

water; however, these opportunities are limited by local precipitation. Opportunities for active management of this refuge have been limited due to its remote location, lack of resident staff, and access issues. Future management efforts will focus on improving access and public wildlife viewing opportunities.

The Draft CCP/EA addresses a range of topics including habitat and wildlife management, public use opportunities, invasive species control, and administration and staffing for the refuges. The key refuge issues and how they are addressed in the plan alternatives are summarized below. Alternative A is the current management, or what is currently offered, at the refuge. Alternative B is the proposed action. Under Alternative C, refuge habitats would be managed solely by the uses of prescribed fire. Under Alternative D, management of refuge habitats would be accomplished through mechanical means such as haying or mowing. Alternative E would call for no active management on the refuge.

Habitat management activities:

Alternative A: Grazing has historically been the primary grassland management tool used on the refuge. Efforts to use prescribed fire and control invasive species have been limited. *Alternative B:* The managed grazing program would be modified and integrated with prescribed fire and mechanical vegetative manipulation to encourage ecological integrity, promote native prairie restoration, control invasive plant species, and provide/enhance habitat for grassland birds and other resident wildlife. *Alternative C:* Grazing would be discontinued. Prescribed fire would be the primary tool used to manage refuge habitats and control invasive plants. *Alternative D:* Grazing would be discontinued. Mechanical means such as haying and mowing would be used to manage refuge grassland habitats and control invasive plant species. *Alternative E:* No active management of grassland habitat. Habitats would be allowed to evolve into climax conditions. Limited use of biological controls would be used as an experiment to control invasive plant species.

Improvements to public use opportunities: *Alternative A:* The public use program would remain at current levels and no new facilities would be developed on the refuge. Hunting would continue to be prohibited. *Alternative B:* The public use program would increase and/or enhance educational and outreach activities, recreational opportunities (including consideration

of hunting opportunities), community involvement, and improve facilities. *Alternative C:* The public use program would be similar to *Alternative B*. *Alternative D:* The public use program would be similar to *Alternative B*. *Alternative E:* The public use program would be discontinued.

Refuge Land and Boundary

Protection: Alternative A: There would be no acquisition and no exploration of possible refuge boundary expansion. *Alternative B:* Land protection would be accomplished through partnerships with adjacent owners. Refuge boundary expansion would only occur as a means to improve access to the public and would be considered under a separate public process. Any mention of acquisition is conceptual in nature only. *Alternative C:* Same as *Alternative B*. *Alternative D:* Same as *Alternative B*. *Alternative E:* Same as *Alternative A*.

Dated: August 15, 2003.

Geoffrey L. Haskett,

Acting Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Albuquerque, New Mexico.
[FR Doc. 03-25485 Filed 10-7-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Receipt of Applications for Permit

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of applications for permit.

SUMMARY: The public is invited to comment on the following applications to conduct certain activities with endangered species and/or marine mammals.

DATES: Written data, comments or requests must be received by November 7, 2003.

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 within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice to: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203; fax 703/358-2281.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Division of Management Authority, telephone: 703/358-2104.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Endangered Species

The public is invited to comment on the following application(s) 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.*). Written data, comments, or requests for copies of these complete applications should be submitted to the Director (address above).

Applicant: Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden, Cincinnati, Ohio, PRT-077059

The applicant requests a permit to import blood and serum samples collected from captive and wild ocelots (*Leopardus pardalis*) in Mexico for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species/scientific research. This notification covers activities conducted by the applicant over a five year period.

Applicant: Archie Wilson, Batavia, OH, PRT-077669

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.

Applicant: Larry L. Hehl, Greenwood, SC, PRT-077674

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(s) for a permit to conduct certain activities with endangered marine mammals and/or marine mammals. The application(s) was/were submitted to satisfy requirements of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, *as amended* (16 U.S.C. 1531, *et seq.*) and/or the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, *as amended* (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing endangered species (50 CFR part 17) and/or marine mammals (50 CFR part 18). Written data, comments, or requests for copies of the complete applications or requests for a public hearing on these applications should be submitted to the Director (address above). 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.

Applicant: James A. Brush, Galesville, WI, PRT-074543

The applicant requests a permit to import a polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) sport hunted from the Northern Beaufort Sea polar bear population in Canada for personal use.

Dated: September 26, 2003.

Monica Farris,

Senior Permit Biologist, Branch of Permits, Division of Management Authority.

[FR Doc. 03-25468 Filed 10-7-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Receipt of Applications for Permit

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of applications for permit.

SUMMARY: The public is invited to comment on the following applications to conduct certain activities with endangered species and/or marine mammals.

DATES: Written data, comments or requests must be received by November 7, 2003.

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 within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice to: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203; fax 703/358-2281.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Division of Management Authority, telephone 703/358-2104.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Endangered Species

The public is invited to comment on the following applications 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.*). Written data, comments, or requests for copies of these complete applications should be submitted to the Director (address above).

Applicant: Peter H. Johnson, St. Albans, MO, PRT-077229

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.

Applicant: Gregory B. Jacobs, New York, NY, PRT-077237

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.

Applicant: Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center—Trask Lab, Seattle, WA, PRT-066400

The applicant requests a permit to acquire in interstate commerce cell line samples of gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla*) and orangutan (*Pongo pygmaeus*) for the purpose of scientific research. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a five-year period.

Applicant: University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL, PRT-076985

The applicant requests a permit to import biological samples obtained from hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), as well as loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*), and green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), obtained from the wild in Oman, for the purpose of scientific research. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a five-year period.

Dated: September 19, 2003.

Michael S. Moore,

Senior Permit Biologist, Branch of Permits, Division of Management Authority.

[FR Doc. 03-25471 Filed 10-7-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Withdrawal of Finding of No Significant Impact and Final Environmental Assessment on Management of Mute Swans in the Atlantic Flyway

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (the Service) published a

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and Final Environmental Assessment (FEA) for the Management of Mute Swans in the Atlantic Flyway on August 7, 2003. The Service is withdrawing those decision documents. Effective immediately, these documents will not be used to support the issuance of depredation permits authorizing the take of mute swans (*Cygnus olor*) under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). No new mute swan depredation permits will be issued pending completion of further review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Brian A. Millsap, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Migratory Bird Management, Mail Stop MS MBSP-4107, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22203.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On July 2, 2003, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (the Service) provided notice (68 FR 39593) that a Draft Environmental Assessment for the Management of Mute Swans in the Atlantic Flyway was available for public review and comment. The 15-day public comment period ended on July 16, 2003. On August 7, 2003, the Service published a notice of availability (68 FR 47084) of the FEA and the full text of the FONSI.

On August 11, 2003, in accordance with the FEA and the FONSI, the Service issued a permit under authority of the MBTA to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources authorizing the take of up to 525 mute swans between August 27 and December 12, 2003. The Service's issuance of this permit was challenged in Federal court. A preliminary injunction enjoining the take of any mute swans under this permit pending a final ruling on the merits was issued by the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia on September 9, 2003 ("*The Fund for Animals, et al. v. Norton*, Civil Action No. ECF-03-1710").

The Court's decision on the preliminary injunction raised serious issues regarding the FEA and FONSI referenced above and the Service therefore is withdrawing these documents. Effective immediately, these documents will no longer be used to support the issuance of depredation permits authorizing the take of mute swans. No new mute swan depredation permits will be issued pending completion of a new review under NEPA.