

Individuals who want to attend the field trip must provide their own transportation and lunch. A schedule for the field trip will be available prior to departure. The council will return to the District Office approximately 1 p.m. for a business meeting. From 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., the council members and BLM support staff will host an open house for public input on the development of Standards and Guidelines for range reform. On February 15, the council will meet from 8 a.m. to approximately 4 p.m. at the Las Vegas District Office.

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:** The purpose of the council is to advise the Secretary of the Interior, through the BLM, on a variety of planning and management issues associated with the management of the public lands.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Lorraine Buck, Public Affairs Specialist, Las Vegas District, telephone: (702) 647-5000.

Michael F. Dwyer,  
District Manager.

[FR Doc. 96-1750 Filed 1-29-96; 8:45 am]

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[UT-912-06-0777-52]

**Notice of Meeting of the Utah Resource Advisory Council**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Utah.

**SUMMARY:** The Utah Resource Advisory Council will meet on Friday, February 16, 1996 at the Airport Hilton Hotel, Lakeview Room, 5151 Wiley Post Way, Salt Lake City, Utah. The first half of the meeting will consist of a training session on rangeland ecology. The training will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude at 12 noon. The Council will reconvene at 1:00 p.m. to discuss various items including the development of standards and guidelines to promote rangeland health and other resource management issues affecting BLM programs within Utah and the West. A public comment period where members of the public may address the Council, is scheduled for 4:30 p.m. The meeting will conclude at approximately 5 p.m. All sessions of the Utah Resource Advisory Council meeting are open to the public.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Don Banks, Utah State Office, Bureau of Land Management, 324 S. State St., Suite 300, Salt Lake City, 84111; phone (801) 539-4021.

Dated: January 23, 1996.  
G. William Lamb,  
Utah BLM State Director.  
[FR Doc. 96-1751 Filed 1-29-96; 8:45 am]  
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**Fish and Wildlife Service**

**Notice of Receipt of Applications for Permit**

The following applicants have 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-810290

*Applicant:* International Wildlife Museum, Tucson, AZ.

The applicant requests a permit to import one taxidermied cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) mount from the estate of a foreign individual to enhance the survival of the species. The cheetah was originally taken in 1992 as a personal sport-hunted trophy in Zimbabwe.

PRT-810330

*Applicant:* Mary Katherine Gonder, New York, NY.

The applicant requests a permit to import hair samples of chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*) collected from sleeping nests and museum specimens in Nigeria for enhancement of the species through scientific research.

PRT-785441

*Applicant:* Zoological Society of San Diego, San Diego, CA.

The applicant requests a permit to import an additional captive-born female Persian fallow deer (*Dama dama mesopotamica*) from the Opel Zoo, Kronberg, Germany, to enhance the propagation of survival of the species through captive-breeding.

Written data or comments should be submitted to the Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 420(c), Arlington, Virginia 22203 and must be received by the Director within 30 days of the date of this publication.

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 the following office within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of

Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 420(c), Arlington, Virginia 22203. Phone: (703/358-2104); FAX: (703/358-2281).

The Fish and Wildlife Service regrets that due to circumstances beyond its control, the Office of Management Authority's permitting process and other work have been significantly impacted by the recent partial Federal furlough and inclement weather. While the Fish and Wildlife Service is attempting to deal with these circumstances, please be aware that there will be delays in permit processing, response to informational inquiries, returning of phone calls, and other office activities. Your understanding and patience are greatly appreciated during this time.

The furlough of December 18 to January 5, 1996, followed by severe weather conditions the week of January 8, created a significant backlog of unprocessed permit applications, while delaying our ability to complete applications already received. The Service's Office of Management Authority processes more than 5,000 permits annually, or approximately 450 per month. Prior to the furlough, streamlined procedures had cut the processing time in half for certain permits. Due to these events, the time required to process permit applications temporarily has increased significantly.

Six hundred applications were pending at the time of the furlough, slightly more than our monthly average. During the intervening three weeks of Federal closure, 205 new applications and 114 new written requests for information were received. Due to this backlog, applications received after December 16 may require an additional 30 days beyond the normal 60-90 days. Please note that applications are being processed in date order. We anticipate needing the extra time to work through the 600 applications pending before the furlough and complete subsequent applications. Since our goal is to reduce the number of backlogged applications as quickly as possible, this activity is the office's priority until the backlog is reduced and will preclude work on other office commitments.

These circumstances also resulted in an increased volume of phone calls. We are returning calls as quickly as possible. To help us help you, leave a detailed voice mail message if a biologist is unavailable to take your call directly. You may fax specific questions to (703) 358-2281. If requesting an application, include your name, phone and fax numbers, type of activity and species. If inquiring about the status of a permit, include the date you mailed

your application, purpose of the permit, and, if known, permit number and name of the permit biologist processing it.

The Fish and Wildlife Service is operating under a temporary spending authority. Should another Federal shutdown occur, our capability to carry out our responsibilities to the public to process applications expeditiously will be further delayed. Please be assured that we will continue to do everything we can to process applications as quickly and effectively as possible.

Dated: January 25, 1996.

