

conducted by the applicant over a three-year period and the import of any potential progeny born while overseas.

**PRT-074368**

Applicant: Matthew Dick, Pueblo West, CO.

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.

**PRT-074380**

Applicant: William Clifton Pullen, Bryceville, FL.

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.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has information collection approval from OMB through March 31, 2004,

OMB Control Number 1018-0093. Federal Agencies may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a current valid OMB control number.

Dated: July 11, 2003.

**Charles S. Hamilton,**

*Senior Permit Biologist, Branch of Permits, Division of Management Authority.*

[FR Doc. 03-18390 Filed 7-18-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-55-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Fish and Wildlife Service**

**Issuance of Permits**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of issuance of permits for marine mammals and endangered species.

**SUMMARY:** The following permits were issued.

**ADDRESSES:** 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: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203; fax 703/358-2281.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Division of Management Authority, telephone 703/358-2104.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Notice is hereby given that on the dates below, as authorized by the provisions of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531, *et seq.*), or the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the Fish and Wildlife Service issued the requested permits subject to certain conditions set forth therein. For each permit for an endangered species, the Service found that (1) the application was filed in good faith, (2) the granted permit would not operate to the disadvantage of the endangered species, and (3) the granted permit would be consistent with the purposes and policy set forth in Section 2 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

**ENDANGERED SPECIES**

Permit number	Applicant	Receipt of application <b>Federal Register</b> notice	Permit issuance date
064369 .....	San Francisco Zoological Society .....	68 FR 11872; March 12, 2003 .....	June 27, 2003.
067661 .....	David W. Inouye, University of Maryland .....	68 FR 20020; April 23, 2003 .....	June 27, 2003.
810465 .....	A.R. Galloway Exotic Ranch .....	68 FR 22409, April 28, 2003 .....	July 10, 2003.

**MARINE MAMMALS**

Permit number	Applicant	Receipt of application <b>Federal Register</b> notice	Permit issuance date
070362 .....	Kenneth O. Harrison .....	68 FR 20166, April 24, 2003 .....	June 25, 2003.
070534 .....	Walter Mays Jr. ....	68 FR 22409, April 28, 2003 .....	June 27, 2003.
070952 .....	Wayne F. Manis .....	68 FR 25620, May 13, 2003 .....	July 3, 2003.

Dated: July 11, 2003.

**Charles S. Hamilton,**

*Senior Permit Biologist, Branch of Permits, Division of Management Authority.*

[FR Doc. 03-18391 Filed 7-18-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-55-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Fish and Wildlife Service**

**Proposed Martin Branch Woodland Safe Harbor Agreement, Covington County, MS**

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice advises the public that Dr. John Lambert (Applicant) has applied to the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for an enhancement of survival permit pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. The permit application includes a proposed Safe Harbor Agreement (Agreement) for the threatened gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) and the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*) for a period of 20 years. We (the Service) have made a preliminary determination that the proposed Agreement and permit application are eligible for categorical exclusions under

the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. We explain the basis for this determination in an Environmental Action Statement.

We announce the opening of a 30-day comment period and request comments from the public on the Applicants' enhancement of survival permit application, the accompanying proposed Agreement, and the Environmental Action Statement. All comments we receive, including names and addresses, will become part of the administrative record and may be released to the public. For further information and instructions on reviewing and commenting on this

application, see the **ADDRESSES** section, below.

**DATES:** Written comments should be received on or before August 20, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** You may obtain a copy of the information available by contacting the Service's Regional Safe Harbor Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 200, Atlanta, Georgia 30345, or Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 6578 Dogwood View Parkway, Jackson, Mississippi 39213.

Alternatively, you may set up an appointment to view these documents at either location during normal business hours. Written data or comments should be submitted to the Atlanta, Georgia, Regional Office. Requests for the documentation must be in writing to be processed, and comments must be written to be considered.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Rick Gooch, (telephone: 404/679-7124; facsimile: 404/679-7081), or Mr. Will McDearman (telephone: 601/965-4903 x 16; facsimile: 601/965-4340).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

Under a Safe Harbor Agreement, participating property owners voluntarily undertake management activities on their property to enhance, restore, or maintain habitat benefitting species listed under the Endangered Species Act. Safe Harbor Agreements encourage private and other non-Federal property owners to implement conservation efforts for listed species by assuring property owners they will not be subjected to increased property-use restrictions if their efforts attract listed species to their property or increase the numbers or distribution of listed species already on their property. Application requirements and issuance criteria for enhancement of survival permits through Safe Harbor Agreements are found in 50 CFR 17.22 and 17.32.

