

Summary of Activity to be Authorized: The applicant has requested amendment and renewal of their permit to take captive manatees at facilities in Florida for the purpose of scientific research. The only amendments are staff-related.

Source of Marine Mammals: Captive manatees at facilities in Florida.

Period of Activity: Up to five years from issuance date of the permit, if issued.

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

Written data or comments, requests for copies of any of these complete applications, or requests for a public hearing on these applications should be sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203, telephone 703/358-2104 or fax 703/358-2281 and must be received on or before December 29, 1997. 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.

Documents and other information submitted with the 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 the above address within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice.

Dated: November 20, 1997.

Mary Ellen Amtower,

Acting Chief, Branch of Permits, Office of Management Authority.

[FR Doc. 97-31200 Filed 11-26-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Availability of Draft Conservation Agreement for the Wasatch Front and West Desert Populations (Utah) of Spotted Frog (*Rana luteiventris*) for Review and Comment

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

ACTION: Notice of document availability.

SUMMARY: The Fish and Wildlife Service announces the availability for public review of a Draft Conservation

Agreement for the spotted frog (*Rana luteiventris*) in Utah. This species is a candidate for Federal listing pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. The Conservation Agreement was developed by the Utah Department of Natural Resources, with participation from the following parties: Bureau of Land Management; Utah Reclamation, Mitigation and Conservation Commission; Bureau of Reclamation; Central Utah Water Conservancy District; the Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation; and the Service. The agreement focuses on eliminating or minimizing threats to the spotted frog and its habitat to the greatest extent possible and on restoring and maintaining populations of spotted frog throughout its historical range in Utah. The Service solicits review and comment from the public on the draft agreement.

DATES: Comments on the Draft Conservation Agreement must be received on or before December 29, 1997, to be considered by the Service during preparation of the final conservation agreement and prior to the Service's determination whether it will be a signatory party to the agreement.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the Draft Conservation Agreement may obtain a copy by contacting the Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 145 East 1300 South, Suite 404, Salt Lake City, Utah 84115. Written comments and materials regarding the Draft Conservation Agreement should also be directed to the same address. Comments and written materials will be available upon request for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Reed E. Harris, Field Supervisor (see **ADDRESSES** section) (telephone 801/524-5001).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The spotted frog belongs to the family of true frogs, the Ranidae. Adult frogs have large, dark spots on their backs and pigmentation on their abdomens ranging from yellow to red (Turner 1957). Spotted frogs along the Wasatch Front generally possess a salmon color ventrally, while West Desert and Sanpete County, Utah populations generally have a yellow to yellow-orange color ventrally. Spotted frogs in Utah are reported to have fewer and lighter colored spots (Colburn, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, pers. comm., 1992) than other populations. The spotted frog is closely associated with

water (Dumas 1966, Nussbaum *et al.* 1983). Habitat includes the marshy edges of ponds, lakes, slow-moving cool water streams and springs (Licht 1974; Nussbaum *et al.* 1983; Morris and Tanner 1969; Hovingh 1987). The present distribution of the spotted frog includes a main population in southeast Alaska, Alberta, British Columbia, eastern Washington, northeastern Oregon, northern and central Idaho, and western Montana and Wyoming. Additional disjunct populations occur in northeastern California, southern Idaho, Nevada, Utah, and western Washington and Oregon.

On May 1, 1989, the Service received a petition from the Board of Directors of the Utah Nature Study Society requesting that the Service add the spotted frog (*Rana pretiosa*) to the List of Threatened and Endangered Species and to specifically consider the status of the Wasatch, Utah, population. The Service subsequently published a notice of a 90-day finding in the **Federal Register** (54 FR 42529) on October 17, 1990 and a notice of the 12-month petition finding in the **Federal Register** (58 FR 27260) on May 7, 1993. In the 12-month petition finding the Service found that listing of the spotted frog as threatened in some portions of its range was warranted but precluded by other higher priority listing actions. The Service found, based on geographic and climatic separation and supported by genetic separation, five distinct vertebrate populations of spotted frog. Listing of both the populations occurring in Utah, the Wasatch Front and West Desert populations, was found to be warranted but precluded and both populations were transferred from category 2 candidates to category 1. The Wasatch Front population was assigned a listing priority number of 3 because the magnitude of the threats were high and imminent, while the West Desert population was assigned a listing priority of 9 because of moderate to low threats.

In the 1997 Candidate Notice of Review (62 FR 49398) published on September 19, 1997, the Service, based on newly published genetic research (Green 1997), assigned a new scientific name (*Rana luteiventris*) and common name (Columbia spotted frog) to several populations of the spotted frog, including both the Wasatch Front and West Desert populations. Additionally, the listing priority number for the West Desert populations was raised from a 9 to a 6.

