

The applicant requests a permit to re-export biological samples from maned wolf (*Chrysocyon brachyurus*) to Dr. Beat Bigler, Bern, Switzerland, for the purpose of diagnostic and scientific research. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a five-year period.

Applicant: James J. Homann, Sr., Omaha, NE, PRT-080210.

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: Atlanta Zoo, Atlanta, GA, PRT-080016.

The applicant requests a permit to import frozen semen samples from one male giant panda (*Ailuropoda melanoleuca*) from the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding, China, for the purpose of artificial insemination for scientific research and propagation for the enhancement of the survival of the species.

Applicant: Michelle L. Sauther, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO, PRT-040035.

The applicant requests an amendment and renewal of their permit to import biological samples from ring-tailed lemur (*Lemur catta*) collected in the wild in Madagascar, for the purpose of scientific research. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a five-year period.

Applicant: Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, Cleveland, OH, PRT-080013.

The applicant requests a permit to import two male and two female captive born ocelots (*Leopardus pardalis*) from several zoos in Brazil, as part of the Brazilian Ocelot Consortium (BOC), for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species through captive propagation and conservation education.

Marine Mammals

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 Part 18). Written data, comments, or requests for copies of the complete applications or requests for a public hearing on these applications should be submitted to the Director (address above). 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.

Applicant: Ronald J. Bartels, Schriever, LA, PRT-080350.

The applicant requests a permit to import a polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) sport hunted from the Baffin Bay polar bear population in Canada prior to February 18, 1997, for personal use.

Dated: December 5, 2003.

Michael S. Moore,

Senior Permit Biologist, Branch of Permits, Division of Management Authority.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Endangered and Threatened Species Permit Applications

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of application.

SUMMARY: 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.*).

DATES: Written data or comments should be submitted to the Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services, 1 Federal Drive, Fort Snelling, Minnesota 55111-4056, and must be received on or before January 20, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Peter Fasbender, (612) 713-5343.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Permit Number TE 056081-1

Applicant: EnviroScience, Incorporated, Stow, Ohio.

The applicant requests a permit to take (collect) listed fish and mussel species throughout the State of Georgia. Activities are proposed to identify populations of listed species and to develop methods to minimize or avoid project related impacts to those populations. The scientific research is aimed at enhancement of survival of species in the wild.

Permit Number TE 023666-0

Applicant: Eric R. Britzke, Clemson University, Clemson, South Carolina.

The applicant requests a permit to take (collect) the northern flying squirrel

(*Glaucomys sabrinus*) throughout North Carolina and Virginia. Activities are proposed for the enhancement of survival of the species in the wild.

Permit Number TE 079161-0

Applicant: Paula K. Kleintjes, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

The applicant requests a permit to take (harass) Karner blue butterfly (*Lycæides melissa samuelis*) in Wisconsin. Activities are proposed for the enhancement of survival of (*Lycæides melissa samuelis*) in Wisconsin. Activities are proposed for the enhancement of survival of the species in the wild.

Permit Number TE 079162-0

Applicant: Jeremy A. Williamson, Polk County Land and Water Resources Department, Balsam Lake, Wisconsin.

The applicant requests a permit to take (collect) Higgins' eye pearl mussel (*Lampsilis higginsii*) and winged mapleleaf (*Quadrula fragosa*) in Wisconsin. Activities are proposed for the enhancement of survival of the species in the wild.

Permit Number TE 072500

Applicant: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Engineer Research and Development Center, Champaign, Illinois.

The applicant requests a permit to take Topeka shiner (*Notropis topeka*) in Illinois. Activities are proposed for the enhancement of survival of the species in the wild.

Dated: December 3, 2003.

T.J. Miller,

Acting Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, Region 3, Fort Snelling, Minnesota.

[FR Doc. 03-31184 Filed 12-17-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-U

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Receipt of Applications for Endangered Species Permits

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of applications for permits.

SUMMARY: The public is invited to comment on the following applications to conduct certain activities with endangered species. We provide this notice pursuant to section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

DATES: We must receive written data or comments on these applications at the

address given below, by January 20, 2004.

