

to transplant and track radio collared sentinel rams;

- Conduct and promote research on scabies mite in the San Andres Mountains;

- Determine effects of ungulate encroachment and consider establishment of special depredation hunts;

- Reduce salt cedar refuge-wide by at least 20% using various methods of extraction;

- Develop prescribe burn proposals for portions of Bennett Mountain, Black Brushy Mountain and San Andres Mountain approximately 5,000 acres);

- Monitor and evaluate effects of burning strategies;

- Engage in public outreach to foster better understandings of refuge fire management efforts;

- Conduct Global Positioning System (GPS) survey of known archeological and historic sites;

- Construct shelters for historical sites in jeopardy from natural degradation;

- Participate in cooperative effort with state and federal agencies to establish an off site visitor center that would emphasize refuge resources and those of other jurisdictions;

- Construct an information kiosk and associated interpretive information at the San Augustine Pass parking area;

- Improve interagency coordinating efforts; and,

- Secure needed staffing, funding, and facilities to assist in the implementation efforts to achieve plan goals and objectives.

Based on a review and evaluation of the information contained in the CCP and EA for Bitter Lake NWR and San Andres NWR, the Regional Director, Southwest Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, has determined that the approval of the individual or cumulative approaches reflected in the respective Proposed Alternatives and CCP Goals, Objectives and Strategies, is not deemed to constitute a major Federal action which would significantly affect the quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. However, it is the intent of the Service to revisit questions of potential significant environmental consequences in accordance with NEPA upon consideration of the implementation of site specific proposals called for and discussed in the final plan document.

ADDRESSES: Copies may be obtained by writing to: Mr. Tom Baca, Natural

Resource Planner, Division of Refuge, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P. O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, NM 87103-1306.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: It is Service policy to have all lands within the National Wildlife Refuge System managed in accordance with an approved CCP. The CCP guides management decisions and identifies refuge goals, long-range objectives, and strategies for achieving refuge purposes. The planning process has considered many elements, including habitat and wildlife management, habitat protection and acquisition, public and recreational uses, and cultural resources. Public input into this planning process has assisted in the development of these documents. The CCP will provide other agencies and the public with a clear understanding of the desired conditions for the Refuges and how the Service will implement management strategies.

The Service considered comments and advice generated in response to draft documents issued July 1998. The Service is furnishing this notice in compliance with Service CCP policy to advise other agencies and the public of the availability of the final documents.

Dated: September 25, 1998.

Nancy M. Kaufman,
Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 98-26396 Filed 10-1-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Intent To Prepare a Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Associated Environmental Document for Flint Hills National Wildlife Refuge, Hartford, KS

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare a comprehensive conservation plan and associated environmental document.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service intends to gather information necessary to prepare a Comprehensive Conservation Plan and associated environmental document for the Flint Hills National Wildlife Refuge near Hartford, Kansas. The Service is issuing this notice in compliance with its policy to advise other organizations and the public of its intentions and to obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues to be considered in the planning process.

DATES: Written comments should be received by November 13, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Comments and requests for more information should be sent to: Refuge Manager, Flint Hills National Wildlife Refuge, 530 West Maple, P.O. Box 128, Hartford, Kansas 66854. Fax (316) 392-5554. Email: r6rw_flh@fws.gov

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jerre Gamble, Refuge Manager, (316) 392-5553 extension 102.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Service has initiated comprehensive conservation planning for Flint Hills National Wildlife Refuge for the conservation and development of its natural resources. This Refuge is located in the central portion of eastern Kansas, surrounding portions of the John Redmond Reservoir, near the town of Hartford. The Refuge is open to Public use.

Comprehensive planning will develop management goals, objectives, and strategies to carry out the purposes of the Refuge and comply with laws and policies governing refuge management and public use of refuges.

The Service requests input as to what issues, affecting management or public use, should be addressed during the planning process. The Service is especially interested in receiving public input in the following areas:

- What makes the Refuge special for you?
- What problems or issues do you see affecting management or public use of the Refuges?
- What improvements do you recommend for the Refuge?
- What changes, if any, would you like to see in the management of the Refuge?