Caroline Anderson,

*Acting Chief, Branch of Permits, Office of Management Authority.*

[FR Doc. 96-1732 Filed 1-29-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

### **Notice of Availability of "Black-footed Ferret Survey Guidelines for Oil and Gas Activities in Wyoming for Compliance With the Endangered Species Act" for Review and Comment**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of document availability.

**SUMMARY:** The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces the availability for public review of draft "Black-footed Ferret Survey Guidelines For Oil and Gas Activities In Wyoming For Compliance With The Endangered Species Act". The draft guidelines offer an alternative, only in Wyoming, to the existing survey guidelines found in "Black-footed Ferret Survey Guidelines For Compliance With The Endangered Species Act", which were developed by the Service in 1989. The Service solicits review and comment from the public on these draft guidelines.

**DATES:** Comments on the draft guidelines must be received on or before February 29, 1996, to ensure they receive consideration by the Service.

**ADDRESSES:** Persons wishing to review the draft guidelines may obtain a copy by contacting the Field Supervisor, Ecological Services, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4000 Morrie Avenue, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001. Written comments and materials regarding the draft guidelines should be sent to the Field Supervisor at the Cheyenne address given above. Comments and materials received are available on request for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Chuck Davis (see **ADDRESSES** above), at telephone 307/772-2374.

### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

#### **Background**

The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) proposes to implement the newly developed "Black-footed Ferret Survey Guidelines for Oil and Gas Activities in Wyoming for Compliance with the Endangered Species Act" (proposed guidelines) as an alternative to the existing ferret survey guidelines found in "Black-footed Ferret Survey Guidelines for Compliance with the Endangered Species Act" (1989 guidelines) which were developed by the Service in April 1989. The failure of ferret surveys to locate new populations, coupled with the minimal impacts arising from oil and gas activities, has prompted the Service to develop the proposed guidelines for use in Wyoming. This alternative to the existing survey recommendations as outlined in the 1989 guidelines is elective, not mandatory, and available only in Wyoming. It deviates from the 1989 guidelines by eliminating the black-ferret survey requirements in white-tailed prairie dog towns/colonies/complexes in Wyoming for all oil and gas exploration, development, and transmission activities except in certain areas, which are identified in Appendix A of the proposed guidelines. Wyoming was selected to be the prototype area for the proposed guidelines because of intensive oil and gas development, particularly in the southwestern part of the State. If a project proponent opts not to choose this alternative, the provisions of the 1989 guidelines will continue to apply.

The Service believes this alternative approach will increase the potential for black-footed ferret survival and recovery by improving the manner in which funds are used, particularly regarding fruitless ferret survey efforts in white-tailed prairie dog towns as well as repeated ferret surveys in black-tailed prairie dog towns. Furthermore, the Service believes this alternative to the 1989 guidelines will add to the flexibility and options for the recovery of this species. Instead of surveys, the project proponent contributes to ferret recovery through voluntary participation in the Ferret Recovery Enhancement Program (FREP), a strategy the Service believes offers a better black-footed ferret conservation approach than the current strategy. The money generated by FREP will fund ferret recovery efforts that have a higher potential for success than ferret surveys in areas of limited habitat value and low probability of impacts to ferrets from the oil and gas activities.

Participation in the FREP requires the project proponent to coordinate with the Cheyenne Field Office of the Service, provide documentation that the project and project site qualify (including identification of specific proposed oil and gas activities, description of anticipated disturbance, and a map of the white-tailed prairie dog town showing location of the disturbance), and agree to provide to the FREP Fund a one-time fee of \$30/acre of prairie dog town disturbance. Disturbance will be defined to include all rights-of-way, well sites, and other areas of ground disturbance. Funds generated by the contributions into FREP will be used for actions that benefit the recovery of the black-footed ferret. Such actions might include, but would not be limited to: activities such as development of improved survey methodologies; identification, mapping, digitizing of maps; conducting ferret surveys of prairie dog complexes greater than 5,000 acres or areas where physical evidence has been found; and, identification of potential reintroduction sites.

Applicability of the proposed guidelines to black-tailed prairie dog towns will be addressed on a case-by-case basis by the Cheyenne Field Office of the Service. The determination will be based on the size of the town/colony/complex, quality of habitat, extent and results of previous black-footed ferret surveys in the vicinity, historical presence of ferrets, and the importance of the complex to the overall recovery and survival of the black-footed ferret.

Other values of maintaining the biological integrity of the prairie dog ecosystem are still important and should not be overlooked. The prairie dog, as a keystone species, plays an important role in maintaining specific habitat conditions or providing forage for many species, including several candidate and sensitive species such as the mountain plover, ferruginous hawk, and burrowing owl. Severe impacts to or loss of prairie dog colonies threaten all species associated with that community. This document addresses only requirements for surveys and for potential impacts to black-footed ferrets. Other listed and candidate species potentially impacted by proposed actions must be addressed separately to ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

#### **Public Comments Solicited**

The Service solicits written comments on the draft guidelines described above. All comments received by the date specified in the **DATES** section above will be considered prior to approval of the guidelines.