

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service**

[Docket No. FWS-HQ-IA-2017-0033;
FXIA1671090000-178-FF09A30000]

Endangered Species; Marine Mammal 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, marine mammals, or both. With some exceptions, the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) prohibit 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 August 7, 2017.

ADDRESSES:

Submitting Comments: You may submit comments by one of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments on Docket No. FWS-HQ-IA-2017-0033.

- *U.S. mail or hand-delivery:* Public Comments Processing, Attn: Docket No. FWS-HQ-IA-2017-0033; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Headquarters, MS: BPHC; 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.

When submitting comments, please indicate the name of the applicant and the PRT# you are commenting on. We will post all comments on <http://www.regulations.gov>. This generally means that we will post any personal information you provide us (see the Public Comments section for more information).

Viewing Comments: Comments and materials we receive will be available for public inspection on <http://www.regulations.gov>, or by appointment, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays, at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Management Authority, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803; telephone 703-358-2095.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Joyce Russell, Government Information Specialist, Division of Management Authority, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Headquarters, MS: IA; 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-

3803; telephone 703-358-2023; facsimile 703-358-2280.

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 **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**. 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.*), and the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *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. Under the MMPA, you may request a hearing on any MMPA application received. If you request a hearing, give specific reasons why a hearing would be appropriate. The holding of such a hearing is at the discretion of the Service Director.

III. Permit Applications

We invite the public to comment on applications to conduct certain activities with endangered species. With some exceptions, the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*; ESA) prohibits activities with listed species unless Federal authorization is acquired that allows such activities.

A. Endangered Species

Applicant: Morani River Ranch, Uvalde TX; PRT-49112A

The applicant requests a renewal to a captive-bred wildlife registration under 50 CFR 17.21(g) for barasingha (*Rucervus duvaucelii*), red lechwe (*Kobus leche*), Arabian oryx (*Oryx leucoryx*), and Eld’s Deer (*Rucervus eldii*), to enhance the propagation or survival of the species. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

Applicant: Houston Zoo, Inc., Houston, TX; PRT-19910C

The applicant requests a captive-bred wildlife registration under 50 CFR 17.21(g) for Asian elephant (*Elephas maximus*) and Baird’s tapir (*Tapirus bairdii*) to enhance the propagation or survival of the species. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

Applicant: Busch Gardens, Tampa, FL; PRT-24014C

The applicant requests a captive-bred wildlife registration under 50 CFR

17.21(g) to enhance the propagation or survival of the following species: African slender-snouted crocodile (*Crocodylus cataphractus*), Asian elephant (*Elephas maximus*), cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*), Malayan tiger (*Panthera tigris corbetti*), western gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla*), Bornean orangutan (*Pongo pygmaeus*), red-fronted lemur (*Eulemur rufus*), mongoose lemur (*Eulemur mongoz*), ring-tailed lemur (*Lemur catta*), red-ruffed lemur (*Varecia rubra*), Cuban parrot (*Amazona leucocephala*), blue-throated macaw (*Ara glaucogularis*), and golden parakeet (*Guarouba guarouba*). This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

Applicant: Fossil Rim Wildlife Center, Glen Rose, TX; PRT-31693C

The applicant requests a captive-bred wildlife registration under 50 CFR 17.21(g) to enhance the propagation or survival of the following species: Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*), Arabian oryx (*Oryx leucoryx*), maned wolf (*Chrysocyon brachyurus*), Przewalski's horse (*Equus przewalskii*), black-footed cat (*Felis nigripes*), red-crowned crane (*Grus japonensis*), and black rhino (*Diceros bicornis*). This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

Applicant: The University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, AL; PRT-14503C

The applicant requests a permit to import biological samples from the wild and captive-born Asian elephant (*Elephas maximus*) for the purpose of scientific research. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 1-year period.

Applicant: The University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham AL; PRT-15849C

The applicant requests a permit to import biological samples from the wild and captive-born Asian elephant (*Elephas maximus*) for the purpose of scientific research. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 1-year period.

B. Marine Mammal

Applicant: U.S. Fish Wildlife Service Marine Mammals Management, Anchorage, AK; PRT-039386

The applicant requests authorization to renew their permit to take Pacific walrus (*Odobenus rosmarus*) samples, conduct surveys, and import biological specimens for the purposes of scientific research. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

Applicant: Offspring Films, Bristol, UK; PRT-29633C

The applicant requests a permit to film up to 100 Southern sea otters (*Enhydra lutris nereis*) and up to 80 Northern sea otters (*Enhydra lutris kenyoni*) within a six month period at the Monterey Bay area, California, and Cordova and Simpson Bay areas and Prince William Sound, Alaska, for the purpose of education. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

IV. Next Steps

If the Service decides to issue permits to any of the applicants listed in this notice, we will publish a notice in the **Federal Register**. You may locate the **Federal Register** notice announcing the permit issuance date by searching in www.regulations.gov under the permit number listed in this document.

V. Public Comments

You may submit your comments and materials concerning this notice by one of the methods listed in **ADDRESSES**. We will not consider comments sent by email or fax or to an address not listed in **ADDRESSES**.

If you submit a comment via <http://www.regulations.gov>, your entire comment, including any personal identifying information, will be posted on the Web site. If you submit a hardcopy comment that includes personal identifying information, you may request at the top of your document that we withhold this information from public review. However, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

We will post all hardcopy comments on <http://www.regulations.gov>.

VI. Authorities

Endangered Species Act of 1973, (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*); Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*).

Joyce Russell,

Government Information Specialist, Branch of Permits, Division of Management Authority.

[FR Doc. 2017-14146 Filed 7-5-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4333-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

U.S. Geological Survey

[GX16MN00F1F2000]

Agency Information Collection

Activities: OMB Control Number 1028-0109; iCoast—Did the coast change?

AGENCY: U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Interior.

ACTION: Notice of a renewal of a currently approved information collection (1028-0109).

SUMMARY: We (the U.S. Geological Survey) will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve the information collection (IC) described below. As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, and as part of our continuing efforts to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, we invite the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on this IC. This collection is scheduled to expire on September 30, 2017.

DATES: To ensure that your comments are considered, we must receive them on or before September 5, 2017.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments on this information collection to the Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Geological Survey, gs-info_collections@usgs.gov (email). Please reference 'Information Collection 1028-0109, iCoast—Did the Coast Change?' in all correspondence.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Karen L.M. Morgan, Coastal Geologist, St. Petersburg Coastal and Marine Science Center, U.S. Geological Survey, 600 4th. St. South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701, 727-502-8037, kmorgan@usgs.gov. You may also find information about this ICR at www.reginfo.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

As part of its mission to document coastal change, the USGS has been taking aerial photographs of the coast before and after each major storm for the past 21 years to assess damages to the natural landscape and the built environment. A typical mission can consist of between approximately 3,000–10,000 photographs. The digital photo-archive maintained by the USGS is a valuable environmental record almost 200,000 photographs taken before and after 24 extreme storms along the Gulf and Atlantic Coasts. At the same time, the USGS has been developing mathematical models that predict the likely interactions between storm surge and coastal features, such as beaches and dunes, during extreme storms, with the aim of predicting areas that are vulnerable to storm damage. Currently the photographs are not used to inform the mathematical models. The models are based primarily on pre-storm dune height and predicted wave behavior.

If scientists could “ground truth” coastal damage by comparing before and