

Applicant: Jeffrey C. Krahle, Wayzata, MN, PRT-149178.

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

Applicant: Jeremiah P. Burke, Saratoga Springs, NY, PRT-150501.

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

Dated: March 30, 2007.

Lisa J. Lierheimer,

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

[FR Doc. E7-7383 Filed 4-18-07; 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 endangered species and/or marine mammals.

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.*), and/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 No.	Applicant	Receipt of application Federal Register notice	Permit issuance date
134697	Milwaukee County Zoological Gardens	72 FR 2540; January 19, 2007	March 23, 2007.
134874	Wildlife Conservation Society	72 FR 2538; January 19, 2007	March 22, 2007.
134875	Zoological Society of San Diego/San Diego Zoo	72 FR 2539; January 19, 2007	March 19, 2007.
143976	James M. Morris	72 FR 8194; February 23, 2007	March 26, 2007.
144848	Dort S. Bigg	72 FR 8006; February 22, 2007	March 26, 2007.

ENDANGERED MARINE MAMMALS AND MARINE MAMMALS

Permit No.	Applicant	Receipt of application Federal Register notice	Permit issuance date
113725	Mark Clementz, University of Wyoming	71 FR 10701; March 2, 2006	March 27, 2007.

Dated: March 30, 2007.

Lisa J. Lierheimer,

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

[FR Doc. E7-7384 Filed 4-18-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Availability of the Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment for Catahoula National Wildlife Refuge

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The Fish and Wildlife Service announces that a Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment (Draft CCP/EA) for Catahoula National Wildlife Refuge is

available for distribution. The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, requires the Service to develop a comprehensive conservation plan for each national wildlife refuge. This Draft CCP, when final, will describe how the Service intends to manage Catahoula National Wildlife Refuge over the next 15 years.

DATES: Written comments must be received at the postal address listed below no later than May 21, 2007.

ADDRESSES: To provide written comments or to obtain a copy of the Draft CCP/EA, please write to: Central Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex, 401 Island Road, Marksville, Louisiana 71351; or telephone: 318/253-4238. The Draft CCP/EA may also be accessed and downloaded from the Service's Internet Site: <http://southeast.fws.gov/planning/>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: All comments received become part of the official public record. Requests for such comments will be handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act and other Service and Departmental policies and procedures.

Catahoula National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1958 primarily as a wintering area for migratory waterfowl. The refuge, located in east-central LaSalle Parish, and west-central Catahoula Parish, Louisiana, about 30 miles northeast of Alexandria, and 12 miles east of Jena, now totals 25,242 acres. The 6,671-acre Headquarters Unit borders nine miles of the northeast shore of Catahoula Lake, a 26,000-acre natural wetland renowned for its large concentrations of migratory waterfowl. The 18,571-acre Bushley Bayou Unit, located eight miles west of Jonesville, was established in May 2001. The acquisition was made possible through a partnership agreement between The

Conservation Fund, American Electric Power, and the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Significant issues addressed in the Draft CCP/EA include: Waterfowl management, bottomland hardwood reforestation and management, refuge access, land acquisition, visitor services (i.e., hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, wildlife photography, and environmental education and interpretation), cultural resources, and minor boundary expansion. The Service developed three alternatives for management of the refuge (alternatives A, B, and C), with Alternative B as the proposed alternative.

Alternative A represents no change from current management of the refuge. Under this alternative, existing refuge management practices and uses would continue. All management actions would be directed towards achieving the refuge's primary purposes, which include: (1) To provide migrating and wintering habitat for migratory waterfowl consistent with the overall objectives of the Mississippi Flyway; (2) to provide nesting habitat for wood ducks; (3) to provide habitat and protection for threatened and endangered species; and (4) to manage bottomland hardwoods and provide habitat for a natural wildlife diversity. Management programs would continue to be developed and implemented with limited baseline biological information. Active wetland management would be implemented by continuing water level manipulations for moist soil. Grassland and forest management actions are designed to provide diversified foraging, resting, and breeding habitat for a variety of species and would be implemented only when resources are available. Land would be acquired from willing sellers within the current 28,254-acre acquisition boundary. Oil and gas operations would continue under current special use permits, with little opportunity to prevent potential risks of spills. There would be no water quality surveys or pollution prevention measures for improving or providing increased protection of refuge lands and water. Hunting and fishing would continue to be the major focus of the public use program, with no expansion of current opportunities.

