

III program, contact Deborah Parham at 301-594-4444.

DATES, TIMES, LOCATIONS:

Saturday, August 16, 1997, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Hyatt Regency Hotel, 265 Peachtree Street, NE, Atlanta, Georgia, 404-577-1234

Monday, August 18, 1997, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Hyatt Regency Crown Center, 2345 McGee Street, Kansas City, Missouri, 816-421-1234

The OMB *Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance* number for this program is 93.918.

Dated: August 12, 1997.

Claude Earl Fox,

Acting Administrator.

[FR Doc. 97-21717 Filed 8-12-97; 2:39 pm]

BILLING CODE 4160-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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.*):

Applicant: Charles Salzhauer, Oxford, NC, PRT-831582.

The applicant requests a permit to import the sport-hunted trophy of one male bontebok (*Damaliscus pygargus dorcas*) 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: David Tuttle, Coeur d'Alene, ID, PRT-831856.

The applicant requests a permit to import the sport-hunted trophy of one male bontebok (*Damaliscus pygargus dorcas*) 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: Howard Coker, Jacksonville, FL, PRT-833026.

The applicant requests a permit to import the sport-hunted trophy of a cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) taken in Zimbabwe for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

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 430, Arlington, Virginia 22203

and must be received by the Director within 30 days of the date of this publication.

The public is invited to comment on the following application(s) for permits to conduct certain activities with marine mammals. The application(s) was/were submitted to satisfy requirements of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, *as amended* (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) and the regulations governing marine mammals (50 CFR 18).

Applicant: USGS-BRD, Alaska Science Center, Anchorage, AK, PRT-801652.

Type of Permit: Take for Scientific Research.

Name and Number of Animals: Walrus (*Odobenus rosmarus*), up to 7 or remaining takes.

Summary of Activity to be Authorized: The applicant has requested an amendment to their current permit to allow for the use of new drugs or new drug combinations as they become available, provided that the OMA is notified in advance. The applicant states that new drugs for wildlife immobilization are constantly being developed and the amendment to their permit will allow them to test the new drugs and drug combinations in a timely manner.

Source of Marine Mammals for Scientific Research: Alaska and surrounding waters.

Period of Activity: From issuance date of the permit to 12/31/00, if issued.

Applicant: Karl Nothdurft, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI, PRT-832907.

The applicant requests a permit to import a polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) sport-hunted from the Foxe Basin polar bear population, Northwest Territories, Canada for personal use.

Applicant: Ron Brunfeld, Northbrook, IL, PRT-832897.

The applicant requests a permit to import a polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) sport-hunted from the Lancaster Sound polar bear population, Northwest Territories, Canada for personal use.

Applicant: Gerald Bader, Federal Dam, MN, PRT-832625.

The applicant requests a permit to import a polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) sport-hunted from the Foxe Basin polar bear population, Northwest Territories, Canada for personal use.

Written data or comments, requests for copies of the complete applications, or requests for a public hearing on any of these applications for marine mammal permits should be sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 430, Arlington, Virginia 22203, telephone 703/358-2104 or fax 703/358-2281 and must be received

within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice. Anyone requesting a hearing should give specific reasons why a hearing would be appropriate. The holding of such hearing is at the discretion of the Director.

Documents and other information submitted with all of the applications listed in this notice 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 at the above address.

Dated: August 8, 1997.

Mary Ellen Amtower,

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

[FR Doc. 97-21450 Filed 8-13-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Availability of Draft Recovery Plan for *Kokia Cookei* for Review and Comment

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announces the availability for public review of a draft recovery plan for *Kokia cookei*. This species is known only from the island of Molokai and is federally listed as endangered. There are no naturally occurring populations of *Kokia cookei*. It currently exists only in cultivation at two locations and in managed outplantings at three sites. The total number of individual plants remaining is 28.

DATES: Comments on the draft recovery plan must be received on or before October 14, 1997, to receive consideration by the Service.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the draft recovery plan are available for inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the following location: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pacific Islands Ecoregion, Room 3108, 300 Ala Moana Boulevard, P.O. Box 50088, Honolulu, Hawaii 96850 (phone: 808/541-3441). A copy will also be available for inspection at the Molokai Public Library, 15 Ala Malama Street, Kaunakakai, Hawaii 96748 (phone: 808/553-5483). Requests for copies of the draft recovery plan and written comments and materials regarding the plan should be addressed to Field Supervisor-Ecological Services, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pacific

