

conduct certain activities with endangered marine mammals. The application was submitted to satisfy requirements of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531, *et seq.*) and/or the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361, *et seq.*), and the regulations governing endangered species (50 CFR part 17) and/or 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: Smithsonian Marine Station at Fort Pierce, Fort Pierce, FL, PRT-096527.

The applicant requests a permit to acquire blood samples and whisker clippings from two captive-held Florida manatees (*Trichechus manatus latirostris*) for the purpose of scientific research. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a one-year period.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, the Division of Management Authority is forwarding copies of the above applications to the Marine Mammal Commission and the Committee of Scientific Advisors for their review.

Dated: December 17, 2004.

Lisa J. Lierheimer,
Senior Permit Biologist, Branch of Permits,
Division of Management Authority.
[FR Doc. 05-299 Filed 1-6-05; 8:45 am]
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Issuance of Permits

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of issuance of permits for endangered species and marine mammals.

SUMMARY: The following permits were issued.

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: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203; fax (703) 358-2281.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Division of Management Authority, telephone (703) 358-2104.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given that on the dates below, as authorized by the provisions of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531, *et seq.*), or the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361, *et seq.*), the Fish and Wildlife Service issued the requested permits subject to certain conditions set forth therein. For each permit for an endangered species, the Service found that (1) the application was filed in good faith, (2) the granted permit would not operate to the disadvantage of the endangered species, and (3) the granted permit would be consistent with the purposes and policy set forth in Section 2 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

Endangered Species

Permit No.	Applicant	Receipt of application Federal Register notice	Permit issuance date
082594	Los Angeles Zoo	69 FR 33651; June 16, 2004	November 19, 2004.
094332	Arizona State University	69 FR 61261; October 15, 2004	November 29, 2004.
093991	Scott L. Sutherland	69 FR 65213; November 10, 2004	December 9, 2004.
094213	Gordon L. Blaser	69 FR 65213; November 10, 2004	December 9, 2004.

Endangered Marine Mammals and Marine Mammals

Permit No.	Applicant	Receipt of application Federal Register notice	Permit issuance date
092677	Gregory S. Williamson	69 FR 55445; September 14, 2004	December 7, 2004.

Dated: December 24, 2004.

Monica Farris,
Senior Permit Biologist, Branch of Permits,
Division of Management Authority.
[FR Doc. 05-300 Filed 1-6-05; 8:45 am]
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Endangered Species Recovery Permit Applications

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of permit applications.

SUMMARY: The following applicants have applied for a scientific research permit to conduct certain activities with endangered species pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Awe") solicits review and comment from the public, and from local, State and Federal agencies on the following permit requests.

DATES: Comments on these permit applications must be received on or before February 7, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Written data or comments should be submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Chief, Endangered Species, Ecological Services, 911 NE. 11th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97232-4181 (fax: 503-231-6243). Please refer to the respective permit number for each application when submitting comments. All comments received, including names and addresses, will become part of the official administrative record and may be made available to the public.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: 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 within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice to the address above (telephone: 503-231-2063). Please refer to the respective permit number for each application when requesting copies of documents.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Permit No. TE-094808

Applicant: Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources, Pago Pago, American Samoa. The applicant requests a permit to take (capture, tag, collect biological samples, and salvage) the hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) in conjunction with nest monitoring and scientific research on and near the islands of American Samoa for the purpose of enhancing its survival.

Permit No. TE-096741

Applicant: Pacific Naval Facilities Engineering Command.

