

for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

Applicant: Efrain Gonzalez, Houston, TX, PRT-006173.

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: Riverglenn, Feline Conservation Park, West Fork, AR, PRT-004336.

The applicant requests a permit to export and re-import captive-born tiger (*Panthera tigris*) and progeny of the animals currently held by the applicant and any animals acquired in the United States by the applicant to/from worldwide locations to enhance the survival of the species through conservation education. This notification covers activities covered by the applicant over a three year period.

Applicant: Riverbanks Zoological Park and Botanical Garden, Columbia, SC, PRT-005517.

The applicant requests a permit to import blood and tissues from wild and captive born Bali mynahs (*Leucopsar rothschildi*) from zoological parks, safari parks and other collections in Indonesia. For the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species through scientific research.

Applicant: Svend and Lilly Kristensen, Brandon, FL, PRT-703702.

The applicant requests a permit to re-export and re-import captive born leopards (*Panthera pardus*), and progeny of the animals currently held by the applicant and any animals acquired in the United States by the applicant to/from worldwide locations to enhance the survival of the species through conservation education. This notification covers activities conducted by the applicant over a three year period.

Applicant: Ferdinand and Anton Fercos Hantig, Las Vegas, NV, PRT-839021.

The applicant requests a permit to export and re-import captive-born tiger (*Panthera tigris*) and progeny of the animals currently held by the applicant

and any animals acquired in the United States by the applicant to/from worldwide locations to enhance the survival of the species through conservation education. This notification covers activities conducted by the applicant over a three year period.

Applicant: Miami Metrozoo, Miami, FL, PRT-005256.

The applicant requests a permit to import one captive born cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) cub from South Africa for the purpose of enhancement to the survival of the species through conservation education.

Applicant: Praveen Karanth, Albany, NY, PRT-005708.

The applicant requests a permit to export DNA samples from Gray langur (*Semnopithecus entellus*) and Francois' langur (*Trachypithecus francoisi*) to University of Munich, Germany for the purpose of enhancement to the survival of the species through scientific research.

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 700, 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 for a permit to conduct certain activities with marine mammals. The application was 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: Paul R. Labrecque, Lincoln, MN, PRT-006117.

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

Applicant: Dennis Leistico, Elk River, MN, PRT-006163.

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

Written data or comments, requests for copies of the complete application, or requests for a public hearing on this application should be sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 700, 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 a hearing is at the discretion of the Director.

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 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203. Phone: (703/358-2104); FAX: (703/358-2281).

Dated: December 21, 1998.

Mary Ellen Amtower,

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

[FR Doc. 98-34207 Filed 12-24-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Letters of Authorization to Take Marine Mammals

AGENCY: Notice of issuance of Letters of Authorization to take marine mammals incidental to oil and gas industry activities.

SUMMARY: In accordance with Section 101(a)(5) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service implementing regulations (50 CFR 18.27), notice is hereby given that Letters of Authorization to take polar bears and Pacific walrus incidental to oil and gas industry activities have been issued to the following companies:

Company	Activity	Date issued
ARCO Alaska, Inc	Exploration	October 9, 1998.
ARCO Alaska, Inc	Exploration	October 16, 1998.
ARCO Alaska, Inc	Exploration	October 16, 1998.
BP Exploration, (Alaska) Inc	Exploration	October 19, 1998.
BP Exploration, (Alaska) Inc	Exploration	October 19, 1998.
BP Exploration, (Alaska) Inc	Exploration	October 19, 1998.

Company	Activity	Date issued
ARCO Alaska, Inc	Exploration	October 19, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Rosa Meehan or Mr. John W. Bridges, at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Marine Mammals Management Office, 1011 East Tudor Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99503, (800) 362-5148 or (907) 786-3800.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: All Letters of Authorization were issued in accordance with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Federal Rule and Regulations "Marine Mammals; Incidental Take During Specified Activities" (58 FR 60402).

Dated: December 17, 1998.