The Service has provided the above questions for your optional use. The Service has no requirement that you must provide information. The Planning Team developed these questions to facilitate finding out more information about individual issues and ideas. Comments received by the Planning Team will be used as part of the planning process; individual comments will not be referenced in our reports or directly responded to.

An opportunity will also be provided for public input at an open house in early November 1998 which will be held to scope issues and concerns (schedule can be obtained from the Flint Hills National Wildlife Refuge at above address). All information provided voluntarily by mail, phone, or at public meetings becomes part of the official public record (i.e., names, addresses, letters of comment, input recorded during meetings). If requested under the Freedom of Information Act by a private

citizen or organization, the Service may provide copies of such information.

The environmental review of this project will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), NEPA Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), other appropriate Federal laws and regulations, Executive Order 12996, the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, and Service policies and procedures for compliance with those regulations.

Dated: September 25, 1998.

Terry T. Terrell,

Deputy Regional Director, Denver, Colorado.
[FR Doc. 98-26401 Filed 10-1-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Receipt of Applications for Permit

The following applicants have applied for a permit to conduct certain activities with endangered species. This notice is provided pursuant to Section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531, et seq.):

PRT-001470

Applicant: Guy Rochelle, Phoenix, AZ.

The applicant requests a permit to import 8.8 Madagascar Radiate Tortoises (*Geochelone radiata*) for the purpose of enhancement of the species through captive propagation.

PRT-003311

Applicant: Donald L. Bricker, Lubbock, TX

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

Written data or comments should be submitted to the Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203 and must be received by the Director within 30 days of the date of this publication.

The public is invited to comment on the following applications for permits to conduct certain activities with marine mammals. The application was submitted to satisfy requirements of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.) and

the regulations governing marine mammals (50 CFR 18).

PRT-001425

Applicant: The Dallas World Aquarium, Dallas, TX

Permit Type: Import for Public Display and Enhancement

Name and Number of Animals: Antillean manatees (*Trichechus manatus*); two

Summary of Activity to be Authorized: The applicant has requested a permit to import two Antillean manatee calves from Venezuela which were apparently orphaned or abandoned and turned over to Venezuelan authorities. The applicant proposes to maintain these manatee calves in their Orinoco River exhibit in concert with an education program, and to return the animals to Venezuela if proper facilities become available.

Source of Marine Mammals: These orphaned/abandoned manatee calves were recovered from the wild in Venezuela by Profauna, the Venezuelan wildlife agency, and placed in captivity for care.

Period of Activity: 5 years from date of issuance of 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 the complete application, or requests for a public hearing on this application 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 within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice. 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: September 28, 1998.

MaryEllen Amtower,

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

[FR Doc. 98-26400 Filed 10-1-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Receipt of Application for Endangered Species Permit

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Receipt of Application for Endangered Species Permit.

SUMMARY: The following applicants have applied for permits to conduct certain activities with endangered species. This notice is provided pursuant to Section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

DATES: Written data or comments on these applications must be received, at the address given below, by November 2, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Documents and other information submitted with these applications 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 following office within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 200, Atlanta, Georgia 30345 (Attn: David Dell, Permit Biologist).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David Dell, Telephone: 404/679-7313; Facsimile: 404/679-7081.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Applicant: Stephen Brock, Wildlife Consulting Services, Natchez, Mississippi, TE003377-0

The applicant requests authorization to take (capture, band, and harass during installation of artificial cavities and surveys) the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker, *Picoides borealis*, throughout the species range in Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, Florida, Arkansas, North Carolina, and South Carolina, for the purpose of enhancement of survival of the species.

Applicant: Dr. Robert Stiles, Samford University, Birmingham, Alabama, TE003373-0

The applicant requests authorization to take (capture, photograph and release) the endangered Cahaba shiner, *Notropis cahabae*, throughout the species range in Bibb and Shelby Counties, Alabama, for the purpose of enhancement of survival of the species.

Dated: September 25, 1998.

Bill Grabill,

Acting Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 98-26404 Filed 10-1-98; 8:45 am]

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