

notification covers activities conducted by the applicant over the next 5 years.

PRT—033396

Applicant: Wonderland of Grandpa Durova, c/o Estate Agency, Inc, Newark, NJ

The applicant requests a permit to import and re-export two captive born chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) to/from the United States to enhance the survival of the species through conservation education. This notification covers activities conducted by the applicant over a three year period.

PRT-033421

Applicant: Donald G. Busson, Poway, CA

The applicant requests a permit to import the sport-hunted trophy of one male bontebok (*Damaliscus pygargus dorcas*) 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.

Marine Mammals

The public is invited to comment on the following application for a permit 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-032405

Applicant: Larry Martin, New Holland, PA

The applicant requests a permit to import a polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) sport-hunted from the M'Clintock Channel polar bear population, Nunavut Territories, Canada for personal use.

Written data or comments should be submitted to the Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division 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.

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, Office of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203. Phone: (703/358-2104); FAX: (703/358-2281).

Dated: September 18, 2000.

Charlie Chandler,

Chief, Branch of Permits, Division of Management Authority.

[FR Doc. 00-24324 Filed 9-20-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Availability of a Draft Environmental Assessment for Federal Agency Participation in the Virgin River Resource Management and Recovery Program

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for Federal agency participation in the Virgin River Resource Management and Recovery Program (Program) is available for public review and comment. The purpose of the proposed Federal action described in the DEA is to formally declare the intent of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and National Park Service to participate in the multi-agency program designed to implement recovery actions for two endangered fish species, the woundfin and the Virgin River chub, as well as conservation actions for the Virgin spinedace, as species being managed as sensitive by the State of Utah and subject of a Conservation Agreement. In addition to implementing recovery actions, the Program facilitates resolution of conflicts between endangered species protection and water development in the Virgin River Basin in Utah. Other participants include the State of Utah Department of Natural Resources, Washington County Water Conservancy District, and Grand Canyon Trust, a local non-profit, environmental conservation group.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before October 30, 2000, to be considered. In addition, an open house will be held on Thursday, September 21, 2000, beginning at 7 p.m. MST, at the Bureau of Land Management Office, 345 East Riverside Drive, St. George, Utah. Program participants will be available to provide information on the Program and answer questions from the public. Copies of the DEA will be mailed to affected government offices and interested parties who specifically requested it. The DEA also is available for viewing or

downloading at <http://mountain-prairie.fws.gov/nepa/VirginRiver>. Those interested persons not on the DEA mailing list may view or download from the internet or may request a copy from the Project Leader at the address below. All interested agencies and individuals are urged to provide comments and suggestions regarding the DEA for our review prior to completion of a final finding. All comments received by October 30 will be considered in our final determination whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement or a Finding of No Significant Impact on Federal agency participation in the Virgin River Resource Management and Recovery Program.

All comments received will become part of the official public record. Requests for such comments will be handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act and the Council on Environmental Quality's National Environmental Policy Act Regulations (40 CFR 1506.6). When requested, comment letters with the names and addresses of the individuals who wrote the comments will generally be provided in response to such requests to the extent permissible by law. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. If you wish to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to the Field Supervisor, Utah Ecological Services Field Office, Lincoln Plaza, 145 East 1300 South State Street, Suite 404, Salt Lake City, Utah 84115. Electronic (e-mail) comments also may be submitted to: FW6_VirginRiver@fws.gov. All comments and materials received 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, Utah Field Supervisor (see **ADDRESSES** above), at 801-524-5001, extension 126.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The woundfin was listed as endangered on October 13, 1970 (35 FR 16047). The Virgin River chub was listed as endangered on August 24, 1989 (54 FR 35305). The Virgin River Fishes Recovery Plan (VRFRP), which included recovery of both woundfin and Virgin River chub, was finalized in 1995. Critical Habitat was designated for these

two species on January 26, 2000 (65 FR 4140). The Virgin spinedace was proposed for listing as endangered on May 18, 1994 (59 FR 25875). The Virgin Spinedace Conservation Agreement and Strategy (VSCA) to eliminate or reduce impacts threatening the continued existence of Virgin spinedace was finalized on April 11, 1995, and, subsequently, the proposal to list was withdrawn on February 6, 1996 (61 FR 44010). All three of these fish species are endemic to the Virgin River Basin through Utah, Arizona, and Nevada. The southwestern willow flycatcher is a neotropical migratory bird listed as endangered on February 27, 1995 (60 FR 10693) that seasonally occupies sites along the Virgin River and throughout the Desert Southwest. In addition, the Virgin River Basin retains a diversity of native desert animal and plant species, many of which are declining due to impacts from human development in the area.