Islands Ecoregion at the Honolulu address given above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karen Rosa, Assistant Field Supervisor-Endangered Species, at the Honolulu address given above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Restoring endangered or threatened animals and plants to the point where they are again secure, self-sustaining members of their ecosystem is a primary goal of the Service's endangered species program. To help guide the recovery effort, the Service is working to prepare recovery plans for most of the listed species native to the United States, its Territories and Commonwealths. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for conservation of the species, establish criteria for the recovery levels for downlisting or delisting them, and estimate time and cost for implementing the recovery measures needed.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) (Act), requires the development of recovery plans for listed species unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of a particular species. Section 4(f) of the Act, as amended in 1988, requires that a public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment be provided during recovery plan development. The Service will consider all information presented during a public comment period prior to approval of each new or revised recovery plan. Substantive technical comments will result in changes to the plan. Substantive comments regarding recovery plan implementation may not necessarily result in changes to the recovery plan, but will be forwarded to appropriate Federal or other entities so that they can take these comments into account during the course of implementing recovery actions. Individualized responses to comments will not be provided.

The species being considered in this recovery plan is *Kokia cookei*. Known only from the island of Molokai, *Kokia cookei* has been described as the rarest plant in the world. When first discovered in the 1860s, three trees of this species were known. By the twentieth century, only a single wild tree remained. The species became extirpated from the wild in 1918. Currently, only 28 cloned individuals of *Kokia cookei* exist. These individuals were produced by grafting to root stocks of the two related *Kokia* species, *Kokia kauaiensis* and *Kokia drynarioides*. Seven individuals are in artificial

cultivation facilities on the islands of Maui and Oahu. The remaining 21 individuals are in small (10,000 square feet or less) outplanting sites on privately owned Molokai Ranch lands, at Puu Nana, about 365 meters (1200 feet) elevation.

The destruction of dryland habitats throughout the Hawaiian Islands, which began 1,500 years ago with the coming of the Polynesians to Hawaii and increased greatly with the arrival of the Europeans a little over 200 years ago, has led to the elimination of *Kokia cookei* in the wild. *Kokia cookei* was directly impacted by browsing, bark stripping, and soil trampling by domestic and feral cattle, goats, and sheep. Currently, this species is most threatened by the extremely low number of individuals remaining, the lack of naturally rooted plants, and the lack of viable seed production by the remaining individuals.

The objective of this plan is to provide a framework for the recovery of *Kokia cookei* so that its protection by the Act is no longer necessary. Recovery efforts will focus on increasing the numbers of cloned individuals while pursuing research into other methods, such as embryo culture methodology, for the production of individuals capable of setting viable seed. Suitable sites for outplanting of individuals on Molokai, Maui, and Lanai will be located and steps taken to manage these lands for the perpetuity of *Kokia cookei* and other native components of the dryland forest.

Public Comments Solicited

The Service solicits written comments on the recovery plan described. All comments received by the date specified above will be considered prior to approval of this plan.

Authority

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

Dated: August 8, 1997.

Thomas J. Dwyer,

Acting Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 1.

[FR Doc. 97-21545 Filed 8-13-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Issuance of Permits for Marine Mammals

On June 5, 1997, a notice was published in the **Federal Register**, Vol.

62, No. 108, Page 30876, that an application had been filed with the Fish and Wildlife Service by Jon Ziegler, Rapid City, SD (PRT-830065) for a permit to import a sport-hunted polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) from Canada for personal use.

Notice is hereby given that on July 21, 1997, as authorized by the provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) the Fish and Wildlife Service authorized the requested permit subject to certain conditions set forth therein.

Documents and other information submitted for these applications are available for review by any party who submits a written request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Rm 430, Arlington, Virginia 22203. Phone (703) 358-2104 or Fax (703) 358-2281.

Dated: August 8, 1997.

Mary Ellen Amtower,

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

[FR Doc. 97-21449 Filed 8-13-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NM-030-7122-03-821G]

Proposed Expansion of the Santa Rita Pit and Land Exchange in Grant County, New Mexico

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and notice of scoping meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Las Cruces District Office, will be directing the preparation of an EIS to be prepared by a third party contractor. The EIS will describe the potential impacts of the Phelps Dodge Corporation-Chino Mines Company (CMC) proposed Santa Rita Pit Expansion and Land Exchange Project, located approximately 7 miles north-northeast of the town of Hurley, in Grant County, New Mexico. The proposed development would occur partially on patented CMC land and partially on Federal land administered by the BLM.

The public is invited to participate in the planning process. A public scoping meeting will be held at the following time and location: