

The Applicant proposes to mitigate the effects to QCB by fully implementing the Plan. The Plan emphasizes protection of habitat through impact avoidance and use of operational protocols, designed to avoid or minimize impact to QCB. The Applicant will supplement these operational protocols, or avoidance and minimization measures, with habitat restoration and enhancement measures, and other mitigation. The Applicant proposes to implement general and QCB-specific operational protocols, designed to avoid or minimize take of QCB. To mitigate temporary impacts, QCB habitat will be enhanced or restored, where appropriate. To mitigate for permanent impacts, the Applicant will implement one of the following mitigation measures: (1) Pay into a QCB habitat fund; the money will be used to benefit QCB through the acquisition, restoration, or enhancement of QCB habitat; (2) Enhance an unallocated portion of the Applicant's existing mitigation parcel for the benefit of QCB; (3) Purchase credits from a to-be-established Quino checkerspot butterfly bank, should one be approved by the Service in the future; or (4) Acquire a mitigation parcel that supports or could support QCB. Specific details regarding these mitigation measures may be found in the Plan.

The Proposed Action consists of the issuance of an incidental take permit and implementation of the proposed Plan, which includes measures to mitigate impacts of the proposed activities on QCB. Two alternatives to the proposed action are considered in the Plan. Under the No Action Alternative, no permit would be issued and the Applicant would avoid take of QCB; however, avoidance of impacts will not be possible for some of the Applicant's projects, which would preclude some critical projects from being completed or require the Applicant to seek individual take authorizations. Under this alternative, conservation measures would likely be developed on a case-by-case basis at the time that a project required take authorization. Under the Project-by-Project Alternative, take of QCB would be addressed either through section 7 or 10 of the Act on a project-by-project basis, but with a common set of minimization and mitigation measures developed in advance. The proposed Plan provides more comprehensive conservation of QCB than either of the two alternatives. In addition, the proposed Plan would be more efficient and would provide the Applicant with long-term predictability concerning the

nature of its operations for which incidental takings are permitted, avoiding potential facility-compromising delays.

The Service has made a preliminary determination that approval of the proposed Plan qualifies as a categorical exclusion under NEPA, as provided by the Department of the Interior Manual (516 DM 2, Appendix 1 and 516 DM 6, Appendix 1) and as a "low-effect" plan as defined by the Habitat Conservation Planning Handbook (November 1996). Determination of Low-effect Habitat Conservation Plans is based on the following three criteria: (1) Implementation of the proposed Plan would result in minor or negligible effects on federally listed, proposed, and candidate species and their habitats; (2) Implementation of the proposed Plan would result in minor or negligible effects on other environmental values or resources; and (3) Impacts of the proposed Plan, considered together with the impacts of other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable similarly situated projects, would not result, over time, in cumulative effects to environmental values or resources that would be considered significant.

Based upon this preliminary determination, we do not intend to prepare further NEPA documentation. We will consider public comments in making the final determination on whether to prepare such additional documentation.

Public Review

Written comments from interested parties are welcome to ensure that the issues of public concern related to the proposed action are identified. Comments and materials received will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the office listed in the ADDRESSES section of this notice. All comments and materials received, including names and addresses, will become part of the administrative record and may be released to the public.

Our practice is to make comments, including names, home addresses, home phone numbers, and e-mail addresses of respondents, available for public review. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their names and/or homes addresses, etc., but if you wish us to consider withholding this information you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. In addition, you must present a rationale for withholding this information. This rationale must demonstrate that disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy. Unsupported

assertions will not meet this burden. In the absence of exceptional, documentable circumstances, this information will be released. We will always make submissions from organization or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives of or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the Act. We will evaluate the permit application, the proposed Plan, and comments submitted thereon to determine whether the application meets the requirements of section 10(a) of the Act. If the requirements are met, we will issue a permit to the Applicant for the incidental take of the Quino checkerspot butterfly associated with the operation and maintenance of the existing gas and electric system and construction of new facilities within San Diego, Riverside and Orange Counties, California.

Dated: March 7, 2007.

