

in conjunction with surveys throughout the range of each species in Southern California for the purpose of enhancing their survival.

Permit No. TE-004939

Applicant: Gordon Pratt, Riverside, California.

The permittee requests an amendment to take (survey by pursuit, capture, handle, remove from the wild, captively propagate, and release to the wild) the El Segundo blue butterfly (*Euphilotes battiudes allyni*) and the Smith's blue butterfly (*Euphilotes enoptes smithi*) in conjunction with surveys and propagation activities throughout the range of each species in California for the purpose of enhancing their survival.

We solicit public review and comment on each of these recovery permit applications.

Dated: July 27, 2005.

Robert Williams,

Acting Manager, California/Nevada Operations Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Emergency Exemption: Issuance of Permit for Endangered Species

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of emergency issuance of permit for endangered species.

SUMMARY: The following permit was issued.

ADDRESSES: Documents and other information submitted for this application 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, telephone 703/358-2104 or fax 703/358-2281.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On July 28, 2005, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) issued a permit (PRT-108841) to the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (CVM Phase 2), Blacksburg, Virginia, to import biological samples from wild chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) in

Tanzania for the purpose of scientific research. This action was authorized under Section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). The Service determined that an emergency affecting the health and life of the chimpanzees at the Mahale Mountains National Park in Kigoma, Tanzania, existed and that no reasonable alternative was available to the applicant for the following reasons.

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University requested a permit to import biological samples (bodily tissues and organs, hair, saliva, and other body parts) from the forest floor and from deceased animals found in the Mahale Mountains National Park in Tanzania for emergency and ongoing health and disease evaluation purposes. Samples will be utilized exclusively for diagnostic and scientific purposes. The specimens will be used to run diagnostics tests to determine the cause of death of several animals that have died during an ongoing disease outbreak at the National Park within the past several weeks. The necessary diagnostic testing is not available in Africa. The results of health and disease testing from these chimpanzees will help determine why the animals are sick and what caused the outbreak in order to develop interventions to help prevent reoccurrence.

Dated: July 29, 2005.

Monica Farris,

Senior Permit Biologist, Branch of Permits, Division of Management Authority.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Scoping Meeting and Notice of Intent to Prepare a Habitat Conservation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the Barton Springs Ecosystem in the Barton Springs Segment of the Edwards Aquifer

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

ACTION: Notice of intent to conduct scoping meetings and prepare a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), this notice advises the public that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) intends to prepare a draft EIS for an anticipated incidental take permit

application, including an HCP, by the Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer Conservation District (District) of Austin, Texas. The proposed application is for an Incidental Take Permit for the District's management of underground water through permits authorizing withdrawals from the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer. Such withdrawals directly affect the flow of Barton Springs, which are four hydraulically connected spring outlets constituting the major discharge points for the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer. The District is evaluating the need for a permit for the endangered Barton Springs salamander (*Eurycea sosorum*) and the Austin blind salamander (*Eurycea waterlooensis*), a candidate for listing. Additionally, the District may prepare an HCP that includes measures to minimize and mitigate any taking of species incidental to the permitted withdrawal of groundwater from the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer.

DATES: To ensure consideration, written comments from all interested parties concerning the scope of the analysis must be received on or before September 12, 2005. A public scoping meeting for receipt of comments will be held at 5 p.m. on August 23, 2005, at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, Texas. The draft EIS is expected April 2007.

ADDRESSES: Comments and requests for information should be sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, ATTN: Carrie Thompson, 10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78758; telephone (512) 490-0057 x230; facsimile (512) 490-0974. Comments and materials received will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) at the Austin Ecological Services Office, 10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200, Austin, Texas. Questions regarding the HCP should be directed to Timothy Riley, Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer Conservation District, 1124 Regal Row, Austin, Texas 78748, telephone (512) 282-8441.

Applicant: The District, a political subdivision of the State of Texas, is charged with the duty to manage, conserve, preserve, and protect the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer. The District issues permits for the drilling of wells and the production of groundwater for purposes that are not exempt from regulation under the Texas law requiring the District-issued permits.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is provided as required by the NEPA, its implementing regulations (40