

EAS to analyze the impacts of permit issuance and implementation of the SHA on the human environment in comparison to the no-action alternative. We have made a preliminary determination that issuing the permit and implementing the SHA would have minor or negligible impacts to the environment, and thus the proposed SHA and permit actions are eligible for categorical exclusion under NEPA. The basis for our preliminary determination is contained in the EAS, which is available for public review (see **ADDRESSES**).

Public Comments

You may submit your comments and materials by one of the methods listed in the **ADDRESSES** section. We request data, new information, or comments from the public, other concerned governmental agencies, Tribes, the scientific community, industry, or any other interested party via this notice on our proposed Federal action.

Public Availability of Comments

All comments and materials we receive become part of the public record associated with this action. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comments, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All comments received from organizations, businesses, or individuals representing organizations or businesses are available for public inspection in their entirety. Comments and materials we receive will be available for public inspection by appointment, during normal business hours, at our office (see **ADDRESSES**).

Next Step

The Service will evaluate the permit application, draft SHA, and public comments submitted thereon to determine whether the permit application meets the requirements of section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA and NEPA regulations. The final NEPA and permit determinations will not be completed until after the end of the 30-day comment period and full consideration of all comments received during the comment period. If we determine that all requirements are met, we will issue the applicant an enhancement of survival permit under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA.

Authority

We provide this notice pursuant to section 10(c) of the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), its implementing regulations (50 CFR 17.22), and NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

Theresa E. Rabot,

Deputy Regional Director, Pacific Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[Docket No. FWS-HQ-IA-2017-0095; FXIA16710900000-178-FF09A30000]

Endangered Species Receipt of Permit Applications

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of permit applications.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, invite the public to comment on applications to conduct certain activities with foreign endangered species, marine mammals, or both. With some exceptions, the Endangered Species Act (ESA) prohibit activities with listed species unless Federal authorization is acquired that allows such activities. The ESA also requires that we invite public comment before issuing these permits.

DATES: We must receive comments by February 5, 2018.

ADDRESSES: *Document availability:* The applications, as well as any comments and other materials that we receive, will be available for public inspection online in Docket No. FWS-HQ-IA-2017-0095 at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

Submitting Comments: You may submit comments by one of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments on Docket No. FWS-HQ-IA-2017-0095.

- *U.S. mail or hand-delivery:* Public Comments Processing, Attn: Docket No. FWS-HQ-IA-2017-0095; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Headquarters, MS: BPHC; 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.

When submitting comments, please indicate the name of the applicant and the PRT# at the beginning of your comment. We will post all comments on <http://www.regulations.gov>. This generally means that we will post any personal information you provide us

(see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for more information).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joyce Russell, 703-358-2280.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Public Comment Procedures

A. How do I comment on submitted applications?

You may submit your comments and materials by one of the methods listed under *Submitting Comments* in the **ADDRESSES** section. We will not consider comments sent by email or fax, or to an address not in the **ADDRESSES** section.

Please make your requests or comments as specific as possible, confine your comments to issues for which we seek comments in this notice, and explain the basis for your comments. Include sufficient information with your comments to allow us to authenticate any scientific or commercial data you include.

The comments and recommendations that will be most useful and likely to influence agency decisions are: (1) Those supported by quantitative information or studies; and (2) Those that include citations to, and analyses of, the applicable laws and regulations. We will not consider or include in our administrative record comments we receive after the close of the comment period (see **DATES** or comments delivered to an address other than those listed above in **ADDRESSES**).

B. May I review comments submitted by others?

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the street address listed under **ADDRESSES**. The public may review documents and other information applicants have sent in support of the application unless our allowing viewing would violate the Privacy Act or Freedom of Information Act. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

C. Who will see my comments?

If you submit a comment via <http://www.regulations.gov>, your entire comment, including any personal identifying information, will be posted

on the website. If you submit a hardcopy comment that includes personal identifying information, such as your address, phone number, or email address, you may request at the top of your document that we withhold this information from public review. However, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

II. Background

To help us carry out our conservation responsibilities for affected species, and in consideration of section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*; ESA), we invite public comment on these permit applications before final action is taken.

III. Permit Applications

We invite the public to comment on applications to conduct certain activities with endangered species. With some exceptions, the ESA prohibits activities with listed species unless Federal authorization is acquired that allows such activities.

Applicant: Lacy James Harber, Denison, TX; PRT-31792C

The applicant requests a permit to import the sport-hunted trophy of one male black rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis*) from Namibia for the purpose of enhancing the propagation or survival of the species. This notification covers a single import conducted by the applicant.

Applicant: Miami-Dade Zoological Park and Gardens, Miami, FL; PRT-42528C

The applicant requests a permit to export one captive-born giant otter (*Pteronura brasiliensis*) to Emperor Valley Zoo, Trinidad and Tobago, to enhance the propagation or survival of the species. This notification is for a single export.