Jim A. Bartel,

Field Supervisor, Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office, Carlsbad, California.

[FR Doc. E7-4531 Filed 3-12-07; 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 April 12, 2007.

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: New York State Museum, Albany, NY, PRT-146078.

The applicant requests a permit to import from the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panama, salvaged skeletons and skulls from animals found dead on Barro Colorado Island, Panama of the following species: howler monkey (*Alouatta palliata*), Baird's tapir (*Tapirus bairdii*), and ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis*) for the purpose of scientific research.

Applicant: Dr. Mary K. Gonder, University of Maryland, Dept. of Biology, College Park, MD, PRT-146529.

The applicant requests a permit to import DNA samples taken from the blood of captive-held chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) at the Limbe Wildlife Centre, Limbe, Cameroon, for the purpose of scientific research.

Applicant: Tom W. Veurink, Alto, MI, PRT-145874.

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: Gary F. Bogner, N. Muskeyon, MI, PRT-120003.

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.

Dated: February 16, 2007.

Monica Farris,

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

[FR Doc. E7-4519 Filed 3-12-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Final Conservation Strategy for the Grizzly Bear in the Greater Yellowstone Area

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: We, the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce the availability of the Final Conservation Strategy for the Grizzly Bear in the Greater Yellowstone Area (Final Conservation Strategy). This document will guide management decisions for the Yellowstone grizzly bear population upon delisting.

ADDRESSES: You may obtain a copy of the Final Conservation Strategy by any of the following means:

1. World Wide Web: <http://mountain-prairie.fws.gov/species/mammals/grizzly/yellowstone.htm>.

2. U.S. mail or in-person pickup: By appointment, during normal business hours at U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, University Hall, Room 309, University of Montana, Missoula, MT 59812. Call (406) 243-4903 to make arrangements.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Christopher Servheen, Grizzly Bear Recovery Coordinator (see **ADDRESSES** above), (406) 243-4903.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Restoring an endangered or threatened animal or plant to the point where it is no longer in need of the protections under the Endangered Species Act is a primary goal of our endangered species program. Recovery plans help guide the recovery effort by describing actions considered necessary for the conservation of the species, establishing criteria for downlisting and delisting listed species, and estimating time and cost for implementing the measures needed for recovery measures. Under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act) (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), we approved the first Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan on January 29, 1982 (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1982). In 1993, we approved a revision to the Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1993), which included additional tasks and new information that increased the focus and effectiveness of recovery efforts. Since the 1993 revision, we have approved three additional supplements to the Recovery Plan (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1997, 1998, 2007).

The Recovery Plan stated that a conservation strategy should be developed for each ecosystem before delisting. The purpose of the Final Conservation Strategy (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2007) is to serve as the regulatory mechanism guiding our management as we delist and establish the monitoring approach that will be taken for the Yellowstone grizzly bear population. The Final Conservation Strategy satisfies the requirements for post-delisting monitoring required by section 4(g) of the Act for species delisted due to recovery.

Considering all of the comments received, we finalized the Final Conservation Strategy for the Grizzly Bear in the Greater Yellowstone Area.

References Cited

For a complete list of all references cited herein, contact the Grizzly Bear Recovery Coordinator (see **ADDRESSES** above).

Authority

The authority for this Notice is section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1533(f).

Dated: January 10, 2007.

James J. Slack,

Deputy Regional Director, Denver, Colorado.

[FR Doc. E7-4566 Filed 3-12-07; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Supplements to the Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: We, the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce the availability of two supplements to the Grizzly Bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*) Recovery Plan. The supplements, appended to the Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan, present revised methods to estimate population size and sustainable mortality limits for the Yellowstone grizzly bear population, and establish habitat-based recovery criteria for the Yellowstone grizzly bear population.

ADDRESSES: You may obtain a copy of the recovery plan, including these supplements, by any of the following means:

1. World Wide Web: <http://endangered.fws.gov/recovery/index.html#plans> or <http://mountain-prairie.fws.gov/species/mammals/grizzly/yellowstone.htm>; or