

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.

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, Office of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 430, Arlington, Virginia 22203. Phone: (703/358-2104); FAX: (703/358-2281).

Dated: September 13, 1996.

Mary Ellen Amtower,

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

[FR Doc. 96-23929 Filed 9-17-96; 8:45 am]

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Fish and Wildlife Service

Emergency Exemption: Issuance

On September 9, 1996, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) issued a permit (PRT-819483) to Charles Darwin Foundation, Falls Church, Virginia to import blood and tissue samples from Galapagos tortoises (*Geochelone nigra*). 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 tortoises existed and that no reasonable alternative was available to the applicant, for the following reasons: (1) the Charles Darwin Research Station in the Galapagos Islands have lost 8 tortoises to an unknown disease and 9 more are showing symptoms of this disease; (2) by importing these samples, researchers hope to isolate the disease-causing agent in order to determine the best treatment to the disease and prevent further loss of this species.

Dated: September 13, 1996.

Mary Ellen Amtower,

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

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Notice of Receipt of an Application, and Availability of an Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact for an Incidental Take Permit by Plantation Palms, L.L.C., for Construction of a Residential Project on the Fort Morgan Peninsula, Alabama

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Plantation Palms, L.L.C., (Applicant), seeks an incidental take permit (ITP) from the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), pursuant to Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), (Act) as amended. The ITP would authorize for a period of 30 years the incidental take of an endangered species, the Alabama beach mouse (*Peromyscus polionotus ammobates*), known to occupy a 4-acre tract of land owned by the Applicant on the Fort Morgan Peninsula, Baldwin County, Alabama. The project would be called Plantation Palms, which will include three condominium complexes, 38 single family/duplex lots, their associated landscaped grounds and parking areas, recreational amenities, and dune walkover structures.

The Service also announces the availability of an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for this incidental take application. Copies of the EA and/or HCP may be obtained by making a request in writing to the Regional Office (see **ADDRESSES**). This notice also advises the public that the Service has made preliminary determinations that issuing an ITP to the Applicant is not a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, (NEPA) as amended. The Findings of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is based on information contained in the EA and HCP. The final determination will be made no sooner than 30 days from the date of this notice. This notice is provided pursuant to Section 10 of the Act and National Environmental Policy Act Regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

DATES: Written comments on the application, EA and HCP should be sent to the Service's Regional Office (see **ADDRESSES**) and should be received on or before October 18, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the application, HCP, and EA may obtain a copy by writing the Service's Southeast Regional Office, Atlanta, Georgia. Documents will also be

available for public inspection by appointment during normal business hours at the Regional Office, 1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 200, Atlanta, Georgia 30345 (Attn: Endangered Species Permits), or at the Daphne, Alabama, Field Office, 2001 Highway 98, Daphne East Office Plaza, Suite A, Daphne, Alabama 36526. Written data or comments concerning the application, EA, or HCP should be submitted to the Regional Office. Comments must be submitted in writing to be processed. Please reference permit(s) under PRT-816555 in such comments, or in requests for the documents discussed herein. Requests for the documents must be in writing to be adequately processed.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Rick G. Gooch, Regional Permit Coordinator, Atlanta, Georgia (see **ADDRESSES** above), telephone: 404/679-7110; or Ms. Celeste South at the Daphne, Alabama, Field Office (see **ADDRESSES** above), telephone: 334/441-5181.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Alabama beach mouse (ABM), *Peromyscus polionotus ammobates*, is a subspecies of the common oldfield mouse *Peromyscus polionotus* and is restricted to the dune systems of the Gulf Coast of Alabama. The known current range of ABM extends from Fort Morgan eastward to the western terminus of Alabama Highway 182, including the Perdue Unit on the Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge. The sand dune systems inhabited by this species are not uniform; several habitat types are distinguishable. The species inhabits primary dunes, interdune areas, secondary dunes, and scrub dunes. The depth and area of these habitats from the beach inland varies. Population surveys indicate that this subspecies is usually more abundant in primary dunes than in secondary dunes, and usually more abundant in secondary dunes than in scrub dunes. Optimal ABM habitat is currently considered dune systems with all dune types. Though fewer ABM inhabit scrub dunes, these high dunes can serve as refugia during devastating hurricanes that overwash, flood, and destroy or alter secondary and frontal dunes. ABM surveys on the Applicants' properties reveal habitat occupied by ABM. The Applicants' properties contain designated critical habitat for the ABM. Construction of the project may result in the death of, or injury to, ABM. Habitat alterations due to condominium placement and subsequent human habitation of the project may reduce