Applicant: Federico Zannini, Royal Oak, MI; PRT-58261C

The applicant requests a captive-bred wildlife registration under 50 CFR 17.21(g) for radiated tortoise (*Astrochelys radiata*) to enhance propagation or survival of the species. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

Applicant: Zoological Society of San Diego, San Diego, CA; PRT-57017C

The applicant requests a permit to import one Asian elephant (*Elephas maximus*) from the Melbourne Zoo, Australia, to enhance the propagation of the species. This notification is for a single import.

Applicant: Saint Louis Zoo, Saint Louis, MO; PRT-62698C

The applicant requests a permit to import blood and swab samples from Galapagos tortoises from three locations in the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador, for scientific research. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 3-year period.

Applicant: Lolo Kwong, Temple City, CA; PRT-60612C

The applicant requests a captive-bred wildlife registration under 50 CFR 17.21(g) for the radiated tortoise (*Astrochelys radiata*) to enhance species propagation or survival. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

Applicant: Zoological Society of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH; PRT-681252

The applicant requests renewal of a captive-bred wildlife registration under 50 CFR 17.21(g) for the following species to enhance species propagation or survival: Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*), blue-throated macaw (*Ara glaucogularis*), Aye-aye (*Daubentonia madagascariensis*), eastern black rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis michaeli*), southern rockhopper penguin (*Eudyptes chrysolophus*), black-footed cat (*Felis nigripes*), gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla*), red-crowned crane (Japanese or Manchurian crane) (*Grus japonensis*), white-handed gibbon (Lar gibbon) (*Hylobates lar*), ring-tailed lemur (*Lemur catta*), Brazilian ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis mitis*), Bali myna (Rothschild's starling) (*Leucopsar rothschildi*), African painted dog (*Lycaon pictus*), Japanese macaque (snow monkey) (*Macaca fuscata fuscata*), clouded leopard (*Neofelis nebulosa*), pygmy loris (*Nycticebus pygmaeus*), bonobo (pygmy chimpanzee) (*Pan paniscus*), African lion (*Panthera leo melanochaita*), Malayan tiger (*Panthera tigris jacksoni*), Sumatran orangutan (*Pongo abelii*), Coquerel's Sifaka (*Propithecus coquereli*), Indian rhinoceros (greater one-horned rhinoceros) (*Rhinoceros unicornis*), African penguin (Black-footed penguin) (*Spheniscus demersus*), Siamang (*Symphalangus syndactylus*), snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*), and Andean condor (*Vultur gryphus*). This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

Museum Applicants:

Smithsonian Institution/National Museum of Natural History, Washington, DC; PRT-125284

The applicant requests the renewal of their permit to export and reimport nonliving museum specimens of endangered and threatened species previously accessioned into the applicant's collection for scientific research. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

Northeastern University/Ocean Genome Legacy Center, Nahant, MA; PRT-58260C

The applicant requests a permit to export and reimport nonliving museum specimens of endangered and threatened species previously accessioned into the applicant's collection for scientific research. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

Trophy applicants:

Each applicant requests a permit to import a sport-hunted trophy of one male bontebok (*Damaliscus pygargus pygargus*) culled from a captive herd maintained under the management program of the Republic of South Africa, for the purpose of enhancing the propagation or survival of the species.

Applicant: Ronald E. Rhodes, Columbus, TX; PRT-61783C

Applicant: Daniel J. Nordin, Elm Grove, WI; PRT-58895C

Applicant: Donald E. Southorn, Wyoming, MI; PRT-59677C

Applicant: Jacob A. Ankele, Rapid City, SD; PRT-58530C

Applicant: Jason Thomas Parsons, Birmingham, AL; PRT-58231C

Applicant: Christian A. Fast, Prairieville, LA; PRT-59019C

Applicant: Ray A. Potts, Wisdom, MT; PRT-62604C

Applicant: Dana L. Johnston, Washington, PA; PRT-58226C

Applicant: Milak Pomares, Miami, FL; PRT-58906C

Applicant: Edwin J. Whitney, San Antonio, TX; PRT-60580C

Applicant: Jerry E. Copeland Salado, TX; PRT-53908C

IV. Next Steps

If the Service decides to issue permits to any of the applicants listed in this notice, we will publish a notice in the **Federal Register**. You may locate the **Federal Register** notice announcing the

permit issuance date by searching in www.regulations.gov under the permit number listed in this document (e.g., PRT-12345c).

