

at (202) 693-2350, (TTY) (877) 889-5627).

Comments and submissions are posted without change at: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Therefore, OSHA cautions commenters about submitting personal information such as social security numbers and dates of birth. Although all submissions are listed in the <http://www.regulations.gov> index, some information (e.g., copyrighted material) is not publicly available to read or download through this Web site. All submissions, including copyrighted material, are available for inspection and copying at the OSHA Docket Office. Information on using the <http://www.regulations.gov> Web site to submit comments and access the docket is available at the Web site's "User Tips" link. Contact the OSHA Docket Office for information about materials not available through the Web site, and for assistance in using the Internet to locate docket submissions.

#### IV. Authority and Signature

Loren Sweatt, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health, directed the preparation of this notice. The authority for this notice is the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3506 *et seq.*) and Secretary of Labor's Order No. 4-2010 (75 FR 55355).

Signed at Washington, DC, on September 8, 2017.

**Loren Sweatt,**

*Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health.*

[FR Doc. 2017-19466 Filed 9-13-17; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4510-26-P**

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#### NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

##### Notice of Permit Applications Received Under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978

**AGENCY:** National Science Foundation.

**ACTION:** Notice of permit applications received.

**SUMMARY:** The National Science Foundation (NSF) is required to publish a notice of permit applications received to conduct activities regulated under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978. NSF has published regulations under the Antarctic Conservation Act in the Code of Federal Regulations. This is the required notice of permit applications received.

**DATES:** Interested parties are invited to submit written data, comments, or views with respect to this permit application by October 16, 2017. This

application may be inspected by interested parties at the Permit Office, address below.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be addressed to Permit Office, Room 755, Office of Polar Programs, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia 22230.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Nature McGinn, ACA Permit Officer, at the above address or [ACApermits@nsf.gov](mailto:ACApermits@nsf.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The National Science Foundation, as directed by the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978 (Pub. L. 95-541, 45 CFR 670), as amended by the Antarctic Science, Tourism and Conservation Act of 1996, has developed regulations for the establishment of a permit system for various activities in Antarctica and designation of certain animals and certain geographic areas requiring special protection. The regulations establish such a permit system to designate Antarctic Specially Protected Areas.

#### Application Details

*Permit Application: 2018-006*

1. *Applicant:* Greg Neri, 9612 Woodland Ridge Dr., Tampa, FL 33637.

*Activity for Which Permit Is Requested:* Enter Antarctic Specially Protected Area (ASPAs). The applicant, an author supported by NSF's Antarctic Artists and Writers Program, would enter ASPAs 121, 155, 157, and 158 to visit the Adelie penguin colony and the Ross Island historic huts. These visits will inform the applicant's writing about the research occurring in and around McMurdo Station and help to establish background materials for his childrens' novel about Antarctic scientists and their work, past and present. The applicant would be escorted by experienced scientists while visiting ASPA 121, Cape Royds, in order to ensure the protection of the penguins and will abide by the management plans of all ASPAs visited. The results of this work are expected to be useful for outreach and education about Antarctica and the scientific research conducted there.

*Location:* ASPA 121, Cape Royds, Ross Island; ASPA 155, Cape Evans, Ross Island; ASPA 157, Backdoor Bay, Cape Royds, Ross Island; ASPA 158 Hut Point, Ross Island.

*Dates:* October 18-December 1, 2017.

*Permit Application: 2018-009*

2. *Applicant:* Kirsten Carlson, 676 Iana Street, Kailua, HI 96734

*Activity for Which Permit Is Requested:* Enter Antarctic Specially

Protected Area (ASPAs). The applicant, an artist supported by NSF's Antarctic Artists and Writers Program, would enter ASPAs 121, 155, 157, and 158 to visit the Adelie penguin colony and the Ross Island historic huts. The applicant would observe, sketch, and photograph the huts and the penguins. The applicant would be escorted by experienced scientists while visiting ASPA 121, Cape Royds, in order to ensure the protection of the penguins and will abide by the management plans of all ASPAs visited. The results of this work are expected to be useful for outreach and education about Antarctica and the scientific research conducted there.

*Location:* ASPA 121, Cape Royds, Ross Island; ASPA 155, Cape Evans, Ross Island; ASPA 157, Backdoor Bay, Cape Royds, Ross Island; ASPA 158 Hut Point, Ross Island.

*Dates:* October 20-November 30, 2017.