Shortly after notice of the 12-month petition finding was published, the Utah Department of Natural Resources initiated a monitoring program for the

species in Utah and began development of a Conservation Agreement, working cooperatively with other agencies, in an effort to reduce the threats affecting the spotted frog. The Draft Conservation Agreement focuses on identifying, reducing and eliminating significant threats to the species that warrant its listing as a threatened species, and on restoring and maintaining a minimum of nine populations throughout Utah. This will be accomplished through implementation of the following conservation actions: (1) Determining baseline spotted frog distribution and available habitat; (2) determining baseline spotted frog population, life history and habitat needs; (3) determining and maintaining genetic composition and integrity; (4) augmenting or expanding spotted frog populations and distribution through introduction or reintroduction; (5) enhancing and maintaining habitat; (6) selectively controlling nonnative species; (7) protecting and providing habitat for spotted frog; (8) monitoring populations and habitat; (9) developing mitigation protocols for proposed development projects and future habitat alteration; and (10) protecting spotted frog populations through the use of regulatory mechanisms.

Public Comments Solicited

The Service will use information received in its determination on whether it should be a signatory party to the agreement. Comments or suggestions from the public, other concerned government agencies, the scientific community, industry, or any other interested party concerning this draft document are hereby solicited. All comments and materials received will be considered prior to the approval of any final document.

Author: The primary author of this document is Janet A. Mizzi (see ADDRESSES section) (telephone 801/524-5001).

Authority

The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, the Fish and Wildlife Service Coordination Act of 1964, and the National Memorandum of Understanding (94 (SMU-058)).

Dated: November 21, 1997.

Ralph O. Morgenweek,

Regional Director, Denver, Colorado.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Issuance of Permit for Marine Mammals

On September 5, 1997, a notice was published in the **Federal Register**, Vol. 62, No. 172, Page 47040, that an application had been filed with the Fish and Wildlife Service by Charles Ball, Watertown, NY for a permit (PRT-833846) to import a sport-hunted polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) trophy, taken prior to April 30, 1994, from the Parry Channel population (now known as Lancaster Sound), Northwest Territories, Canada for personal use.

Notice is hereby given that on November 12, 1997, as authorized by the provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, *as amended* (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) the Fish and Wildlife Service authorized the requested permit subject to certain conditions set forth therein.

On September 5, 1997, a notice was published in the **Federal Register**, Vol. 62, No. 172, Page 47040, that an application had been filed with the Fish and Wildlife Service by Gary Dietrich, Bismarck, ND for a permit (PRT-833835) to import a sport-hunted polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) trophy, taken from the Northern Beaufort Sea population, Northwest Territories, Canada for personal use.

Notice is hereby given that on November 12, 1997, as authorized by the provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, *as amended* (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) the Fish and Wildlife Service authorized the requested permit subject to certain conditions set forth therein.

On September 11, 1997, a notice was published in the **Federal Register**, Vol. 62, No. 176, Page 47825, that an application had been filed with the Fish and Wildlife Service by Shannon Kollmeyer, Chelan, WA for a permit (PRT-833972) to import a sport-hunted polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) trophy, taken prior to April 30, 1994, from the Parry Channel population (now known as Lancaster Sound), Northwest Territories, Canada for personal use.

Notice is hereby given that on November 12, 1997, as authorized by the provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, *as amended* (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) the Fish and Wildlife Service authorized the requested permit subject to certain conditions set forth therein.

On September 11, 1997, a notice was published in the **Federal Register**, Vol. 62, No. 176, Page 47825, that an application had been filed with the Fish

and Wildlife Service by Lynn Herbert, Myrtle Creek, OR for a permit (PRT-833971) to import a sport-hunted polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) trophy, taken from the Southern Beaufort Sea population, Northwest Territories, Canada for personal use.

Notice is hereby given that on November 12, 1997, as authorized by the provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, *as amended* (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) the Fish and Wildlife Service authorized the requested permit subject to certain conditions set forth therein.

On June 13, 1997, a notice was published in the **Federal Register**, Vol. 62, No. 114, Page 32364, that an application had been filed with the Fish and Wildlife Service by Helmuth Pfennig, Beulah, ND for a permit (PRT-827717) to import a polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) from Canada for the purpose of public display.

Notice is hereby given that on November 7, 1997, as authorized by the provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, *as amended* (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) the Fish and Wildlife Service authorized the requested permit subject to certain conditions set forth therein.

On July 31, 1997, a notice was published in the **Federal Register**, Vol. 62, No. 147, Page 41072, that an application had been filed with the Fish and Wildlife Service by the Lisbon Aquarium, c/o IDEA Co., Cambridge, MA for a permit (PRT-834423) to collect up to four Alaskan sea otters (*Enhydra lutris*) for export to the Lisbon Aquarium, Portugal for the purpose of public display.

Notice is hereby given that on September 15, 1997, as authorized by the provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, *as amended* (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) the Fish and Wildlife Service authorized the requested permit subject to certain conditions set forth therein.

On August 7, 1997, a notice was published in the **Federal Register**, Vol. 62, No. 152, Page 42588, that an application had been filed with the Fish and Wildlife Service by the Le Grand Aquarium, c/o IDEA Co., Cambridge, MA for a permit (PRT-832098) to collect up to two Alaskan sea otters (*Enhydra lutris*) for export to the Le Grand Aquarium, France for the purpose of public display.

Notice is hereby given that on September 15, 1997, as authorized by the provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, *as amended* (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) the Fish and Wildlife Service authorized the