

document can be obtained as indicated in the **ADDRESSES** section. In addition, documents will be available for public inspection between the hours of 7:30 a.m.–4 p.m., Monday through Friday at the Salt Plains NWR Headquarters Office, 35 miles northwest of Enid, Oklahoma, off State Highway 38, and at the following libraries: Cherokee Public Library, 602 S. Grand Ave., Cherokee, OK 73728.

An open house to receive comments on the Draft CCP/EA will be held at the Salt Plains NWR Headquarters Office during the open comment period on January 12, 2006 from 2 p.m.–7 p.m. Special mailings, newspaper articles, and/or other media announcements will be used to inform the public of the date and time of the meeting.

All comments received from individuals 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 NEPA regulations [40 CFR 1506.6 (f)].

Background: The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 668dd–668ee *et seq.*), requires a CCP. The purpose in developing CCPs is to provide refuge managers with a 15-year strategy for achieving refuge purposes and contributing toward the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System, consistent with sound principles of fish and wildlife science, conservation, legal mandates, and Service policies. In addition to outlining broad management direction on conserving wildlife and their habitats, the CCPs identify wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities available to the public, including opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education and interpretation. We will review and update these CCPs at least every 15 years in accordance with the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321–4370d).

Salt Plains NWR was established “as a refuge and breeding grounds for birds,” by Executive Order No. 5314 on March 26, 1930. The authority of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 712d) establishes that each refuge is: “* * * for use as an inviolate sanctuary, or any other management purpose, for migratory birds.” The Refuge Recreation Act (16 U.S.C. 460–1)

states that each refuge is “suitable for incidental fish and wildlife-oriented recreational development, the protection of natural resources, and the conservation of endangered or threatened species.” Additionally, Salt Plains NWR has been designated as critical habitat for the whooping crane (43 FR 20938, May 15, 1978).

Salt Plains NWR is located on the Salt Fork of the Arkansas River at the Great Salt Plains Lake in north-central Oklahoma. The confluence of several streams and rivers and the salt-encrusted plains produces a variety of unique wildlife habitats found nowhere else for hundreds of miles around. The 32,030-acre refuge is roughly equal parts of upland, open water, and salt flats, making it one of the most important migratory bird stopover, wintering, and nesting habitats in the Central Great Plains region. Three federally listed species use the refuge on a seasonal basis, and the refuge is also designated critical habitat for endangered whooping cranes. Federally threatened bald eagles winter on the refuge and endangered least terns nest in large numbers every year on the salt flats. Management efforts focus on protecting, enhancing, and restoring refuge habitats and water management for the benefit of important fish and wildlife resources.

The Draft CCP/EA addresses a range of topics, including habitat and wildlife management, water management, invasive species control, public use opportunities, and administration and staffing for the refuge. Important 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, a greater emphasis on public uses such as all types of hunting, hiking, and necessary facilities, roads, and trails is proposed.

Habitat management activities: Alternative A: Habitat management such as prescribed fire, farming, moist soil management, invasive species control, or revegetation and maintenance projects would proceed to the extent that current base funding and staffing allows. Alternative B: The actions proposed in this alternative emphasize updated and integrated land management to progressively restore, maintain, and enhance native habitats for migratory birds, waterfowl, federally listed species, and resident wildlife. Alternative C: Habitat management would essentially be the same as Alternative A so that the refuge could focus more on public use opportunities.

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. Alternative B: The public use program would increase and/or enhance educational and outreach activities, recreational opportunities (including expansion of waterfowl hunting areas), community involvement, and improvement of facilities and interpretive trails. Alternative C: The public use program would emphasize opening the refuge to all types of hunting and increase roads, trails, and facilities to meet the emphasis on all compatible public uses.

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. Any refuge boundary (none are currently proposed) expansion would only occur from willing sellers as a means to improve or protect important habitats that support accomplishment of species, habitat, and ecosystem goals and/or lands with high flood potential. Alternative C: Same as Alternative A.

Dated: August 18, 2005.

Larry G. Bell,

Acting Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Albuquerque, New Mexico.
[FR Doc. 05–22969 Filed 11–18–05; 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.

DATES: Written data, comments or requests must be received by December 21, 2005.

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: Robin D. Nations, Brookhaven, MS, PRT-110370.