**Nadene G. Kennedy,**

*Polar Coordination Specialist, Office of Polar Programs.*

[FR Doc. 2017-19503 Filed 9-13-17; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7555-01-P**

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#### NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

##### Notice of Permit Applications Received Under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978

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#### Application Details

*Permit Application: 2018–008*

1. *Applicant:* Jill Mikucki, Department of Microbiology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN

*Activity for Which Permit Is*

*Requested:* Enter Antarctic Specially Protected Area (ASPAs). The permit applicant proposes to enter ASPA 172, Lower Taylor Glacier and Blood Falls, as well as the Don Juan Pond restricted zone, to perform non-destructive geophysical surveys and to collect surface samples of brines, salts, and sediments. The applicant would use best-practice protocols to ensure the protection of the values of the areas and would use sterile sampling techniques. The applicant also plans to fly over the areas with using helicopter-borne electromagnetic survey technology to map resistivity of these hydrological regions.

*Location:* ASPA 172, Lower Taylor Glacier and Blood Falls, McMurdo Dry Valleys, Victoria Land; ASMA 2, McMurdo Dry Valleys, Southern Victoria Land; Don Juan Pond.

*Dates:* October 1, 2017–February 28, 2019.

*Permit Application: 2018–010*

2. *Applicant:* David J. Smith, NASA Ames Research Center, M/S SCR–261–3, Moffett Field, CA 94035

*Activity for Which Permit Is*

*Requested:* Introduce Non-Indigenous Species Into Antarctica. The permit applicant proposes to transport a containment device pre-loaded with dormant microbiological samples to Antarctica to be launched into the Earth's stratosphere as part of NASA's Long Duration Balloon program. The Exposing Microorganisms in the Stratosphere (E–MIST) payload contains five microbial strains: *Bacillus pumilis* SAFR032 (wild type), *Bacillus pumilis* SAFR032 (ISS flown), *Acinetobacter pittii*, *Paenibacillus xerothermodurans*, and *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. The strains are all glued on in stasis; none

are actively growing or capable of dispersing. All the microbes inside the payload are in triple containment and will remain attached to the substrate before, during and after the balloon flight. The E–MIST payload itself will be attached to the balloon gondola prior to the launch of the balloon, will be recovered along with the main balloon payload, and will be returned to the USA and the home institution.

*Location:* Ross Ice Shelf, Long Duration Balloon program launch and recovery sites, Antarctica.

*Dates:* October 1, 2017–March 31, 2020.

*Permit Application: 2018–011*

3. *Applicant:* Kenneth Sims, Department of Geology and Geophysics, Dept 3006, 1000 E. University Ave, University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY 82071–2000

*Activity for Which Permit Is*

*Requested:* Enter Antarctic Specially Protected Area (ASPAs). The permit applicant proposes to enter ASPA 124, Cape Crozier, to collect volcanic rock and tephra samples. The applicant would travel on foot within the ASPA to at least three sampling locations. Samples would be collected using a rock hammer and hand trowels.

*Location:* ASPA 124, Cape Crozier, Ross Island.

*Dates:* November 1–December 15, 2017.

**Nadene G. Kennedy,**

*Polar Coordination Specialist, Office of Polar Programs.*

[FR Doc. 2017–19504 Filed 9–13–17; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7555–01–P**

#### NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

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**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Nature McGinn, ACA Permit Officer, at the above address or [ACApermits@nsf.gov](mailto:ACApermits@nsf.gov). Phone number: 703–292–8224.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The National Science Foundation, as directed by the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978 (Public Law 95–541, 45 CFR 670), as amended by the Antarctic Science, Tourism and Conservation Act of 1996, has developed regulations for the establishment of a permit system for various activities in Antarctica and designation of certain animals and certain geographic areas a requiring special protection. The regulations establish such a permit system to designate Antarctic Specially Protected Areas.

#### Application Details

*Permit Application: 2018–013*

1. *Applicant:* Linnea Pearson, California Polytechnic State University, Department of Biological Sciences, 1 Grand Avenue, San Luis Obispo CA 93407.

*Activity for Which Permit is*

*Requested:* Take, Harmful Interference, Enter Antarctic Specially Protected Area (ASPAs), Import Into USA. The applicant proposes to study the thermoregulatory strategies by which Weddell seal pups maintain eutheria in air and in water and examine the development of diving capability as the animals prepare for independent foraging. This study will take place in Erebus Bay, near McMurdo Station, and may require entry into ASPA 121, Cape Royds. Each year, ten pups will be handled at four time points between one and eight weeks of age. Protocols not requiring sedation (mass, morphometrics, core and surface temperatures, metabolic rates) and protocols requiring anesthesia (body composition, biopsies, blood volume analysis) will be conducted on five pups at all four time points under manual restraint. Metabolic and morphometric measurements will be conducted on a separate cohort of five pups at each of the four time points. The applicant will also conduct behavioral observations, imaging, and may disturb up to 350 Weddell seals. An additional seven Weddell seal pups, 15 Weddell seal adult females, and 20 crabeater seals may be disturbed during procedures on