Alternative B, the proposed alternative, is considered to be the most effective management action for meeting the purposes of the refuge by adding more staff, equipment, and facilities in order to provide greater enhancement and management of habitats and associated plant communities for the greater benefit of wildlife. Extensive wildlife and plant census and inventory

activities would be initiated to obtain the biological information needed to implement management programs on the refuge. The refuge would improve migratory waterfowl habitat, the wood duck nest box program, habitat to support breeding pairs of wading birds, and migration habitat for southbound and northbound shorebirds. Habitat management activities would focus on providing healthy bottomland hardwood forests, moist-soil units, and grasslands needed to achieve wildlife population objectives. Forested habitat would be managed to establish a multi-layered canopy that promotes and maintains structural and plant species diversity and ultimately supports key species of migratory and resident species. To improve habitat for grassland birds, the refuge would work with the Natural Resources Conservation Service to replant the 95-acre Willow Lake area with native warm-season grasses. The refuge would inventory and more aggressively monitor, control, and, where possible, eliminate invasive plants. An archaeological survey to identify potential cultural resources would help in planning for land protection.

The refuge would work closely with partners to acquire or exchange lands with willing in-holding landowners and to expand the current acquisition boundary by 2,824 acres in order to improve access for refuge staff and the public. The refuge would continue to identify and eliminate potential spill risks from oil and gas activities, to continue the refuge special use permit system, and to provide monitoring for first alert in spill events.

Hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, wildlife photography, and environmental education and interpretation opportunities would be improved. Youth hunts, handicap-accessible blinds, improved access for bank fishing, replacement of the observation tower and an additional tower, and supporting environmental-based curricula in the local schools are some of the improvements planned under Alternative B. In addition, the current office facility would be expanded to accommodate an environmental education display and an interpretive display. Additional staff would include a biologist, forester, park ranger (law enforcement), engineering equipment operator, maintenance worker, assistant refuge manager, and park ranger (interpretive) to accomplish objectives for establishing baseline data on refuge resources, for managing habitats, and for adequate protection of wildlife and visitors.

Alternative C would maximize endemic bottomland hardwood forest with minimal management. Under this alternative, there would be no active management of refuge resources. Grasslands would be left fallow and moist-soil units would not be actively managed. Bottomland hardwood forests would be left to mature with no active management. Wood duck nest boxes would be left in place and banding quotas would not typically be met. There would be no active management of marshbird, long-legged wader, shorebird, or forest breeding bird habitat. The refuge would continue to support bald eagle management guidelines when nests are encountered. The refuge would continue to attempt to acquire land from willing sellers within the current 28,254-acre acquisition boundary, but would plan no additional active management for these lands. Oil and gas operations would continue under current special use permits, with little opportunity to prevent potential risks of spills. There would be no water quality surveys or pollution prevention measures for improving or providing increased protection of refuge lands and water. An archaeological survey to determine if there are any cultural resources present would be used in planning for land protection.

A limited amount of deer, duck, and small game hunting would continue and the refuge would maintain current recreational fishing. The current facilities for wildlife observation and photography, such as the observation tower, nature trails, and wildlife drive pull-offs, would be maintained and enhanced. Environmental education and interpretation requests would be increased and would be accommodated with the addition of a park ranger (interpretive). Enforcement of refuge regulations and protection of wildlife and visitors would continue at current levels.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tina Chouinard, Planning Team Leader, Central Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex, Telephone: 318/253-4238; Fax: 318/253-7139; e-mail: tina_chouinard@fws.gov; or by writing to the address in the **ADDRESSES** section.

Authority: This notice is published under the authority of the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, Pub. L. 105-57.

Dated: December 19, 2006.

Cynthia K. Dohner,

Acting Regional Director.

Editorial Note: This document was received at the Office of the Federal Register on April 16, 2007.