The applicant requests a permit to import the sport-hunted trophy of one cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) taken in Namibia, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

Applicant: National Zoological Park, DC, PRT-107677.

The applicant requests a permit to export serum samples from one male captive Asian elephant (*Elephas maximus*) to the Rotterdam Zoo, the Netherlands for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species/scientific research.

Applicant: Woodland Park Zoological Gardens, Seattle, WA, PRT-108484.

The applicant requests a permit to import semen samples from one male captive Asian elephant (*Elephas maximus*) from Canada for the purpose of breeding and enhancement of the survival of the species.

Applicant: Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden, Cincinnati, OH, PRT-108598.

The applicant requests a permit to import semen samples from black-footed cats (*Felis nigripes*) from South Africa for the purpose of breeding and enhancement of the survival of the species.

Applicant: Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium, Pittsburgh, PA, PRT-108766.

The applicant requests a permit to import four live captive-born African wild dogs (*Lycos pictus*) from the De Wildt Cheetah Centre, in South Africa for the purpose of breeding and enhancement of the survival of the species.

Applicant: John D. Smith, Metter, GA, PRT-114211.

The applicant requests a permit to import the sport-hunted trophy of one male bontebok (*Damaliscus pygargus pygargus*) 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: Kole Productions, Inc., Las Vegas, NV, PRT-111429, 111430.

The applicant requests permits to export two captive-born tigers (*Panthera tigris*) to worldwide locations for the purpose of enhancement of the species through conservation education. The permit numbers and animals are: PRT-111429, "Kirra," and 111430, "Sedona." This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a three-year period and the import of any potential progeny born while overseas.

Dated: October 28, 2005.

Monica Farris,

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

[FR Doc. 05-23010 Filed 11-18-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Availability for the Renewal of an Expired Section 10(a)(1)(B) Permit for Incidental Take of the Golden-Cheeked Warbler in Travis County, TX (Caster)

SUMMARY: On September 24, 1999, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) issued a section 10(a)(1)(B) permit, pursuant to Section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act (Act), for incidental take of the golden-cheeked warbler (GCW) (*Dendroica chrysoparia*) to John and Christine Caster (Applicants). The permit (TE-012423) was for a period of five years and expired on September 24, 2004. The requested permit renewal will extend the permit expiration by five years from the date the permit is reissued.

DATES: To ensure consideration, written comments must be received on or before December 21, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the request for extension, former incidental take permit, or other related documents may obtain a copy by written or telephone request to Scott Rowin, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78758, (512/490-0057 ext. 224). Documents will be available for public inspection by written request, or by appointment only, during normal business hours (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) at the Fish and Wildlife Service Austin Office. Comments concerning the request for renewal should be submitted in writing to the Field Supervisor at the

above address. Please refer to permit number TE-012423-0 when submitting comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Scott Rowin at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Austin Office, 10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78758, (512/490-0057 ext. 224)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 9 of the Act prohibits the "taking" of endangered species such as the GCW. However, the Service, under limited circumstances, may issue permits to take endangered wildlife species incidental to, and not the purpose of, otherwise lawful activities. Regulations governing permits for endangered species are at 50 CFR 17.22. This notice is provided pursuant to Section 10(c) of the Act and National Environmental Policy Act regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

Applicant: John and Christine Caster plan to construct a single family residence (SFR) on their 10-acre lot located adjacent to City Park Road in Austin, Travis County, Texas. The construction of a SFR on approximately one acre of the 10-acre lot will eliminate less than one acre of GCW habitat and indirectly impact less than four additional acres of habitat. The original permit included, and the Applicants continue to propose to compensate for, incidental take of the GCW by providing \$1,500 to the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve, and placing a perpetual conservation easement on the remaining approximately nine acres to the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve. Since this property is located within the acquisition boundaries of the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve, it will add additional acreage to the preserve. The Applicants have agreed to follow all of the existing permit terms and conditions. If renewed, all of the permit terms and conditions will remain the same, and no additional take will be authorized.

Larry G. Bell,

Acting Regional Director, Region 2, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

[FR Doc. 05-22964 Filed 11-18-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Issuance of Permits

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of issuance of permits for marine mammals.

SUMMARY: The following permits were issued.