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Dated: May 25, 2001.

LaVerne Y. Stringfield,

Director, Office of Federal Advisory
Committee Policy.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Receipt of Applications for Permit

Endangered Species

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.*). Written data or comments should be submitted to the Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division 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.

Applicant: AZA Rhinoceros Advisory Group on behalf of Sedgwick County Zoo, Wichita, KS, PRT-042888.

The applicant requests a permit to import one female black rhinoceros (*Dicornis bicornis*) from the Yokohama Kanazawa Zoo, Japan, for the purpose of enhancement of propagation of the species through captive breeding.

Applicant: National Aviary in Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, PRT-040800.

The applicant requests a permit to export viable eggs of captive bred Manchurian crane (*Grus japonensis*) and white-naped crane (*Grus vipio*) for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species through captive breeding and re-introduction. This notification covers activities conducted by the applicant over the next 5 years.

Applicant: Gary Duane Gust, Cedar Springs, MI, PRT-043084.

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: James J. Moore, Ph.D., University of San Diego, PRT-039828.

The applicant request a permit to import biological samples of chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*) collected from the wild in Tanzania, for scientific research. This notification covers activities conducted by the applicant for a period of five years.

Applicant: Washington Regional Primate Research Center, Seattle, WA, PRT-029665.

The applicant requests a permit to import biological samples from orangutan (*Pongo pygmaeus*), siamang (*Symphalangus syndactylus*), and gibbons (*Hylobates* spp.) collected from captive-held and captive-born specimens in Indonesia, for scientific research. This notification covers activities conducted by the applicant over a five year period.

Applicant: Howard H. McCutchen, Hanlan, IA, PRT-043170.

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: Department of Geology & Geophysics, University of Utah, UT, PRT-043260.

The applicant requests a permit to import biological samples collected from wild yellow-footed rock wallabies (*Petrogale xanthopus*) in Australia for scientific research.

Applicant: Dr. Jennifer Pastorini, Dept. of Biology, Southwest Texas State University, TX, PRT-043202.

The applicant requests a permit to import biological samples from a collection currently held at the University of Zurich, Switzerland, for scientific research. The samples were collected from both wild and captive non-human primates and represent multiple species in the families Lepilemuridae, Daubentonidae, Indridae, Cheirogaleidae, and Lemuridae.

Applicant: McCarthy Wildlife Sanctuary, FL, PRT-037668.

The applicant requests a permit to import one captive-born male cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) from DeWildt Cheetah Research and Breeding Centre, South Africa, for the purpose of the enhancement of the survival of the species.

Marine Mammals

The public is invited to comment on the following application(s) for a permit to conduct certain activities with marine mammals. The application(s) 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: Charles F. Mervar, Longmont, CO, PRT-043244.

The applicant requests a permit to import a polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) sport-hunted from the Lancaster Sound polar bear population in Canada for personal use taken April, 2001.

Applicant: Vaughn Liljenquist, Glendale, AZ, PRT-043194.

The applicant requests a permit to import a polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) sport-hunted from the Northern Beaufort Sea polar bear population in Canada for personal use taken April, 2001.

Applicant: Sead Dizdarevic, Far Hills, NJ, PRT-043241.

The applicant requests a permit to import a polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) sport-hunted from the Norwegian Bay polar bear population in Canada for personal use taken May, 2001.

Applicant: Jay E. Link, Minong, WI, PRT-042006.

The applicant requests a permit to import a polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) sport-hunted from the Lancaster Sound polar bear population in Canada for personal use taken April, 2001.

Written data, comments, or requests for copies of these complete applications or requests for a public hearing on these applications should be sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Management Authority, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203, telephone 703/358-2104 or fax 703/358-2281. These requests 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.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife has information collection approval from OMB through February 28, 2001. OMB Control Number 1018-0093. Federal Agencies may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a current valid OMB control number.

Documents and other information submitted with these applications 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, Division of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203. Phone: (703/358-2104); Fax: (703/358-2281).