[FR Doc. E7-7432 Filed 4-18-07; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CA 660-07-5101-ER]

Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) for the Proposed Mountain View IV Wind Energy Project

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Availability.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA, 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA, 43 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), together with the City of Palm Springs, has prepared a Draft EIS/EIR for the Mountain View IV Wind Energy Project and by this notice is announcing the opening of the comment period. The BLM is the lead Federal agency for the preparation of this EIS in compliance with the requirements of NEPA. The City of Palm Springs is the lead agency for the State of California for the preparation of this EIR in compliance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

DATES: To assure that they will be considered, BLM must receive written comments on the Draft EIS/EIR within 45 days following the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes their Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**. The BLM will announce future meetings or hearings and any other public involvement activities at least 15 days in advance through public notices, media news releases, and/or mailings.

Documents pertinent to this proposal will be available for public review at the BLM Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office located at 690 W. Garnet Avenue, North Palm Springs, California, during regular business hours of 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may be published as part of the EIS/EIR. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying

information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- **Web Site:** <http://www.blm.gov/ca/palmsprings>.
- **E-mail:** Greg_Hill@ca.blm.gov.
- **Fax:** (760) 251-4899.
- **Mail:** Bureau of Land Management, Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office, 690 W. Garnet Ave., P.O. Box 581260, North Palm Springs, CA 92258.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information contact Greg Hill, Bureau of Land Management, Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office, (760) 251-4840, or by e-mail at Greg_Hill@ca.blm.gov. A copy of the Draft EIS/EIR for the Proposed Mountain View IV Wind Energy Project is available for review at the BLM Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office at the above address, and at the Palm Springs Public Library located at 300 South Sunrise Way, Palm Springs, CA 92262. Copies are also available via the Internet at <http://www.blm.gov/ca/palmsprings>. Electronic (on CD-ROM) or paper copies may also be obtained by contacting Greg Hill at the aforementioned addresses and phone number.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Mountain View Power Partners IV, LLC has applied for a right-of-way on public lands and a conditional use permit on private lands to construct a wind energy generating facility in the Coachella Valley, in Riverside County. The project site is west of Indian Avenue and is within the corporate boundary of the City of Palm Springs and within the planning area for the draft Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan. Operations are expected to last approximately 30 years. The proposed project would install a total of approximately 42 to 50 wind turbines on public and private lands, with a total generating capacity of approximately 49 megawatts. Related structures would include access roads, a 34.5-kV powerline and an electrical substation. If approved, the wind energy generating facility on public lands would be authorized in accordance with Title V of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (USC) and the Federal regulations at 43 CFR part 2800.

The proposed project would take approximately 7 months to construct.

A Notice of Intent (NOI) to Prepare an EIS/EIR was published in the **Federal Register** on June 5, 2006; this NOI invited comments on issues which may have been relevant to preparation of the document. A public scoping meeting was held on June 27, 2006 at the Desert Highland Community Center, in the City of Palm Springs with notice of the meeting published in the Desert Sun newspaper. The meeting was held to help assist in identifying the range of actions, alternatives, mitigation measures, and significant effects to be analyzed in the EIS/EIR.

Dated: February 21, 2007.

John Kalish,

Acting Field Manager, Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office.

Editorial Note: This document was received at the Office of the Federal Register on April 16, 2007.

[FR Doc. E7-7427 Filed 4-18-07; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CO-200-0777-XZ-241A]

Notice of Meeting, Front Range Resource Advisory Council (Colorado)

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Public Meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Front Range Resource Advisory Council (RAC), will meet as indicated below.

DATES: The meeting will be held May 23, 2007 from 9:15 a.m. to 4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Holy Cross Abbey Community Center, 2951 E. Highway 50, Canon City, Colorado 81212.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ken Smith, (719) 269-8500.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The 15 member Council advises the Secretary of the Interior, through the Bureau of Land Management, on a variety of planning and management issues associated with public land management in the Royal Gorge Field Office and San Luis Valley, Colorado. Planned agenda topics include: Manager updates on current land management Plan and a briefing on the Ford Creek Project. All meetings are open to the