We have worked with the Applicant to design and implement conservation measures to benefit the gopher tortoise and red-cockaded woodpecker. Portions of the Applicant's property currently are inhabited by the gopher tortoise. No red-cockaded woodpeckers currently reside on the property. Under the Agreement, the Applicant will restore and enhance habitat by the following actions: (1) Reduce tree density and canopy cover, increase sunlight on the forest floor, and maintain an open pine forest by thinning timber and prescribing frequent fire; (2) Plant and/or naturally regenerate longleaf pine; (3) Grow and maintain trees of sufficient size and quantity for suitable nesting and

foraging habitat for one or more groups of red-cockaded woodpeckers.

Consistent with the Safe Harbor Policy and implementing regulations, we propose to issue an enhancement of survival permit to the Applicant. The permit will authorize the incidental take of the gopher tortoise and red-cockaded woodpecker as a result of lawful activities on enrolled lands, as long as baseline conditions are maintained and terms of the Agreement are implemented. Future activities by the Applicant could return these species and habitat to baseline conditions.

We provide this notice pursuant to section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act and the implementing regulations for the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR 1506.6). We will evaluate the proposed Agreement, associated documents, and submitted public comments to determine whether the requirements of section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act and National Environmental Policy Act regulations are satisfied. Following the end of the 30-day public comment period, we will fully consider all comments received and make our final decision. If we determine that the requirements are met, we will issue an enhancement of survival permit under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act to the Applicant in accordance with the terms of the Agreement and specific terms and conditions of the authorizing permit.

Dated: July 3, 2003.

**J. Mitch King,**

*Acting Regional Director.*

[FR Doc. 03-18415 Filed 7-18-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-55-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Bureau of Land Management**

**[NM-030-1231-00]**

**Notice of Emergency Closure of Trails and Establishment of Visitor Restrictions for Acquired Land in Barr Canyon and Nichol's Canyon Special Recreation Management Areas, Las Cruces, NM**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Interior.

**ACTION:** Emergency closure of trails and establishment of visitor restrictions.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that effective immediately, the Las Cruces Field Office is implementing the following closure of existing vehicle trails to use by any motorized vehicles and equipment, and establishing visitor

restrictions. The closures and restrictions are implemented in order to prevent resource degradation and protect the natural resource values of Barr Canyon (also known as Soledad property), Dona Ana County, and Nichol's Canyon, Grant County, New Mexico. The authority for these emergency closures and restrictions is 43 CFR 8364.1, Closure and Restriction Orders. The following rules will apply to public land users unless authorized by written permit or for administrative use.

1. Public land in T. 23 S., R. 3 E., Section 13, Barr Canyon (also known as Soledad property), Dona Ana County NM, totaling 423 acres.

- Parking is limited to the designated parking areas only. The normal restriction against parking within 300 yards of a manmade water source is waived. Parking along the BLM portion of Soledad Canyon Road is prohibited.

- Vehicle use is limited to the designated roads and parking lot. Vehicle speeds shall not exceed 15 miles per hour.

- The trail system east of the parking lot is limited to non-motorized uses only.

- The Barr Canyon area (also known as Soledad property) is limited to day use only. The entrance gate will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

- Campfires, fireworks, and discharge of firearms are prohibited.

- Pets are allowed, but must be leashed and restrained at all times. Livestock must be controlled by bridles, halters, and lead ropes.

2. Public land in T. 19 S., R. 19 W., Section 18, Nichol's Canyon, Grant County, NM, totaling 360 acres.

- Vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails to protect threatened and endangered species habitat, riparian, and other wildlife and recreational values, as well as the wilderness values of the Gila Lower Box Wilderness Study Area.

- Vehicles will be limited to the main road from the northwest to the BLM barn, and to the main road from the south to the bench under the cottonwood trees. Vehicles will be prohibited from the floodplain of the Gila River.

**DATES:** This closure is effective on the day that this notice is published in the **Federal Register**, and shall remain in effect until rescinded or modified by the authorized officer.

**ADDRESSES:** BLM, Las Cruces Field Office, 1800 Marquess, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88005

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jim Talent, Recreation/Cultural Team