Dated: May 25, 2001.

Monica Farris,

Senior Biologist, Branch of Permits, Office of Management Authority.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Availability of the Draft Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Recovery Plan for Review and Comment

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Document Availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announces the availability for public review of a draft Recovery Plan for the southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*). The breeding range of this bird includes southern California, southern Nevada, southern Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, western Texas, southwestern Colorado, and possibly extreme northern portions of the Mexican states of Baja, California del Norte, Sonora, and Chihuahua. Within this region, the species breeds in dense riparian tree and shrub communities associated with rivers, swamps, and other wetlands including lakes (e.g., reservoirs). Most of these habitats are classified as forested wetlands or scrub-shrub wetlands. The Service solicits review and comment from the public on this draft plan.

DATES: Comments on the draft Recovery Plan must be received on or before October 4, 2001 to receive consideration by the Service.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the draft Recovery Plan may obtain a copy by contacting Greg Beatty, Arizona Ecological Services Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2321 West Royal Palm Road, Suite 103, Phoenix, Arizona, 85021-4951 (602/242-0210). Written comments and materials regarding the plan should be addressed to the Field Supervisor at this same address. 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: Greg Beatty (see **ADDRESSES**).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Restoring an endangered or threatened animal or plant species 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 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 of 1973 (Act), 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 will also take these comments into account in the course of implementing approved recovery plans.

The Draft Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Recovery Plan describes the status, current management, recovery objectives and criteria, and specific actions needed to reclassify the southwestern willow flycatcher from endangered to threatened, and to ultimately delist it. The draft Plan was developed by: Deborah M. Finch, U.S. Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station, Albuquerque, New Mexico (Team Leader); Stephen I. Rothstein, University of California, Santa Barbara, California (Vice Team Leader); Jon C. Boren, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, New Mexico; Jerry L. Holechek, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, New Mexico; Barbara E. Kus, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Western Ecological Research Center, San Diego State University, San Diego, California; Robert M. Marshall, The Nature Conservancy, Tucson, Arizona; Susan J. Sferra, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Phoenix, Arizona; Mark K.

Sogge, USGS Forest and Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center, Colorado Plateau Field Station, Flagstaff, Arizona; Julie C. Stromberg, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona; Bradley A. Valentine, California Department of Fish and Game, Santa Rosa, California; Mary J. Whitfield, Southern Sierra Research Center, Weldon, California; Sartor O. Williams III, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Santa Fe, New Mexico; and geographically-based teams of stakeholders (Implementation Subgroups), which include representatives of Native American Tribes, State and local governments, ranchers, private land owners and managers, agency representatives, and others.

The southwestern willow flycatcher is known to currently breed in dense riparian vegetation in southern California, southern Nevada, southern Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, and southwestern Colorado. Although extreme northwestern Mexico and western Texas are considered part of its breeding range, no nesting birds are presently known to occur in these areas. The dense riparian vegetation that is needed for breeding was historically rare and sparsely distributed, and is now more rare. Destruction and modification of riparian habitats have been caused mainly by: reduction or elimination of surface and subsurface water due to diversion and groundwater pumping; changes in flood and fire regimes due to dams and stream channelization; clearing and controlling vegetation, livestock grazing; changes in water and soil chemistry due to disruption of natural hydrologic cycles; and establishment of non-native plants. Concurrent with habitat loss have been increases in brood parasitism by the brown-headed cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) and the presence of nest predation which inhibits reproductive success and further reduces population levels. Actions needed to recover the southwestern willow flycatcher are those that would increase and improve breeding habitat by restoring and/or re-creating natural physical and biotic processes that influence riparian ecosystems, and reducing other stresses on the flycatcher. Specific actions include: changing management of surface and groundwater, including fundamental changes in dam operations, and restoring flood cycles; reducing impacts of domestic livestock, wild burros, and native ungulates; improving metapopulation stability; securing long-term protection of breeding habitat; managing exotic plant species; reducing brood parasitism by brown-headed