III. Permit Applications

A. Endangered Species

Applicant: Ruth Linsky, Ellensburg, WA; PRT–15011C

The applicant requests a permit to import saliva samples obtained noninvasively from wild Bornean orangutans (Pongo pygmaeus) within Cape Leaky, Tanjung Puting National Park for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species through scientific research.

Applicant: Alex Cisneros, Graham, TX; PRT–07645C

The applicant requests a permit to import a shoulder mount and skin of a cape mountain zebra (Equus zebra) for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

Applicant: Ronald Price, Mesa, AZ; PRT–16709C

The applicant requests a permit to collect skin, scute, and blood samples from hawksbill sea turtles (Eretmochelys imbricata) for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

Applicant: John Watson, Richardson, TX; PRT–11484C

B. Wild Bird Conservation Act

Applicant: Joyce Russell, Government Information Specialist, Branch ofPermits, Division of Management Authority.

V. Authority

The public is invited to comment on the following applications for approval to conduct certain activities with bird species covered under the Wild Bird Conservation Act of 1992 (16 U.S.C. 4901–4916). This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

Applicant: Jack Phillips, Gladewater, TX; PRT–195823

The applicant requests a permit to renew his application for red lechwe (Kobus leche), for the enhancement of the survival of the species.

Applicant: Turtle Back Zoo, West Orange, NJ; PRT–09742C

The applicant requests a permit to import one female captive-bred amur leopard (Panthera pardus orientalis) from the Parken Zoo, Sweden, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

Applicant: Jude Lagarde, Baton Rouge, LA; PRT–04151C

The applicant requests a captive-bred wildlife registration under 50 CFR 17.21(g) for the Great green macaw (Ara ambiguus), to enhance species propagation or survival. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

Applicant: Dr. Frank Paladino, Indiana-Purdue University Fort Wayne, IN; PRT–06369C

The applicant requests a permit to import biological samples obtained noninvasively from wild Bornean orangutans (Pongo pygmaeus) within Cape Leaky, Tanjung Puting National Park for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species through scientific research.

IV. Public Comments

You may submit your comments and materials concerning this notice by one of the methods listed in ADDRESSES. We will not consider comments sent by email or fax to an address not listed in ADDRESSES.

If you submit a comment via http://www.regulations.gov, your entire comment, including any personal identifying information, will be posted on the Web site. If you submit a hardcopy comment that includes personal identifying information, you may request at the top of your document that we withhold this information from public review. However, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

We will post all hardcopy comments on http://www.regulations.gov.

B. Multiple Applicants

The following applications each request a permit to conduct certain activities with bird species covered under the Wild Bird Conservation Act of 1992 (16 U.S.C. 4901–4916). This notice is provided pursuant to section 112(4) of the Wild Bird Conservation Act of 1992 (50 CFR 15.26(c)).

Applicant: Alex Cisneros, Graham, TX; PRT–07645C

The applicant requests a permit to import biological samples obtained noninvasively from wild Bornean orangutans (Pongo pygmaeus) within Cape Leaky, Tanjung Puting National Park for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

Applicant: Alex Cisneros, Graham, TX; PRT–07645C

The applicant requests a permit to import biological samples obtained noninvasively from wild Bornean orangutans (Pongo pygmaeus) within Cape Leaky, Tanjung Puting National Park for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

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The applicant requests a permit to import biological samples obtained noninvasively from wild Bornean orangutans (Pongo pygmaeus) within Cape Leaky, Tanjung Puting National Park for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.
the effects of lease modifications that are part of the proposed project. This notice announces the beginning of the scoping process to solicit public comments and identify issues to be addressed in the EIS.

DATES: This notice initiates the public scoping process for the EIS. Comments on issues may be submitted in writing until April 21, 2017. The date(s) and location(s) of any scoping meetings will be announced at least 15 days in advance through local media, newspapers, and the BLM Web site at: http://bit.ly/2eoKYV8. In order to be addressed in the Draft EIS, all comments must be received prior to the close of the 30-day scoping period or 15 days after the last public meeting, whichever is later. We will provide additional opportunities for public participation upon publication of the Draft EIS.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments related to the Caldwell Canyon Mine Project by any of the following methods:

- Email: blm_id_caldwell_canyon_mine_eis@blm.gov.
- Fax: 208–478–6376.
- Mail: Caldwell Canyon Mine EIS, C/O Tetra Tech, 2525 Palmer Street, Suite 2, Missoula, MT 59808.

