

and Louisiana; and piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*) within Oklahoma and Louisiana.

Permit TE-828830

Applicant: Bureau of Land Management, Tucson, Arizona.

Applicant requests a new permit for research and recovery purposes to conduct presence/absence surveys of the following species within Arizona:

- Desert pupfish (*Cyprinodon macularius*)
- Gila chub (*Gila intermedia*)
- Gila topminnow (*Poeciliopsis occidentalis*)
- Lesser long-nosed bat (*Leptonycteris curasoae yerbabuenae*)
- Loach minnow (*Tiaroga cobitis*)
- Southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*)
- Spikedace (*Meda fulgida*)

Permit TE-83692A

Applicant: Sphere 3 Environmental, Inc., Longview, Texas.

Applicant requests a new permit for research and recovery purposes to conduct presence/absence surveys of red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*) within Texas.

Permit TE-83693A

Applicant: Oklahoma Biological Survey, Norman, Oklahoma.

Applicant requests a new permit for research and recovery purposes to conduct presence/absence surveys and collect stems, seeds, and voucher specimens of haperella (*Ptilimnium nodosum*) within Oklahoma.

Permit TE-051832

Applicant: Phoenix Zoo, Phoenix, Arizona.

Applicant requests an amendment to a current permit for research and recovery purposes to conduct animal husbandry and captive management of California condors (*Gymnogyps californianus*) within the Phoenix Zoo, Arizona.

Permit TE-012642

Applicant: Blue Earth Ecological Consultants, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Applicant requests an amendment to a current permit for research and recovery purposes to conduct presence/absence surveys of loach minnow (*Tiaroga cobitis*) within New Mexico and Arizona.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

In compliance with NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), we have made an initial determination that the proposed

activities in these permits are categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement (516 DM 6 Appendix 1, 1.4C(1)).

Public Availability of Comments

All comments and materials we receive in response to this request will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the address listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Authority

We provide this notice under section 10 of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Dated: September 24, 2012.

Benjamin N Tuggle,

Regional Director, Southwest Region.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

**[FWS-HQ-IA-2012-N228;
FXIA1671090000P5-123-FF09A30000]**

Endangered Species; Receipt of Applications for Permit

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of applications for permit.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, invite the public to comment on the following applications to conduct certain activities with endangered species. With some exceptions, the Endangered Species Act (ESA) prohibits activities with listed species unless Federal authorization is acquired that allows such activities.

DATES: We must receive comments or requests for documents on or before October 31, 2012.

ADDRESSES: Brenda Tapia, Division of Management Authority, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 212, Arlington, VA 22203; fax (703) 358-2280; or email DMAFR@fws.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Brenda Tapia, (703) 358-2104 (telephone); (703) 358-2280 (fax); DMAFR@fws.gov (email).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Public Comment Procedures

A. How do I request copies of applications or comment on submitted applications?

Send your request for copies of applications or comments and materials concerning any of the applications to the contact listed under **ADDRESSES**. Please include the **Federal Register** notice publication date, the PRT-number, and the name of the applicant in your request or submission. We will not consider requests or comments sent to an email or address not listed under **ADDRESSES**. If you provide an email address in your request for copies of applications, we will attempt to respond to your request electronically.

Please make your requests or comments as specific as possible. Please confine your comments to issues for which we seek comments in this notice, and explain the basis for your comments. Include sufficient information with your comments to allow us to authenticate any scientific or commercial data you include.

The comments and recommendations that will be most useful and likely to influence agency decisions are: (1) Those supported by quantitative information or studies; and (2) Those that include citations to, and analyses of, the applicable laws and regulations. We will not consider or include in our administrative record comments we receive after the close of the comment period (see **DATES**) or comments delivered to an address other than those listed above (see **ADDRESSES**).

B. May I review comments submitted by others?

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the street address listed under **ADDRESSES**. The public may review documents and other information applicants have sent in support of the application unless our allowing viewing would violate the Privacy Act or Freedom of Information Act. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we

cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

II. Background

To help us carry out our conservation responsibilities for affected species, and in consideration of section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), along with Executive Order 13576, "Delivering an Efficient, Effective, and Accountable Government," and the President's Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies of January 21, 2009—Transparency and Open Government (74 FR 4685; January 26, 2009), which call on all Federal agencies to promote openness and transparency in Government by disclosing information to the public, we invite public comment on these permit applications before final action is taken.

