

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.*):

PRT-842872

Applicant: The North Carolina Arboretum, Asheville, NC

The applicant requests a permit to export 40 leaf samples from artificially propagated spreading avens (*Geum radiatum*) to Acadia University, Wolfville, Nova Scotia, Canada, for scientific research.

PRT-842530

*Applicant:*Carolynn Crutchley, Manheim, PA

The applicant requests a permit to import 10 wild-caught parma wallabies (*Macropus parma*) from an introduced population on Kawau Island, New Zealand, to enhance the survival of the species through captive-breeding.

PRT-842519

Applicant: L. Renee Irvine, Titusville, FL

The applicant requests a permit to import 2 captive-born golden-headed lion tamarins (*Leontopithecus chrysomelas*) from Ivan Crab, Nagyorszony, Hungary to enhance the survival of the species through captive-breeding.

PRT-842517

Applicant: Nicholas Mundy, University of California San Diego, La Jolla, CA

The applicant requests a permit to re-export hair and DNA samples from Goeldi's marmoset (*Callimico goeldii*) to the Anthropological Institute, Zurich, Switzerland for scientific research.

PRT-842516

Applicant: Nicholas Mundy, University of California San Diego, La Jolla, CA

The applicant requests a permit to re-export hair and DNA samples from white-eared marmosets (*Callithrix aurita*) and buff-headed marmosets (*Callithrix flaviceps*) to the Anthropological Institute, Zurich, Switzerland for scientific research.

PRT-842900

Applicant: Richard Wrangham, Kibale Chimpanzee Project, Harvard University

The applicant requests a permit to import non-invasive biological samples collected from East African

chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes schweinfurthii*) for the purpose of scientific research.

PRT-842998

Applicant: Brenda Bradley, Anthropology Department, State University of New York, Stony Brook, NY

The applicant requests a permit to import non-invasively collected biological samples taken from western lowland gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla*) in the Central African Republic for the purpose of 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 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).

PRT-773494

Applicant: Florida Department of Natural Resources, St. Petersburg, FL

Permit Type: Take for scientific research.

Name of Animals: West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*), Amazonian manatee (*Trichechus inunguis*), West African manatee (*Trichechus senegalensis*), and Dugong (*Dugong dugong*).

Summary of Activity to be

Authorized: The applicant requests an amendment to their permit to change the principal officer responsible for the permit; to conduct up to 5 non-harmful, non-invasive behavioral and physiological studies on captive West Indian manatees and up to 10 non-harmful, non-invasive behavioral and physiological studies on free-ranging West Indian manatees; to collect colon temperatures on captive and wild West Indian manatees in order to describe and analyze vascular structures that influence thermal insult to the manatee reproductive system; to do 12 recaptures of West Indian manatees; to implant up to 90 (60 wild and 30 rehabilitated) West Indian manatees with passive integrated transponder tags; and to import biological samples from wild or captive specimens of West Indian manatees, Amazonian manatees, West African manatees, and dugongs.

Source of Marine Mammals: Wild and captive West Indian manatees within

their range in the United States and wild and captive salvage specimens of West Indian manatee, Amazonian manatee, West African, dugong where ever found.

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.

PRT-842478

Applicant: David Van Collis, San Ysidro, NM

The applicant requests a permit to import a polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) sport-hunted prior to April 30, 1994 from the Northern Beaufort Sea polar bear population, Northwest Territories, Canada for personal use.

PRT-842766

Applicant: Wade Marshall, Rainer, OR

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.

PRT-842970

Applicant: Gerald L. Warnoch, Portland, OR

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.

PRT-843165

Applicant: Wallace W. Bednarz, Williamsport, PA

The applicant requests a permit to import a polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) sport-hunted prior to April 30, 1994 from the Viscount Melville polar bear population, Northwest Territories, Canada for personal use.

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 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203. Phone: (703/358-2104); FAX: (703/358-2281).

Dated: May 22, 1998.

