

captivity, including 5 offspring born at the holding facility. The WDFW has scheduled additional capture operations over the next 30 days in order to secure more animals for the captive breeding program. The intent is to capture additional animals from the wild that will complement the genetic profiles and potential breeding scenarios of those already in captivity. Any pygmy rabbits that are not considered essential to the captive breeding program will be left in the wild, and ongoing management to protect this portion of the population will continue.

Delay in the WDFW's planned activities due to the 30-day public comment period could jeopardize the success of the captive breeding program and, ultimately, the long-term security of the Columbia Basin pygmy rabbit. Individuals within the wild portion of this population may experience significant mortality due to increased susceptibility to predation and inclement weather with the onset of winter, and additional animals may not be available for capture later in the season. Even if this population does not undergo further decline this winter, any wild individuals will likely have weakened body conditions and be more susceptible to capture-related stress and mortality if captured later in the season. Capture operations in midwinter may also be compromised by seasonal precipitation and/or low temperatures. Finally, capturing any additional animals later in the season will give them less time to acclimate to the holding facilities, and they may be unavailable for breeding efforts planned for early spring 2002.

Dated: December 6, 2001.

Rowan W. Gould,

Acting Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.

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BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Endangered and Threatened Species Permit Applications

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of application.

The following applicant has applied 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.*).

PRT-697830

Applicant: Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, Region 3, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Fort Snelling, Minnesota.

The applicant requests an amendment to his permit for scientific take activities of listed species in Region 3 to add the following species for scientific purposes and the enhancement of propagation or survival of the species in the wild, in accordance with listing, recovery outlines, recovery plans and/or other Service work for the species: Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*), Whooping crane (*Grus americana*), Lake Erie water snake (*Nerodia sipedon insularum*), Tumbling Creek cavesnail (*Antrobia culveri*), Scaleshell (*Leptodea leptodon*), Cave crayfish (*Cambarus aculabrum*), Short's bladderpod (*Lesquerella globosa*), Short's goldenrod (*Solidago shortii*), and Virginia sneezeweed (*Helenium virginicum*).

Written data or comments should be submitted to the Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services, 1 Federal Drive, Fort Snelling, Minnesota 55111-4056, and must be received within 30 days of the date of this publication.

Documents and other information submitted with this application are available for review by any party who submits a written request for a copy of such documents to the following office within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice: Mr. Peter Fasbender, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services, 1 Federal Drive, Fort Snelling, Minnesota 55111-4056. Telephone: (612) 713-5343; Fax: (612) 713-5292; E-mail: peter-fasbender@fws.gov.

Dated: December 7, 2001.

Lynn M. Lewis,

Acting Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, Region 3, Fort Snelling, Minnesota.

[FR Doc. 01-31194 Filed 12-18-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Endangered and Threatened Species Permit Application

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of application.

The following applicant has applied for a permit amendment 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.*).

Permit Number TE 049738

Applicant: Third Rock Consultants, LLC., Lexington, Kentucky

The applicant requests a permit to take (collect) the following species: Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), gray bat (*M. grisescens*), Virginia big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii virginianus*), Ozark big-eared bat (*C. t. ingens*), copperbelly water snake (*Nerodia erythrogaster neglecta*), blackside dace (*Phoxinus cumberlandensis*), duskytail darter (*Etheostoma percnurum*), relict darter (*E. chienense*), palezone shiner (*Notropis albizonatus*), pygmy madtom (*Noturus stanauli*), yellowfin madtom (*N. flavipinnis*), slender chub (*Erimystax cahni*), spotfin chub (*Cyprinella monacha*), Cumberland elktote (*Alasmidonta atropurpurea*), fanshell (*Cyprogenia stegaria*), Cumberlandian combshell (*Epioblasma brevidens*), oyster mussel (*E. capsaeformis*), catspaw (*E. obliquata obliquata*), northern riffleshell (*E. torulosa rangiana*), pink mucket (*Lampsilis abrupta*), slabside pearl mussel (*Lexingtonia dolabelloides*), ring pink (*Obovaria retusa*), little-wing pearl mussel (*Pegias fabula*), orangefoot pimpleback (*Plethobasus cooperianus*), clubshell (*Pleurobema clava*), Cumberland pigtoe (*P. gibberum*), rough pigtoe (*P. plenum*), fat pocketbook (*Potamilus capax*), fluted kidneyshell (*Ptychobranhus subtentum*), Cumberland monkeyface (*Quadrula intermedia*), and Cumberland bean (*Villosa trabalis*). Activities are proposed for studies to identify populations of listed species and to develop methods to minimize or avoid project related impacts to those populations. The scientific research is aimed at enhancement of survival of the species in the wild.

Written data or comments should be submitted to the Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Operations, 1 Federal Drive, Fort Snelling, Minnesota 55111-4056, and must be received within 30 days of the date of this publication.

Documents and other information submitted with this application are available for review by any party who submits a written request for a copy of such documents to the following office within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Operations, 1 Federal Drive, Fort Snelling, Minnesota 55111-4056. Telephone: (612) 713-5343; Fax: (612) 713-5292.