

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.*):

PRT-023232

Applicant: AZA Rhinoceros Taxon Advisory Group, c/o Buffalo Zoo, Buffalo, NY.

The applicant requests a permit to export blood samples from Indian Rhino (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) taken from captive held and captive born species being held in captivity in Canada and the United States. Samples are to be exported to University of Basel, Basel, Switzerland for scientific research purposes.

PRT-026630

Applicant: Duke University, Durham, NC.

The applicant requests a permit to import blood and tissue samples from Brown hyaena (*Hyaena brunnea*) taken from wild animals in Diamond Coast, Namibia. Samples are to be imported from Ministry of Environment & Tourism, Windhoek, Namibia for scientific research purposes.

PRT-027208

Applicant: Donald S. Usak, Roanoke, VA.

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-027256

Applicant: Baltimore Zoo, Baltimore, MD.

The applicant requests a permit to import 140 live Panamanian golden frogs (*Atelopus zeteki*) taken from the wild in Panama. The 140 is to consist of 20 pairs of adult specimens and 100 end-stage tadpoles. The import is for the purpose of enhancement of the propagation of the species.

PRT-025357

Applicant: Toledo Zoological Gardens, Toledo, OH.

The applicant requests a permit to import one captive-born male and one captive-born female African wild dog (*Lycaon pictus*) from the Hoedspruit Research and Breeding Centre, South

Africa, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species through propagation.

PRT-020925

Applicant: Susanne Shultz, State University of New York Stony Brook, NY.

The applicant requests a permit to import the prey remains of Diana monkey (*Cercopithecus diana*) and Jentink's duiker (*Cephalophus jentinki*) collected in the wild in Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast), for scientific research.

PRT-026842

Applicant: Chicago Zoological Park, Brookfield, IL.

The applicant requests a permit to export hair, blood, and tissue samples from one male captive born Goeldi's monkey (*Callimico goeldii*) to the Anthropologisches Institut der Universit t Z rich, Z rich, Switzerland, for scientific research.

PRT-017383

Applicant: Elizabeth N. Knowles, Jacksboro, TX.

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.

Marine Mammal

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).

PRT-027073

Applicant: John R. Kauffman, Pennsburg, PA

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.

PRT-027126

Applicant: Stephen C. Delano, Cold Spring, MN

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.

PRT-027135

Applicant: Donald R. Card, Grand Ledge, MI

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.

PRT-027207

Applicant: Peter M. Shaw, Foristell, MO

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.

PRT-027206

Applicant: Greg Wilkie, Lenoir, NC

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.

PRT-027205

Applicant: Edward D. Yates, Wrightsville, PA

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.

PRT-027204

Applicant: Darrell W. Hindman, St. Louis, MO

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.

PRT-027386

Applicant: Samuel A. Francis, Goshen, KY

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

PRT-027384

Applicant: Dyrk T. Eddie, Kalispell, MT

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.

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.

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: May 16, 2000.

Kristen Nelson,

Chief, Branch of Permits, Office of Management Authority.

[FR Doc. 00-12710 Filed 5-19-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Reinstatement, Record of Decision on the Final General Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Missouri National Recreational River (59-Mile District), Nebraska and South Dakota

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, and the regulations promulgated by the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR 1505.2), the National Park Service (NPS) is announcing the Record of Decision on the Final General Management Plan (GMP) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Missouri National Recreational River (MNRR), 59-Mile District. The MNRR is located in portions of Clay, Union, and Yankton counties, South Dakota and Cedar, Dixon, and Knox counties, Nebraska.

More specifically, the NPS is reinstating a Record of Decision previously suspended by the bureau. After the Record of Decision was originally signed, it was discovered that the FEIS was inadvertently not filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as required by 40 CFR 1506.9. Accordingly, the NPS suspended the Record of Decision (see 65 FR 10542), suspended implementation of the GMP, filed the FEIS with EPA, and reopened the required 30-day period of no-action.

DATES: The Regional Director, National Park Service, Midwest Region, and the District Engineer, Omaha District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers approved the

Record of Decision on December 17, 1999. That Record of Decision was reinstated effective April 10, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul Hedren, Superintendent, Missouri National Recreational River, P.O. Box 591, O'Neill, Nebraska 68763, or by e-mail to

MNRR_Superintendent@nps.gov, or call 402-336-3970.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The EPA published its notice of availability for the FEIS in the **Federal Register** on March 10, 2000 (65 FR 12992). The 30-day no-action period ended on April 10, 2000. No public comments were received during this period. Accordingly, the NPS has determined that no changes to the FEIS or the original Record of Decision are necessary. The Record of Decision as printed in the **Federal Register** on December 17, 1999 (64 FR 72359) is reinstated.

Dated: May 8, 2000.

David N. Given,

Acting Regional Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Niobrara National Scenic River

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Amended Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the General Management Plan, Niobrara National Scenic River, Nebraska.

SUMMARY: The National Park Service will prepare a General Management Plan (GMP) and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Niobrara National Scenic River (hereinafter, "the Park"), Nebraska, in accordance with section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), and a court decision invalidating a similar 1996 GMP/EIS and ordering a new one. This notice is being furnished as required by NEPA Regulation 40 CFR 1501.7, and serves to amend the Notice of Intent as published in the **Federal Register** on February 28, 2000 (65 FR 10542).

To facilitate sound planning and environmental assessment in the preparation of this EIS, the National Park Service intends to both validate information previously acquired for the 1996 GMP/EIS, and obtain suggestions and information from other agencies and the public on several court-driven issues to be addressed in the new EIS.

The National Park Service will scope this GMP/EIS via the media, a newsletter, and through a World Wide Web page. Comments and participation in this scoping process are invited.

DATES: A project newsletter is being prepared, which is expected to be ready by the end of May 2000. The newsletter will contain specific information about how to provide input to the scoping phase of this project. Availability of the newsletter will be announced through local and regional media outlets. The newsletter will be sent to all addressees of record in the planning of the park's 1996 GMP/EIS, and to others who request the newsletter. To request a copy of the newsletter and to be added to the project mailing list, contact the park superintendent at 402-336-3970 or by writing to one of the addresses below.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and information should be directed to Superintendent, Niobrara National Scenic River, P.O. Box 591, O'Neill, Nebraska 68763; or by email, niob_gmp@nps.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Superintendent, Niobrara National Scenic River, at either of the above addresses or at telephone number 402-336-3970.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Since the original notice of intent was published in February 2000, the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit overturned the boundaries for the Niobrara National Scenic Riverway which has been established as part of a 1996 General Management Plan (GMP) for the park. A federal district court had overturned that GMP and associated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in a separate ruling. However, the district court ruling had retained the section of the GMP pertaining to the park's boundary. Therefore, the original notice of intent for the current project implied that boundaries were not within the scope of issues that would be addressed in the forthcoming GMP/EIS rewrite. The decision of the Court of Appeals has expanded the scope to include the park boundary.

The broad array of issues identified in the 1996 GMP/EIS, including land ownership, landscape conservation, water resource protection, hunting, fishing, and trapping, and visitor education and protection appear valid but reaffirmation will be sought through scoping. Specific examples of other issues that will be addressed in the GMP are: (1) the extent and manner in which partnerships can and will be employed to achieve management objectives, (2)