MaryEllen Amtower,
Acting Chief, Branch of Permits, Office of
Management Authority.
[FR Doc. 98-14199 Filed 5-28-98; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Availability of an Application Submitted by Gulf States Paper Corporation for an Incidental Take Permit and Safe Harbor Agreement for Red-Cockaded Woodpeckers in Association Timber Harvest and Management Activities

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Gulf States Paper Corporation (Applicant), has submitted an application for an incidental take permit (ITP), including a Safe Harbor/Memorandum of Agreement Conservation Plan (Plan), to 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. If granted, the ITP would authorize for a period of 50 years, the incidental take of the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker, *Picoides borealis*, (RCW) throughout the Applicant's ownership of approximately 400,000 acres in west-central Alabama. The take of the RCW would be incidental to timber management operations performed by the Applicant. Further, the Applicant approval of a Safe Harbor Agreement for the RCW associated with implementation and administration of the Plan/ITP. The proposed ITP would authorize incidental take of the RCW associated with, where necessary and appropriate, shifting of the Applicant's RCW baseline responsibilities as described below. Mitigation and minimization strategy in the application involves establishing and maintaining a 10,000 acre RCW management area, with the expectation of increasing the extant population of 5 RCW groups to as many as 15 RCW groups (See the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** Section below.) By consolidating the RCW population under control of the Applicant, the Applicant will increase the stability of the extant population. Under the Safe Harbor Agreement, no erosion of the current RCW population would occur.

The Service has determined that the Plan qualifies as a "low-effect" Habitat Conservation Plan as defined by the Service's Habitat Conservation Planning

Handbook (November 1996). The Service has further determined that approval of the Plan qualifies as a categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act, as provided by the Department of Interior Manual (516 DM 2, Appendix 1 and 516 DM 6, Appendix 1). This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the Act.

Copies of the application/Plan may be obtained by making a request to the Regional Office (see **ADDRESSES**). Requests must be in writing to be processed. Further, the Service announces that it has determined that the Applicant's request is eligible for a Categorical Exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act (see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**).

DATES: Requests for the applications and/or written comments on the application should be sent to the Service's Regional Office (see **ADDRESSES**) and should be received on or before June 29, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the application 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 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Drawer 1190, Daphne, Alabama 36526. Written data or comments concerning the application should be submitted to the Regional Office. Comments must be submitted in writing to be processed. Please reference permit under PRT-842707 in such comments, or in requests of the documents discussed herein.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Rick G. Gooch, Regional Permit Coordinator, (see **ADDRESSES** above), telephone: 404/679-7110, facsimile: 7081; or Mr. Brett Wehrle, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, Daphne Alabama Field Office, (see **ADDRESSES** above), telephone: 334/441-5181 extension 29, facsimile: 334/694-4222.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 9 of the Act and Federal regulation prohibit the "take" of a species listed as endangered or threatened, respectively (take is defined under the Act, in part, as to kill, harm, or harass). However, the Service, under limited circumstances, may issue permits to authorize "incidental take" of listed species (defined by the Act as take that is incidental to, and not the purpose of, the carrying out of an otherwise lawful activity). Regulations governing permits for threatened species are promulgated in 50 CFR 17.32; regulations governing

permits for endangered species are promulgated in 50 CFR 17.22.

There are five RCW groups scattered throughout the Applicant's ownership of approximately 400,000 acres. The primary goal of the application will be to create adequate RCW nesting and foraging habitat and to consolidate long-term management of the Applicant's RCW population within a 10,000 RCW Management Area (Area). This will be accomplished by translocation of juvenile RCWs to the Area to establish a larger, more secure population. Incidental take of RCWs may occur as a result of these actions, during performance of land management actions within the Area, and via other activities associated with implementation of the Plan. The Applicant's current baseline responsibility will be adjusted upwards should additional groups be discovered during timber management operations and/or periodic and systematic RCW surveys associated with implementation of this application. RCW foraging habitat management, cluster and cavity management, staff training, administration, and monitoring are also components of the application that will result in conservation benefits to the RCW. The Applicant provides a funding source for the above-mentioned mitigation and minimization measures.

The Service has determined that the Plan qualifies as a "low-effect" Habitat Conservation Plan as defined by the Service's Habitat Conservation Planning Handbook (November 1996).

Low-effect Habitat Conservation Plans are those involving: (1) Minor or negligible effects on federally listed and candidate species and their habitats, and (2) minor or negligible effects on other environmental values or resources. The Plan qualifies as a low-effect Habitat Conservation Plan for the following reasons: 1. Approval of the Plan would result in minor or negligible adverse effects on the RCW and its habitat. Further, the Service does not anticipate significant direct or cumulative effects to the RCW resulting from approving the application, Safe Harbor/Memorandum of Agreement Conservation Plan. 2. Approval would not have adverse effects on unique geographic, historic or cultural sites, or involve unique or unknown environmental risks. 3. Approval of the Plan would not result in any cumulative or growth inducing impacts and, therefore, would not result in significant adverse effects on public health or safety. 4. The project does not require compliance with Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), or