ADDRESSES: 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, 1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 200, Atlanta, Georgia 30345 (Attn: Victoria Davis, Permit Biologist).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Victoria Davis, telephone 404/679-4176; facsimile 404/679-7081.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The public is invited to comment on the following applications for permits to conduct certain activities with endangered species. If you wish to comment, you may submit comments by any one of the following methods. You may mail comments to the Service's Regional Office (see **ADDRESSES** section) or via electronic mail (e-mail) to "victoria_davis@fws.gov". Please submit electronic comments as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Please also include your name and return address in your e-mail message. If you do not receive a confirmation from the Service that we have received your e-mail message, contact us directly at the telephone number listed above (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section). Finally, you may hand deliver comments to the Service office listed above (see **ADDRESSES** section).

Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the administrative record. We will honor such requests to the extent allowable by law. There may also be other circumstances in which we would withhold from the administrative record a respondent's identity, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. However, we will not consider anonymous comments. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

Applicant: Claudia Frosch, Gulf Shores, Alabama, TE080231-0.

The applicant requests authorization to take (trap, handle, relocate, radio-tag, PIT-tag, and release) the Alabama beach mouse (*Peromyscus polionotus ammobates*) and Perdido Key beach mouse (*Peromyscus polionotus trissyllepsis*) while conducting presence and absence studies and population monitoring. The proposed activities would occur on Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge, Baldwin County, Alabama; Johnson Beach of Gulf Island National Seashore, Escambia County, Florida; Perdido Key State Recreation Area, Escambia County, Florida; and Alabama Point, Baldwin County, Alabama.

Applicant: Jereme N. Phillips, Gulf Shores, Alabama, TE080229-0.

The applicant requests authorization to take (trap, mark, recapture, and release) the Alabama beach mouse (*Peromyscus polionotus ammobates*) while conducting presence and absence studies. The proposed activities would occur on Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge, Baldwin County, Alabama.

Dated: December 3, 2003.

Jackie Parrish,

Acting Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 03-31185 Filed 12-17-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; 90-Day Finding for a Petition to Delist the Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse in Colorado and Wyoming

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of 90-day petition finding.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces a 90-day finding for a petition to delist the Preble's meadow jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius preblei*) under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. We find that the petition and additional information in our files did not present substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that delisting may be warranted. We will not be initiating a further status review in response to this petition. We ask the public to submit to us any new information that becomes available concerning the status of or threats to this species. This information will help us monitor and encourage the conservation of this species.

DATES: The finding announced in this document was made on December 11, 2003. You may submit new information concerning this species for our consideration at any time.

ADDRESSES: Questions or information concerning this petition should be sent to the Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services, 755 Parfet, Lakewood, Colorado 80215. The separate petition finding, supporting data, and comments are available for public review, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Susan Linner at 303-275-2370 (see **ADDRESSES** section).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Section 4(b)(3)(A) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), requires that the Service make a finding on whether a petition to list, delist, or reclassify a species presents substantial scientific or commercial information to demonstrate that the petitioned action may be warranted. This finding is to be based on all information readily available to the Service at the time the finding is made. To the maximum extent practicable, the finding shall be made within 90 days following receipt of the petition and promptly published in the **Federal Register**. Following a positive finding, section 4(b)(3)(B) of the Act requires the Service to promptly commence a status review of the species.

The Preble's meadow jumping mouse is a small rodent in the family Zapodidae and is 1 of 12 recognized subspecies of the species *Zapus hudsonius*, the meadow jumping mouse. Preble's is native only to the Rocky Mountains-Great Plains interface of eastern Colorado and southeastern Wyoming. This shy, largely nocturnal mouse is 8 to 9 inches long (its tail accounts for 60 percent of its length) with hind feet adapted for jumping. It occurs in foothills riparian habitat from southeastern Wyoming to south central Colorado. Preble's meadow jumping mice regularly use upland grasslands adjacent to riparian habitat, and they may be dependent upon some amount of open water. The species hibernates near riparian zones from mid-October to early May. Loss of riparian habitats and other factors associated with urbanization appear to be the major threat to the species.

On August 16, 1994, the Service received a petition from the Biodiversity Legal Foundation to list the Preble's