

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 October 10, 2006.

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: Matson's Laboratory, Milltown, MT, PRT-096048

The applicant requests renewal and amendment of a permit to import samples such as teeth from wood bison (*Bison bison athabascæ*) from government-managed herds such as the Mackenzie Sanctuary herd and the Nahanni population in Canada for the purpose of scientific research. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a five-year period.

Applicant: Animal Source Texas, Krum, TX, PRT-120288

The applicant requests a permit to export six live captive-born lemurs (*Lemur catta*) to Leofoo Village Theme Park—Animal Kingdom, Taiwan for the

purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

Applicant: Southwest Fisheries Science Center, National Marine Fisheries Service, La Jolla, CA, PRT-844694

The applicant requests re-issuance of their permit to import biological samples taken from Kemp's ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*), olive ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), and leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*), collected in the wild from worldwide locations, for the purpose of scientific research. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a five-year period.

Applicant: Ziccolone and Carrasco Productions, Inc., Las Vegas, NV, PRT-123261

The applicant requests a permit to import five (2 male and 3 female) captive born tigers (*Panthera tigris*) from Mexico to Las Vegas, Nevada for the purpose of enhancement of the species through conservation education, and return them to Mexico within a five-year period.

Dated: August 18, 2006.

Monica Farris,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service****Draft Template Safe Harbor Agreement, Draft Environmental Assessment, and Receipt of Applications for Enhancement of Survival Permits**

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability and receipt of applications; request for comments.

SUMMARY: As part of ongoing recovery efforts for the endangered Columbia Basin distinct population segment of the pygmy rabbit (*Brachylagus idahoensis*), this notice advises the public that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service or we), in cooperation with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), is making available for public review and comment a draft Template Safe Harbor Agreement (Agreement). The proposed Agreement addresses incidental take of Columbia

Basin pygmy rabbits (CBPR) that could result from activities associated with ranching, farming, recreation, residential upkeep, conservation programs, and shrub steppe maintenance, restoration, and enhancement on an undeterminable number of non-Federal properties. The area covered by the proposed Agreement (Covered Area) includes portions of 6 counties in central Washington and totals approximately 2,650,000 acres. However, eligible properties that occur within the Covered Area and are most likely to be enrolled under the Agreement would primarily include those that have existing shrub steppe habitat and/or soil conditions that may be capable of supporting the species, either currently or in the foreseeable future. These lands, as well as adjacent properties that may receive intermittent use by CBPRs, such as for exploratory behavior or dispersal between suitable habitats, total approximately 750,000 acres. Implementation of the proposed Agreement would provide the opportunity for interested non-Federal and non-WDFW landowners and managers to voluntarily enroll their lands under the Agreement and receive an enhancement of survival permit pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA). In exchange for the incidental take authority that would be provided by issuance of permits, participants who enroll their lands under this Agreement would implement conservation measures that would be expected to provide a net conservation benefit to the CBPR. The duration of the proposed Agreement is 20 years. The duration of associated permits could be for shorter periods, but would not exceed the duration of the Agreement. More detailed descriptions of the background biological information, Covered Area, proposed covered activities, conservation measures, and expected net conservation benefits are provided in the draft Agreement and in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section below.

This also announces the receipt and availability for public review and comment three applications for incidental take permits for the enhancement of survival for the CBPR in conjunction with the Agreement. These applications have been received from The Nature Conservancy, Mr. Dave Billingsley and Mr. Peter Lancaster (Applicants). Issuance of these permits would authorize incidental take of CBPRs above the existing baseline conditions of enrolled properties that