant:** Leroy M. Wurst, Pigeon, MI, PRT–843726.

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.

**Applicant:** Ronald Guire, Los Gatos, CA, PRT–843828.

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.

Written data or comments, requests for copies of the complete application, or requests for a public hearing on this application 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 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 a hearing is at the discretion of the Director.

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: June 12, 1998.

**MaryEllen Amtower,**

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

[FR Doc. 98-16156 Filed 6-17-98; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior

#### **Availability of an Environmental Assessment and Receipt of an Application for an Incidental Take Permit for the Bonny Doon Quarries, Santa Cruz County, CA**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** RMC Lonestar of Pleasanton, California, has applied to the Fish and Wildlife Service for an incidental take permit pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. The proposed 10-year permit would authorize the incidental take of the California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*), federally listed as threatened, during operation and maintenance of settlement ponds in the Bonny Doon Quarries in Santa Cruz County, California.

This notice announces the availability of the permit application and the environmental assessment for public comment. The permit application includes a habitat conservation plan for the Bonny Doon Quarries' settlement ponds and an implementation agreement. All comments received, including names and addresses, will become part of the administrative record and may be made available to the public.

**DATES:** Written comments should be received on or before July 20, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be addressed to Diane K. Noda, Field Supervisor, Fish and Wildlife Service, 2493 Portola Road, Suite B, Ventura, California 93003. Written comments also may be sent by facsimile to (805) 644-3958.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** David Pereksta, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, at the above address (805-644-1766).

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **Availability of Documents**

Individuals wishing copies of the documents should immediately contact the Service's Ventura Fish and Wildlife

Office at the above referenced address or telephone. Documents will also be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

#### **Background Information**

RMC Lonestar proposes to continue operation and maintenance of five of seven settlement ponds and associated culverts and open drains that serve active and formerly active operational areas, including both quarrying and waste disposal areas, at the Bonny Doon Quarries. The site is known to support populations of the California red-legged frog. As a component of recent environmental review conducted by the County of Santa Cruz (County) for RMC Lonestar's operations and as a condition of RMC Lonestar's mining permit, the County now requires regular cleaning of an engineered drainage system that includes the five settlement ponds and associated culverts and open drains noted above. Operational areas are either owned or leased by RMC Lonestar and covered by the mining permit. The County may add these maintenance requirements to two additional ponds and their associated culverts and drains.

At a minimum, each settlement pond must have adequate capacity to hold run-off from a 10-year, 2-hour rainfall event falling in its catchment area. To maintain this pond capacity, RMC Lonestar must perform general maintenance and remove accumulated sediment each year from at least some of the ponds in the late summer or early fall. The pond maintenance cannot begin before April 15 and must be completed by October 15 to satisfy the County's objectives for the protection of water quality.

RMC Lonestar needs an incidental take permit from the Service because listed wildlife species are protected against "take" pursuant to section 9 of the Endangered Species Act. That is, no one may harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture or collect listed animal species, or attempt to engage in such conduct (16 USC 1538). The Service, however, may issue permits to take listed animal species if such taking is incidental to, and not the purpose of, otherwise lawful activities. Regulations governing permits for threatened species are found at 50 CFR 17.32.

The Service proposes to issue a 10-year permit to RMC Lonestar for incidental take of California red-legged frogs during operation and maintenance of settlement ponds, associated culverts, and open drains at the Bonny Doon Quarries. The proposed project would result in the loss of California red-legged

frogs and their habitat within the settlement ponds, associated culverts, and open drains as the natural vegetation communities in which they are found and the hydrological conditions that provide suitable habitat are removed or altered during operation and maintenance activities.

The proposed action would authorize the incidental take of California red-legged frogs within the 5-acre area of the settlement ponds serving the 455-acre Bonny Doon Quarries. During 1997, California red-legged frogs were found in three of the seven settlement ponds; breeding occurred within two of those three. California red-legged frogs also were found along Liddell Creek and at RMC Lonestar's mitigation ponds along Liddell Creek.

RMC Lonestar's habitat conservation plan contains the following measures to minimize and mitigate impacts to the California red-legged frog and its habitat from the operation and maintenance of the settlement ponds and to further the conservation of the species: (1) training programs to familiarize employees and subcontractors of RMC Lonestar with the biology of the species and the protection provided to the frog under the Endangered Species Act; (2) a community outreach program for distribution to local schools and community associations in Davenport and Bonny Doon; (3) annual breeding surveys at all settlement ponds and mitigation ponds; (4) pre-maintenance activity surveys for California red-legged frogs; (5) avoidance of impacts to or removal from harm's way of juvenile or adult California red-legged frogs to the greatest extent possible; (6) timing of water releases to minimize impacts to breeding populations of California red-legged frogs; (7) the use of speed limits, trash control, and predator control as necessary to protect California red-legged frogs; (8) minimization of disturbance to and enhancement of habitat within Settlement Pond 1, consistent with other regulatory objectives; (9) deepening and maintaining the depth of the mitigation ponds to provide benefits to the California red-legged frog; (10) monitoring of project impacts and success of mitigation measures for the term of this habitat conservation plan and for 5 years following the term of the permit; and (11) submission of an annual report of the activities conducted under this habitat conservation plan during the previous year.

#### **Environmental Assessment**

The environmental assessment considers the environmental consequences of the proposed action