

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: Nicholas D. Cortezi, Towson, MD, PRT-106446.

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: Grant R. Gilbert, Houston, TX, PRT-106618.

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: Feld Entertainment, Vienna, VA, PRT-106086, 105000, 104999.

The applicant requests permits to export and re-import three captive-born Asian elephants (*Elephas maximus*), Rudy, Angelica, and Gunther, to worldwide locations for the purpose of enhancement of the species through conservation education. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a five-year period and the import of any potential progeny born while overseas.

Applicant: Hawthorn Corporation, Grayslake, IL, PRT-058658, 058659, 058660, 058661, 058662, 058663, 058664, 058665, 058666, 058667, 058668, 058669, 058670, 058672, 058679, 058680, 058681, 058682, 058683, 058685, 058686, 058687, 058734, 058735, 058736, 058737, 058738, 058739, 058745, 058747, 058748, 058750, 058751, 058752, 058753, 058758, 058759, 058762, 058780, 059163, and 777744.

The applicant requests permits to export 41 captive-born tigers (*Panthera tigris*) to worldwide locations for the purpose of enhancement of the species through conservation education. 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.

Endangered Marine Mammals and Marine Mammals

The public is invited to comment on the following applications for a permit to conduct certain activities with endangered marine mammals and/or marine mammals. The applications 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: The Marine Mammal Center, Sausalito, CA, PRT-101713

The applicant requests a permit to rescue, provide medical treatment (including routine sampling for diagnostic & treatment purposes), rehabilitate and, if feasible, release rehabilitated Southern sea otters (*Enhydra lutris nereis*) to the wild for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a five-year period.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, the Division of Management Authority is forwarding copies of the above applications to the Marine Mammal Commission and the Committee of Scientific Advisors for their review.

Applicant: Charles W. Lewensten, Edina, MN, PRT-104141.

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

Applicant: Terry L. Shupe, Anchorage, AK, PRT-105668.

The applicant requests a permit to import a polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*)

sport hunted from the Lancaster Sound polar bear population in Canada for personal, noncommercial use.

Dated: July 15, 2005.

Michael L. Carpenter,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Issuance of Permits

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of issuance of permits for endangered species.

SUMMARY: The following permits were issued.

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: 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: Notice is hereby given that on the dates below, as authorized by the provisions 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.*), the Fish and Wildlife Service issued the requested permits subject to certain conditions set forth therein. For each permit for an endangered species, the Service found that (1) the application was filed in good faith, (2) the granted permit would not operate to the disadvantage of the endangered species, and (3) the granted permit would be consistent with the purposes and policy set forth in Section 2 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

ENDANGERED SPECIES

Permit number	Applicant	Receipt of application Federal Register notice	Permit issuance date
066158, 066159, 097785,	Thomas Productions	70 FR 15118, March 24, 2005	May 17, 2005.

ENDANGERED SPECIES—Continued

Permit number	Applicant	Receipt of application Federal Register notice	Permit issuance date
097786, 097787, 097784	Thomas Productions	70 FR 15118, March 24, 2005	May 24, 2005.

Dated: July 15, 2005.

Michael L. Carpenter,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Scoping Meetings and Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Designation of a Nonessential Experimental Population of Rio Grande Silvery Minnow

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), are providing this notice to advise the public that a draft environmental assessment will be prepared, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, in conjunction with a proposed rule to establish, under section 10(j) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act), a Nonessential Experimental Population (NEP) of Rio Grande silvery minnow (*Hybognathus amarus*) (silvery minnow) in the Rio Grande River in Big Bend National Park and the Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River in Texas. We will hold three public informational sessions and scoping meetings (see **DATES** and **ADDRESSES** sections).

Through this notice and the public scoping meetings, we are seeking comments or suggestions from the public, other concerned governmental agencies, Tribes, the scientific community, industry, or any other interested parties concerning the scope of the environmental analysis, including the alternatives that should be analyzed.

DATES: Comments must be submitted directly to the Service (see **ADDRESSES** section) on or before September 19, 2005, or at any of the three scoping meetings to be held in August 2005.

We will hold public informational sessions followed by scoping meetings at the following dates and times:

1. September 20, 2005: Sanderson, TX. Informational session: 5:30 p.m. Scoping meeting: 7 p.m.

2. September 21, 2005: Alpine, TX. Informational session: 5:30 p.m. Scoping meeting: 7 p.m.

3. September 22, 2005: Presidio, TX. Informational session: 5:30 p.m. Scoping meeting: 7 p.m.

ADDRESSES:

Meetings

The public informational sessions and scoping meetings will be held at the following locations:

1. Sanderson, TX: Sanderson Community Meeting Hall, 108 Hackberry Street, Sanderson, TX 79848.

2. Alpine, TX: Sul Ross State University, Gallego Center, Room 129, East Highway 90, Alpine, TX 79832.

3. Presidio, TX: Presidio Activity Center, 1400 East O'Reilly Street, Presidio, TX 79845.

Information, comments, or questions related to preparation of the draft environmental assessment and the NEPA process should be submitted to Joy Nicholopoulos, State Administrator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office, 2105 Osuna NE, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87113. Written comments may also be sent by facsimile to (505) 346–2542 or by e-mail to R2FWE_AL@fws.gov. For directions on how to submit electronic filing of comments, see the “Public Comments Solicited” section.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions regarding the scoping process, preparation of the draft environmental assessment, or the development of a proposed rule designating a NEP may be directed to Jennifer Parody at telephone number (505) 761–4710. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Public Comments Solicited

We intend for our draft environmental assessment (EA) to consider reasonable alternatives for the establishment of a NEP of silvery minnow. We also wish to ensure that any proposed rulemaking to

establish a NEP effectively evaluates all potential issues and impacts. Therefore, we are seeking comments and suggestions on the following issues for consideration in the preparation of the draft EA and the proposed rule concerning a NEP for the silvery minnow. This list is not intended to be all inclusive and comments on any other pertinent issues are welcome.

Issues related to the scope of the NEP:

(a) The reasons why any particular area of the Rio Grande River from Little Box Canyon downstream of Ft. Quitman, Hudspeth County, TX, through Big Bend National Park and the Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River, to Amistad Dam and the Railroad Bridge at Diablo East, Amistad Reservoir and the Pecos River from its confluence with Independence Creek to its confluence with the Rio Grande should or should not be included in a NEP designation.

(b) Information on the distribution and quality of habitat for the silvery minnow, land or water use practices, and current or planned activities in areas that may be affected by a designation of a NEP.

Issues related to evaluation of the environmental impacts:

The general question on which we are seeking comments is the identification of direct, indirect, beneficial, and adverse effects caused by the establishment of a NEP of silvery minnow. In addressing this question, you may wish to consider the following issues:

(a) Impacts on floodplains, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically sensitive areas;

(b) Impacts on park lands and cultural or historic resources;

(c) Impacts on human health and safety;

(d) Impacts on air, soil, and water;

(e) Impacts on prime agricultural lands;

(f) Impacts to other endangered or threatened species;

(g) Disproportionately high and adverse impacts on minority and low-income populations;

(h) Any other potential or socioeconomic effects; and

(i) Any potential conflicts with other Federal, State, local, or Tribal environmental laws or requirements.