David B. Allen,

Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 98-34325 Filed 12-24-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CO-933-99-1320-01; COC 62540]

Colorado; Notice of Invitation for coal Exploration License Application, Ark Land Company

Pursuant to the Mineral Leasing Act of February 25, 1920, as amended, and to Title 43, Code of Federal Regulations, Subpart 3410, members of the public are hereby invited to participate with Ark Land Company in a program for the exploration of unleased coal deposits owned by the United States of America in the following described lands located in Gunnison County, Colorado:

T. 14 S., R. 90 W., 6th P.M.

Sec. 10, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, and SE $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 11, S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$, and S $\frac{1}{2}$;

Sec. 12, S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$, and S $\frac{1}{2}$;

Sec. 13, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, and NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 14, all;

Sec. 15, E $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$ and NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$.

The area described contains approximately 2,240 acres. The application for coal exploration license is available for public inspection during normal business hours under serial number COC 62540 at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Colorado State Office, 2850 Youngfield Street, Lakewood, Colorado 80215, and at the Uncompahgre Field Office, 2505 South Townsend Avenue, Montrose, Colorado 81401.

Written Notice of Intent to Participate should be addressed to the attention of the following persons and must be

received by them within 30 days after publication of this Notice of Invitation in the **Federal Register**:

Karen Purvis, Solid Minerals Team, Resource Services, Colorado State Office, Bureau of Land Management, 2850 Youngfield Street, Lakewood, Colorado 80215

and
Wendell Koontz, Ark Land Company, P.O. Box 591, Somerset, Colorado 81434

Any party electing to participate in this program must share all costs on a pro rata basis with Ark Land Company and with any other party or parties who elect to participate.

Dated: December 15, 1998.

Karen Purvis,

Solid Minerals Team Resource Services.

[FR Doc. 98-34198 Filed 12-24-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-JB-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[OR-030-09-1220-00: GP9-0065]

Restrictions on Public Lands in Leslie Gulch Area of Critical Environmental Concern

AGENCY: Vale District, Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of closures and restrictions of use within Leslie Gulch Area of Critical Environmental Concern.

SUMMARY: The Vale District is initiating certain closures and restrictions as part of the implementation of the approved 1995 Leslie Gulch Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) Management Plan. The closures and restrictions are consistent with decisions of the ACEC management plan, and implementation is necessary to protect and enhance the identified relevant and important ACEC values of high quality scenery, California bighorn sheep habitat and special status plant species. The approved ACEC management plan complies with all applicable subparts of Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 1610 (Resource Management Planning) and meets all requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act.

Persons exempt from the closures and restrictions include any authorized Federal, State or local officers, or any member of an organized rescue or fire-

fighting unit in performance of official duties recognized by the Bureau of Land Management, Vale District, or any person authorized by the Bureau of Land Management, Vale District.

In accordance with the authority and requirements of Executive Orders 11644 and 11989, and regulations under Title 43, CFR, part 8340, the Dago Gulch Road south of the northern gate in T. 26 S., R. 45 E., section 19 is designated closed to motorized and mechanical vehicles.

Pursuant to Closure and Restriction Orders under Title 43 CFR, part 8364.1, the following acts are prohibited on all public lands within the boundaries of the Leslie Gulch ACEC:

1. Motorized and Mechanized Vehicles. Operating a motorized or mechanized vehicle within the ACEC other than on designated roads, parking areas and campgrounds (currently only Slocum Creek Campground).

2. Camping/Campfires.

(a) Camping outside designated campgrounds (currently only Slocum Creek Campground).

(b) Use of open fires outside of designated campgrounds (currently only Slocum Creek Campground).

3. Recreational Domestic Livestock. Using or possessing a horse or other domestic livestock for any purpose.

4. Minerals and Vegetation. Collection of living or dead vegetation or any mineral or petrified wood without authorization.

5. Rock Climbing.

(a) Placement of permanent anchoring devices.

(b) Altering of natural features.

(c) Leaving temporary hardware on natural features or at climbing locations for longer than needed for immediate use.

(d) Competitive or commercial rock climbing activities.

The lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management for which this order applies are within the Maheuer Resource Area. The approved management plan and boundary of the Leslie Gulch ACEC can be viewed at the Vale District office. This order remains in effect until further notice.

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 28, 1998.

PENALTY: Any person failing to comply with this closure and restriction order may be subject to imprisonment for not more than 12 months, or a fine in accordance with the applicable provisions of 18 U.S.C. 3571, or both.