III. Permit Applications

A. Endangered Species

Applicant: Kimberly Stewart (Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine) in collaboration with the Georgia Sea Turtle Center, Jekyll Island, GA; PRT-77898A

The applicant requests a permit to import biological specimens from hawksbill sea turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) from the wild in St. Kitts, West Indies, for the purpose of scientific research on the nutritional health of this species.

Multiple Applicants

The following applicants each request 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: John Panettiere, Atlanta, GA; PRT-85524A

Applicant: John Deford, Long Valley, NJ; PRT-84244A

Applicant: Rian Burkes, Hibbing, MN; PRT-83627A

Applicant: Charles Campisi, Maspeth, NY; PRT-83519A

Applicant: Randal Easley, Clovis, CA; PRT-85002A

Applicant: Paul Maddison, Richmond, TX; PRT-83806A

Applicant: Allan Spina, Long Valley, NJ; PRT-85523A

Applicant: Edward Hopkins, Henderson, NV; PRT-83025A

Applicant: James Wood, Katy, TX; PRT-85358A

Brenda Tapia,

Program Analyst/Data Administrator, Branch of Permits, Division of Management Authority.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R5-R-2012-N145; BAC-4311-K9-S3]

John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum, DE and Philadelphia Counties, PA; Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Finding of No Significant Impact

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce the availability of the final comprehensive conservation plan (CCP) and finding of no significant impact (FONSI) for John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum (John Heinz NWR, refuge) in Delaware and Philadelphia Counties, Pennsylvania. In this final CCP, we describe how we will manage the refuge for the next 15 years.

ADDRESSES: You may view or obtain copies of the final CCP and FONSI by any of the following methods. You may request a hard copy or a CD-ROM.

Agency Web site: Download a copy of the document at <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/planning/John%20Heinz/ccphome.html>.

Email: Send requests to northeastplanning@fws.gov. Include "John Heinz NWR Final CCP" in the subject line of your email.

Mail: Lia McLaughlin, Natural Resource Planner, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 300 Westgate Center Drive, Hadley, MA 01035.

Fax: Attention: Lia McLaughlin, 413-253-8468.

In-Person Viewing or Pickup: Call (215) 365-3118 to make an appointment (necessary for view/pickup only) during regular business hours at 8601 Lindbergh Blvd., Philadelphia, PA 19153.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gary Stolz, Refuge Manager, phone: (215) 365-3118, or Lia McLaughlin, Planning Team Leader, phone: 413-253-8575; email: northeastplanning@fws.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Introduction

With this notice, we finalize the CCP process for John Heinz NWR. We started this process through a notice of intent in the **Federal Register** (75 FR 25285) on May 7, 2010. We released the draft CCP/ environmental assessment (EA) to the public, announcing and requesting comments in a notice of availability in the **Federal Register** (77 FR 16854) on March 22, 2012.

The refuge was established in 1972 to preserve and restore the natural area known as Tinicum Marsh, to promote environmental education, and to afford visitors an opportunity to study wildlife in its natural habitat. It is located in Delaware and Philadelphia Counties, along the Delaware River, in southeastern Pennsylvania. Currently, the refuge includes 993 acres of freshwater tidal marsh, open water, grassland, and forest habitat. It is an important migratory stopover for birds along the Atlantic Flyway, and provides habitat for State-listed threatened and endangered species such as the eastern redbelly turtle (*Pseudemys rubriventris*). The refuge also offers unique opportunities for environmental education and interpretation in an urban setting.

We announce our decision and the availability of the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the final CCP for John Heinz NWR in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) requirements. We completed a thorough analysis of impacts on the human environment, which we included in the draft CCP/EA.

The CCP will guide us in managing and administering John Heinz NWR for the next 15 years. Alternative B, as described for the refuge in the draft CCP/EA, and with the modifications described below, is the foundation for the final CCP.

Background

The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd-668ee) (Administration Act), as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, requires us to develop a CCP for each NWR. The purpose for developing a CCP is to provide refuge managers with a 15-year plan for achieving refuge purposes and contributing toward the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS), consistent with sound principles of fish and wildlife management, conservation, legal mandates, and our policies. In addition to outlining broad management direction on conserving wildlife and