V. Authority

Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Joyce Russell,

Government Information Specialist, Branch of Permits, Division of Management Authority.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[17XL.LLIDT03100.L17110000.
DF0000.241A00; 4500109142]

Notice of Availability of Record of Decision for the Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve Monument Management Plan Amendment, Idaho

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces the availability of the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Approved Monument Management Plan (MMP) for the Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve located in south-central Idaho. The Idaho State Director signed the ROD on July 31, 2017, which constitutes the final decision of the BLM and makes the Approved MMP effective immediately.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the ROD/ Approved MMP are available upon request from the Monument Manager, Shoshone Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, 400 West F St., Shoshone, ID 83352, or online at <https://www.blm.gov/programs/planning-and-nepa/plans-in-development/idaho/craters-of-moon>. Copies of the ROD/ Approved MMP are available for public inspection at the Shoshone Field Office.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Holly Crawford, BLM Monument Manager, telephone 208-732-7200; address 400 West F Street, Shoshone, ID 83352; email hcrawford@blm.gov. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to leave a message or question for Ms. Crawford. The FRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The BLM Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve (hereafter, Monument) Approved Management Plan Amendment and Record of Decision (MMPA/ROD) are now available. The BLM prepared this document in consultation with Cooperating Agencies and in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended (FLPMA), implementing regulations, the BLM Land Use Planning Handbook (H-1601-1), the BLM National Environmental Policy Act Handbook (H-1790-1), and other applicable law and policy, including Instruction Memorandum No. 2016-105—Land Use Planning and Environmental Policy Act Compliance within Greater Sage-Grouse Approved Resource Management Plans and Plan Amendments Decision Area.

The planning area comprises about 753,200 acres of land, which includes 275,100 acres managed by the BLM Shoshone, Burley, and Upper Snake Field Offices. Based on analysis in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project, the MMP is amended and will guide livestock grazing management on BLM-managed public lands within the Monument into the future.

The Monument is part of the BLM's National Conservation Lands system and is jointly managed with the National Park Service. This Monument was created in 1924 and expanded to its current acreage in 2000.

The BLM completed a Final EIS to determine the appropriate management of livestock grazing on approximately 275,100 acres of BLM-administered lands within the Monument. This Final EIS analyzed management options not previously addressed by the 2007 MMP as amended by the 2015 Sage-Grouse Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment (ARMPA). This Approved MMPA/ROD amends the 2007 plan but will not amend the ARMPA. Among the most important decisions the BLM made through this plan amendment are which lands should be available for livestock grazing and with what protections for Greater sage-grouse and their sagebrush habitat.

The purpose of this Approved MMPA/ROD is to make the 2007 MMP's grazing management direction consistent with current laws, regulations, and policies regarding Greater sage-grouse habitat conservation. More specifically, it considers a range of FLPMA-compliant management options for livestock grazing and Greater sage-grouse on BLM-managed lands in the planning

area in a manner that maintains the Monument values identified in Proclamation 7373. In addition, this Approved MMPA/ROD is needed to cure deficiencies in the 2007 MMP/EIS identified by the U.S. District Court for Idaho. The Court found that BLM had failed to adequately address current science and the agency's policies designed to protect sage-grouse habitat, primarily with regard to managing livestock grazing in the Monument.

After the 2007 MMP/EIS was signed, the Greater sage-grouse was deemed warranted for listing, but was precluded from the Threatened and Endangered Species list. More recently, the BLM completed the Greater Sage-Grouse Approved Resource Plan ARMPA for Idaho and Southwestern Montana, which resulted in a determination that listing the Greater sage-grouse was not warranted. The ARMPA amended the 2007 MMP/EIS, thereby addressing several of the deficiencies identified by the Court with regard to Greater sage-grouse conservation in the Monument.

The Final EIS for this plan amendment, prepared after release of the 2015 ARMPA, analyzed five alternatives that provide a range of livestock grazing availability and sage-grouse protections. Alternative C is the BLM's selected alternative.

Alternative A is the No Action alternative, which would continue the management established in the 2007 MMP/EIS. Under this alternative, 273,900 acres would be available for livestock grazing, with 38,187 animal unit months (AUMs) available.

Alternative B would reduce AUMs by 75 percent and close 5 areas to grazing: Little Park kipuka (an island of older land surrounded by lava flows), the North Pasture of Laidlaw Park Allotment, Larkspur Park kipuka, the North Pasture of Bowl Crater Allotment, and Park Field kipuka. This alternative would adjust two allotment boundaries and make 21,000 acres unavailable for livestock grazing for the protection of sage-grouse and other Monument values.

Alternative C, the Approved Plan, makes 273,600 acres available for livestock grazing and adjusts two allotment boundaries, which would set the maximum number of AUMs at 37,792. Where appropriate, livestock grazing will be used as a tool to improve and/or protect wildlife habitat. Guidelines for livestock grazing management will be set based on vegetation and wildlife habitat conditions and needs identified in the 2007 MMP and current agency guidance.