Instructions pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the Pocatello Field Office.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David Alderman, BLM Pocatello Field Office, telephone (208) 478–6369; address 4350 Cliffs Drive, Pocatello, Idaho 83204; dalderman@blm.gov. Information is also available at the BLM’s Web site at http://bit.ly/2eoKYV8. Persons who use a telecommunication device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1–800–877–8339 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. The FRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: P4 Production, LLC (P4), a subsidiary of Monsanto Company, has developed and submitted a mine and reclamation plan (MRP) for the Caldwell Canyon Phosphate Mine. The proposed mine is located along Schmid Ridge, approximately 13 air miles northeast of Soda Springs, Idaho. The BLM will serve as the lead agency for conducting the necessary environmental analysis. The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, Idaho Department of Lands, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will be cooperating agencies. Although a small amount of U.S. Forest Service (USFS) surface land is within the proposed project area, the USFS will not participate as a cooperating agency. The affected USFS lands are located on BLM-administered phosphate leases owned by Agrium, Inc. (Agrium) and managed as part of the Dry Valley Mine. Dry Valley Mine has been mined and fully reclaimed per the existing MRP for that project.

The proposed action includes a haul road across the reclaimed surface of the Dry Valley Mine and the partial filling of the open Panel D pit with waste rock from Caldwell Canyon. A modification of the Dry Valley MRP to allow construction of the haul road and backfilling of the Dry Valley D Pit is necessary and will be evaluated as part of this EIS. No USFS special use permits or other decisions are needed to permit the project. The USFS will be routinely consulted regarding the project aspects affecting USFS lands.

Operations at Caldwell Canyon would consist of open pit mining on the Federal Phosphate Leases IDI–02, IDI–014080, and IDI–13738. The mine would also include State of Idaho Mineral Lease E07959. P4 is requesting modifications to phosphate lease boundaries for each of these leases. All of the proposed lease modifications contain part of the proposed mine pit and are necessary to maximize ore recovery. Issuing these lease modifications is a discretionary decision that will be analyzed in the EIS. New mining operations at the Caldwell Canyon Mine would occur on Federal phosphate leases and public lands administered by the BLM, on National Forest System lands administered by the USFS, on a State of Idaho phosphate lease and state lands administered by Idaho Department of Lands (IDL), and on private lands. The public lands lie in the BLM Pocatello Field Office. The leases grant exclusive rights to the leaseholder to mine and otherwise dispose of the phosphate resource at the sites. Through development of this EIS, the BLM will analyze environmental impacts of the proposed mining and reclamation operations and reasonable alternatives to the proposed action.

Appropriate mitigation measures will also be formulated by the BLM in conjunction with the proponent.

Agency Decisions

The BLM Idaho State Director, or delegated official, will make a decision regarding approval of the MRP and appropriate mitigation measures, the proposed Federal phosphate lease modifications and other appropriate land use authorizations for activities that take place off leased lands. Decisions will be based on BLM’s authority, the EIS analysis, and any recommendations the cooperating agencies may have related to their jurisdiction, expertise, or permitting actions.

The proposed action has been reviewed for consistency with the 2012 Pocatello Field Office Resource Management Plan and, at this time, the project is generally consistent with the management direction in the Resource Management Plan. It is unlikely that any amendments to the Resource Management Plan will be needed.

The IDL will make an independent decision on approving a mine plan for state lease EO7959. IDL is a cooperating agency for the EIS and will consider the BLM’s EIS in its decision making.

The Army Corps of Engineers may also make decisions related to permits under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Background

The MRP for Caldwell Canyon includes development of two open mine pits: North Pit and South Pit. Mining operations would be conducted over an estimated 40-year period using a pit panel mining method. Mining would be initiated in the mid-point of the South Pit and proceed southward. Approximately six million tons of initial overburden materials would be hauled to the inactive Dry Valley Mine Panel D and placed as backfill. All other overburden generated from each new panel would be used to backfill a previously mined panel. Once mining reaches the south end of the South Pit, mining would resume at the mid-point of the South Pit and proceed northward in the same fashion.

Ore would be transported via a two-mile-long haul road linking the mine pit areas to an ore stockpile located off-lease at the East Caldwell Area. The haul road is mostly on lease or on private land but a small section is off lease on BLM land and will require a right of way. The ore stockpile would be located adjacent to an ore loadout facility, which would be used to load ore onto a train for rail transport by existing rail line to P4’s processing plant at Soda Springs. The proposed stockpile and ore loadout site was previously used by Agrium during active mining operations at the Dry Valley Mine. Selected materials generated from development of the initial pit panel would be used for the construction of haul roads. Once P4 has hauled the initial overburden to the Dry Valley Pit
Mining operations at Caldwell Canyon Mine are invited to participate in the scoping process. Agencies with regulatory authority or special expertise, if eligible, may request or be requested by the BLM to participate in the development of the environmental analysis as a cooperating agency.

Before including your address, phone number, email 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.

Authority: 40 CFR 1501.7.

Mary D’Aversa,
District Manager, BLM Idaho Falls District.

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