

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[Docket No. FWS-HQ-IA-2020-0140; FXIA16710900000-212-FF09A30000]

Endangered Species; Marine Mammals; Issuance of Permits

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of issuance of permits.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, have issued the following permits to conduct certain activities with endangered species, marine mammals, or both. We issue these permits under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA).

ADDRESSES: Information about the applications for the permits listed in this notice is available online at www.regulations.gov. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for details.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tim MacDonald, by phone at 703-358-2185, via email at DMAFR@fws.gov, or via the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), have issued permits to conduct certain activities with endangered and threatened species in response to permit applications that we received under the authority of section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*)

After considering the information submitted with each permit application and the public comments received, we issued the requested permits subject to

certain conditions set forth in each permit. For each application for an endangered species, we 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 ESA.

Availability of Documents

The permittees' original permit application materials, along with public comments we received during public comment periods for the applications, are available for review. To locate the application materials and received comments, go to www.regulations.gov and search for the appropriate permit number (e.g., 12345C) provided in the following table:

ENDANGERED SPECIES

Permit No.	Applicant	Permit issuance date
56953D	Tony Goldberg	August 14, 2020.
69406D	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office	August 17, 2020.
60225D	Minnesota Zoological Gardens	August 17, 2020.
60002D	Columbus Zoo and Aquarium	August 17, 2020.
49147D	Toledo Zoological Society	August 19, 2020.
76438D	Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew; c/o U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	August 19, 2020.
63307D	University of Massachusetts at Amherst	August 19, 2020.
56470D	Chattanooga Zoo	August 18, 2020.
59321D	Peoria Zoo at Glen Oak Park	August 21, 2020.
105568	United States Geological Survey, National Wildlife Health Center	October 9, 2020.
003005	Louisiana State University, Museum of Natural Science	October 19, 2020.
93328C	University of Texas at Arlington, Amphibian and Reptile Diversity Research Center	October 19, 2020.
075249	Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History	October 26, 2020.
672849	Priour Brothers Ranch	October 27, 2020.
707102	Priour Brothers Ranch	November 4, 2020.
50097D	Rockin' S Exotic Game Ranch LLC	October 27, 2020.
50118D	Rockin' S Exotic Game Ranch LLC	October 27, 2020.
66472D	Minnesota Zoological Gardens	November 2, 2020.
69314D	Stanford University	November 2, 2020.
76665D	777 Ranch	October 19, 2020.
60507D	Lonesome Bull Ranch	October 9, 2020.
68664D	Lonesome Bull Ranch	October 9, 2020.
70028D	Maryland Zoo in Baltimore	November 24, 2020.
56752D	International Center for the Preservation of Wild Animals (The Wilds)	November 23, 2020.
59433D	Mississippi Aquarium	November 23, 2020.
66451D	Saint Louis Zoo	November 23, 2020.
69790D	Animal Ark Wildlife Sanctuary	November 23, 2020.
70466A	Lucky 7 Ranch	November 23, 2020.
70470A	Lucky 7 Ranch	November 23, 2020.

MARINE MAMMALS

Permit No.	Applicant	Permit issuance date
791721	U.S. Geological Survey dba USGS Sirenia Project	October 20, 2020.
37946D	Charlie Hamilton James	November 20, 2020.
37058D	Charlie Hamilton James	November 18, 2020.

Authorities

We issue this notice under the authority of the Endangered Species Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the Marine Mammal Protection Act as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) and their implementing regulations.

Timothy MacDonald,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[Docket No. FWS-HQ-IA-2020-0141; FXIA16710900000-212-FF09A30000]

Foreign Endangered Species; Marine Mammals; Receipt of Permit Applications

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of permit applications; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, invite the public to comment on applications to conduct certain activities with foreign species that are listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). With some exceptions, the ESA prohibits activities with listed species unless Federal authorization is issued that allows such activities. The ESA also requires that we invite public comment before issuing permits for any activity otherwise prohibited by the ESA with respect to any endangered species.

DATES: We must receive comments by April 30, 2021.

ADDRESSES: *Obtaining Documents:* The applications, application supporting materials, and any comments and other materials that we receive will be available for public inspection at <http://www.regulations.gov> in Docket No. FWS-HQ-IA-2020-0141.

Submitting Comments: When submitting comments, please specify the name of the applicant and the permit number at the beginning of your comment. You may submit comments by one of the following methods:

- *Internet:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Search for and submit comments on Docket No. FWS-HQ-IA-2020-0141.

- *U.S. mail or hand-delivery:* Public Comments Processing, Attn: Docket No. FWS-HQ-IA-2020-0141; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Headquarters, MS:

PRB/3W; 5275 Leesburg Pike; Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.

For more information, see Public Comment Procedures under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tim MacDonald, by phone at 703-358-2185, via email at DMAFR@fws.gov, or via the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Public Comment Procedures

A. How do I comment on submitted applications?

We invite the public and local, State, Tribal, and Federal agencies to comment on these applications. Before issuing any of the requested permits, we will take into consideration any information that we receive during the public comment period.

You may submit your comments and materials by one of the methods in **ADDRESSES**. We will not consider comments sent by email or fax, or to an address not in **ADDRESSES**. We will not consider or include in our administrative record comments we receive after the close of the comment period (see **DATES**).

When submitting comments, please specify the name of the applicant and the permit number at the beginning of your comment. Provide sufficient information 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.

B. May I review comments submitted by others?

You may view and comment on others' public comments at <http://www.regulations.gov>, unless our allowing so would violate the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a) or Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552).

C. Who will see my comments?

If you submit a comment at <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. Moreover, all

submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public disclosure in their entirety.

II. Background

To help us carry out our conservation responsibilities for affected species, and in consideration of section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), we invite public comments on permit applications before final action is taken. With some exceptions, the ESA prohibits certain activities with listed species unless Federal authorization is issued that allows such activities. Permits issued under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA allow otherwise prohibited activities for scientific purposes or to enhance the propagation or survival of the affected species. Service regulations regarding prohibited activities with endangered species, captive-bred wildlife registrations, and permits for any activity otherwise prohibited by the ESA with respect to any endangered species are available in title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations in part 17.

III. Permit Applications

We invite comments on the following applications.

Endangered Species

Applicant: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service/National Black-footed Ferret Conservation Center, Carr, CO; Permit No. 800411 and Permit No. 086867

The applicant requests renewal and amendment of permits to export, import, and re-import both live captive-born and wild specimens, biological samples, and salvaged material of black-footed ferret (*Mustela nigripes*) to and from Canada and Mexico for completion of identified tasks and objectives mandated under the Black-footed Ferret Recovery Plan. Salvaged materials may include, but are not limited to, whole or partial specimens, blood, tissue, hair, and fecal swabs. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

Applicant: International Crane Foundation, Baraboo, WI; Permit No. PER0002969

The applicant requests a permit to export biological samples derived from the whooping crane (*Grus americana*), taken in Arkansas National Wildlife Refuge, Austwell, TX, for the purpose of enhancing the propagation or survival of the species through scientific research. This notification is for a single import.