SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 requires that all lands within the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS) be managed in accordance with an approved CCP. The CCP guides management decisions and identifies refuge goals, long-range objectives and strategies for achieving refuge purposes. Each Refuge in the NWRS has specific purposes for which it was established. Those purposes are used to develop and prioritize management goals and objectives within the National Wildlife Refuge System mission and to guide which public uses will occur on a given refuge.

The planning process will consider many elements, including habitat and wildlife management, habitat protection and acquisition, wilderness preservation, public recreational opportunities, industrial use and cultural resources. Public input into this planning process is essential. The planning process is a way for the Service and the public to evaluate refuge management goals and objectives for the best possible conservation efforts of this important wildlife habitat. Concurrently, this process is also providing for wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities that are compatible with each Refuge's establishing purposes and the mission of the NWRS.

The Aransas National Wildlife Refuge Complex is located in Aransas, Refugio and Calhoun Counties, Texas and encompasses 115,670 acres of coastal prairie, oak woodland and savannah, barrier island and salt and freshwater marshes. The CCP will provide other agencies and the public with a clear understanding of the desired conditions for the Refuge and how the Service will implement management strategies for the conservation and development of these natural resources.

The Service through this notice of intent formally begins the comprehensive conservation planning process for the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge Complex. The Service requests input on any and all issues concerning management or public recreation. Comments regarding the protection of threatened and/or endangered species, migratory birds, native species and their habitats are encouraged. The Service is equally interested in receiving public input in the following areas:

- What makes this Refuge special for you?
- What Refuge projects or activities interest you most?
- What problems or issues do you see affecting management or public use of the Refuge?
- What improvements do you recommend for the Refuge?
- What changes, if any, would you like to see in the management of the Refuge?

The Service has provided the above questions for optional use only. The Planning Team developed these questions to facilitate issues and ideas. Comments received will be used as part of the planning process. Individual comments will not be referenced in our reports or directly responded to.

The Service will continue to solicit information from the public and other agencies via open houses, meetings, and written comments. Special mailings, newspaper releases, and announcements will continue to inform people of the time and place of opportunities for further input to the CCP.

Review of this project will be conducted in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), NEPA Regulations (40 CFR 1500–1508) found at (*http://www.legal.gsa.gov*), other appropriate Federal laws, and Service policies and procedures for compliance with those regulations.

The Service will prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with procedures for implementing NEPA found in the Department of the Interior Manual (DM Part 516, Chap 6). The decision to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement instead of an EA is contingent upon the complexity of issues following the scoping phase of the CCP process.

We estimate that the draft environmental documents will be available in summer 2003 for public review and comment.

Dated: July 18, 2002.

H. Dale Hall,

Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 02–22134 Filed 8–29–02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–55–U

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of receipt of application for endangered species permit

AGENCY: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of application for endangered species permit.

SUMMARY: The following applicant has applied for a permit to conduct certain activities with an 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 on this application must be received at the address given below by September 30, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Documents and other information submitted with this application are available for review 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, 300 Westgate Center Drive, Hadley, Massachusetts 01035. Attention: Diane Lynch, Regional Permits Coordinator. Telephone: 413–253–8628; Facsimile: 413–253–8482.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Diane Lynch, Telephone: 413–253–8628; Facsimile: 413–253–8482

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: You are invited to comment on an application received from the Department of Army's, Fort AP Hill, PRT–TE059639–0. The applicant requests authorization to take (collect) entire individuals of three federally listed endangered plants; one individual of Sarracenia oreophila (green pitcher plant); two individuals of Sarracenia rubra spp. alabamensis (Alabama canebrake pitcher plant) and Sarracenia rubra spp. jonesii (Mountain sweet pitcher plant), from Caroline County, Virginia. These plants are not native to Virginia and were planted by an unauthorized individual within Fort AP Hill's boundaries. The plants will be removed from Fort AP Hill and provided to the Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens, Richmond, Virginia and used as part of an educational display.

Dated: July 29, 2002.

Mamie A. Parker,

Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 02–22151 Filed 8–29–02; 8:45 am]

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