The applicant requests a permit to take remove/reduce to possession (collect) *Abutilon menziesii* (ko'oloa'oula), *Abutilon sandwicense* (no common name), *Achyranthes splendens* var. *rotundata* (round-leaved chaff-flower), *Alectryon macrococcus* var. *macrococcus* (mahoe), *Bonamia menziesii* (no common name), *Chamaesyce kuwaleana* ('akoko), *Chamaesyce skottsbergii* var. *kalaeloana* ('Ewa Plains 'akoko), *Cyperus trachysanthos* (pu'uke'a), *Flueggea neowawraea* (mehamehame), *Hedyotis parvula* (no common name), *Lepidium arbuscula* ('anaunau), *Lipochaeta lobtata* var. *leptophylla* (nehe), *Lobelia niihauensis* (no common name), *Marsilea villosa* (ihi'ihii), *Neraudia angulata* (no common name), *Nototrichium humile* (kulu'i), *Schiedea hookeri* (no common name), and *Viola chamissoniana* ssp. *chamissoniana* (pamakani) in conjunction with propagation activities on the Island of Oahu, Hawaii, for the purpose of enhancing their survival.

We solicit public review and comment on this recovery permit application.

Dated: December 8, 2004.

David J. Wesley,

Acting Regional Director, Region 1, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 05-337 Filed 1-6-05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Environmental Analysis and Notice of Public Scoping Meeting Related to the San Luis Valley Regional Habitat Conservation Plan

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent; notice of public scoping meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) advises the public that we intend to gather information necessary to prepare a NEPA document and determine whether to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a proposed habitat conservation plan (HCP) that is being prepared by the Rio Grande Water Conservation District (District) on behalf of Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Rio Grande, and Saguache Counties (five counties). The proposed HCP is being prepared in support of an application for an incidental take permit (ITP) pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA). The District intends to apply for an ITP, through development and implementation of the San Luis Valley Regional Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), as required by the ESA. The HCP will provide measures to minimize and mitigate the impacts of the proposed actions, which might result in take of federally listed species.

We provide this notice to:

(1) Advise other Federal and State agencies, affected tribes, and the public of our intent to prepare a NEPA document;

(2) Announce the initiation of a public scoping period; and

(3) Obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues and alternatives to be considered in the scoping process.

DATES: Oral and written comments will be accepted at a public scoping meeting held on Thursday, January 13, 2005, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Written comments from all interested parties must be postmarked by January 28, 2005.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held at the Alamosa County Courthouse at 702 4th Street in Alamosa, Colorado. Information, written comments, or questions related to the preparation of the EA or EIS and the NEPA process should be submitted to Mr. Allan Pfister, Western Colorado Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 764

Horizon Drive, Building B, Grand Junction, Colorado 81506-3946; or FAX (970) 245-6933.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Terry Ireland at the above Grand Junction address, or at (970) 243-2778.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Reasonable Accommodation

Persons needing reasonable accommodations in order to attend and participate in the public meeting should contact Terry Ireland of the Grand Junction Field Office at (970) 243-2778 as soon as possible. In order to allow sufficient time to process requests, please call no later than 1 week before the public meeting. Information regarding this proposed action is available in alternative formats upon request.

Background

Federal agencies are required to conduct NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321, *et seq.*) analyses of their proposed actions to determine if the actions may affect the human environment. The Service anticipates that the District will request an ITP. Therefore, we are seeking public input on the scope of NEPA analysis required, including the range of reasonable alternatives and the associated impacts of those alternatives.

Section 9 of the ESA and its implementing Federal regulations prohibit "take" of species listed as threatened and endangered. Take is defined under the ESA to include actions that harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or attempt to engage in any such conduct (16 U.S.C. 1538). Harm includes significant habitat modifications or degradation where it actually kills or injures wildlife by significantly impairing behavioral patterns such as breeding, feeding, or sheltering (50 CFR 17.3(c)). Under limited circumstances, the Service may issue permits to take listed species incidental to, and not the purpose of, carrying out otherwise lawful activities. Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA and regulations at 50 CFR 17.32 contain provisions for issuing ITPs to non-Federal entities for the take of listed species, provided the Service determines the following criteria are met:

1. The taking will be incidental;
2. The applicant will, to the maximum extent practicable, minimize and mitigate the impacts of such take;
3. The applicant will develop an HCP and ensure that adequate funding for the HCP will be provided;
4. The take will not appreciably reduce the likelihood of the survival