

Group consists of 17 members representing the following principal interests: sport hunting and fishing, environmental, public-at-large (5), recreation users, local government, science/academic, conservation, subsistence, commercial fishing, aquaculture, commercial tourism, forest products, and Native landowners. Members were appointed to serve a two-year term.

To carry out its advisory role, the Advisory Group makes recommendations, to, and advises, the Trustee Council in Alaska on the following matters:

All decisions related to injury assessment, restoration activities, or other use of natural resource damage recovery monies obtained by the government, including all decisions regarding:

- a. Planning, evaluation and allocation of available funds;
- b. Planning, evaluation and conduct of injury assessment; and
- c. Planning, evaluation and conduct of restoration activities.

Trustee Council intentions regarding the importance of obtaining a diversity of viewpoints is stated in the *Public Advisory Group Background and Guidelines* (March 1993, updated June 1994): "The Trustee Council intends that the Public Advisory Group be established as an important component of the Council's public involvement process." The Council continues, stating their desire that "* * * a wide spectrum of views and interest are available for the Council to consider as it evaluates, develops, and implements restoration activities. It is the Council's intent that the diversity of interests and views held by the Public Advisory Group members contribute to wide ranging discussions that will be of benefit to the Trustee Council."

In order to ensure that a broad range of public viewpoints continues to be available to the Trustee Council, and in keeping with the settlement agreement, the Public Advisory Group is being renewed for another two-year period.

Certification

I hereby certify that the renewal of the Charter of the Public Advisory Group, an advisory committee to make recommendations to and advise the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council in Alaska, is necessary and in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties mandated by the settlement of *United States v. State of Alaska*, No. A91-081 CV, and is in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, as amended and supplemented.

Dated: January 28, 1997.

Bruce Babbit,

Secretary of the Interior.

[FR Doc. 97-3588 Filed 2-12-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-10-M

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: Michael Horovitz, Savannah, GA, PRT-824931.

The applicant requests a permit authorizing interstate commerce to acquire one radiated tortoise (*Geochelone radiata*) for the purpose of enhancement of the species through captive propagation.

Applicant: National Zoological Park, Washington, DC, PRT-824960

The applicant requests a permit authorizing the import of blood and tissue samples taken from wild black rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis*) from South Africa for the purpose of scientific research and enhancement of survival of the species.

Applicant: Mary Katherine Gonder, New York, NY, PRT-810330.

The applicant requests a permit amendment to import hair samples of chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*) collected from zoo specimens and sleeping nests in Cameroon for enhancement of the species through scientific research.

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: February 7, 1997.

Mary Ellen Amtower,

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

[FR Doc. 97-3513 Filed 2-12-97; 8:45 am]

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Availability of an Environmental Assessment and Receipt of an Application Submitted by the Charles Ingram Lumber Company for an Incidental Take Permit for Red-cockaded Woodpeckers in Association With Management Activities on Their Property in Florence County, South Carolina

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Charles Ingram Lumber Company (Applicant) has applied to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for an incidental take permit (ITP) pursuant to Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended. The proposed permit would authorize the incidental take of a Federally endangered species, the red-cockaded woodpecker, *Picoides borealis* (RCW), known to occur on property owned by the Applicant in Florence County, South Carolina. The Applicant is requesting an ITP in order to harvest the timber on their property for economic reasons. The Applicant's property, known as Hoods Crossing, is located approximately five miles northwest of Pamplico in Florence County. The tract consists of 753 acres of which 364 acres is in pine plantation aged between 1-15 years, 382 acres in mature timber, and approximately 7 acres in ditches and roads. The proposed permit would authorize incidental take of a single RCW at Hoods Crossing in exchange for mitigation elsewhere as described further in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section below.

The Service also announces the availability of an environmental assessment (EA) and habitat conservation plan (HCP) for the incidental take application. Copies of the EA and/or HCP may be obtained by making a request to the Regional Office (see **ADDRESSES**). This notice also advises the public that the Service has made a preliminary determination that issuing the ITP 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 Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is