Despite Federal listing of the two fish species, implementation of recovery actions in the Virgin River to benefit endangered fish have been minimal due to limited funding for recovery over the past 25 years. Furthermore, conflicts have arisen between water development interests and those managing for protection of native species that rely on the river environment. Specifically, contention between the local environmental community and local water developers over operations of the Quail Creek Diversion in the Virgin River near Hurricane, Utah, led to discordant relations and threats of litigation among the agencies and organizations interested in water use.

To resolve this situation, the interested entities agreed to develop the Virgin River Resource Management and Recovery Program that would provide a mechanism to prioritize, fund, and implement recovery actions while allowing water development necessary to meet human needs in the Utah portion of the Virgin River Basin. It is anticipated that the Program will not only provide recovery actions that are necessary to offset impacts from proposed development actions to the native protected species, but further lead to full recovery of the endangered fish species, conservation of the Virgin spinedace, as well as provide benefits to the endangered southwestern willow flycatcher.

The Program will encompass the VRRFRP and the VSCA so that actions identified in these documents can be funded, implemented, and evaluated for effectiveness. In addition, the Program will provide measures to offset proposed Federal project impacts during

Section 7 consultations in order to prevent future conflict over water development and minimize impacts of Federal projects on protected aquatic species. Goals and objectives of the Program are based on recovery of the endangered fish and conservation of Virgin spinedace in an environment of continuing water development. Although some impacts to native species are expected through future water development projects, recovery actions have been and will continue to be implemented in advance of project impacts such that the status of species and/or its habitat is expected to improve and remain greater than that necessary to offset anticipated impacts. A crediting system has been developed to assess, measure, and track benefits and impacts of projects, and is designed to maintain measured benefits at a higher level than impacts so that the Program is always moving towards recovery and conservation of protected species.

Although participation is limited to Utah portions of the Virgin River Basin at this time, it is expected that the remaining portions of the Virgin River Basin in Arizona and Nevada will be invited to participate in the Program in future years as it becomes better established and demonstrates effectiveness.

It is important to note that participation in this Program does not represent or guarantee legal authority for any water development project. Such projects must be evaluated individually as they are proposed and continue to be subject to all applicable Federal and State laws including NEPA and ESA. This DEA is not intended to provide analysis for specific project impacts, but rather analyzes only effects of Federal participation in the Program.

Author: The primary author of this notice is Yvette K. Converse, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 145 East 1300 South State Street, Suite 404, Salt Lake City, Utah 84115 (801-524-5001, extension 135).

Authority

The authorities for this action are the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1532 *et seq.*)

Dated: September 15, 2000.

Spencer F. Conley,

Regional Director, Denver, Colorado.

[FR Doc. 00-24250 Filed 9-20-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[OR-030-00-1220-PA; GPO-0374]

Notice of Meeting of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center Advisory Board

AGENCY: National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, Vale District, Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: Notice is given that a meeting of the Advisory Board for the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center will be held on Tuesday, October 3, 2000 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Conference Room at the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, Oregon Highway 86, Flagstaff Hill, Baker City, OR. At an appropriate time, the Board will recess for approximately one hour for lunch. Public comments will be received from 11 a.m. to 11:15 a.m., October 3, 2000. Topics to be discussed are the Strategic Plan Update and reports from Coordinators of Subcommittees.

DATES: The meeting will begin at 8 a.m. and run to 4 p.m. October 3, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David B. Hunsaker, Bureau of Land Management, National Historic Oregon Trail, Interpretive Center, P.O. Box 987, Baker City, OR 97814, (Telephone 541-523-1845).

Juan Palma,

Vale District Manager.

[FR Doc. 00-24279 Filed 9-20-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

(NV-930-1430-ET; NVN-50250)

Notice of Proposed Extension of Withdrawal and Opportunity for Public Meeting; Nevada

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy (DOE) has filed an application to extend the withdrawal of 4,255.50 acres of public land in Nye County to maintain the physical integrity of the subsurface environment at Yucca Mountain. The withdrawal being extended is Public Land Order No. 6802. This withdrawal will expire on September 24, 2002, unless extended. The land is currently withdrawn from location under the United States mining laws and from