

Canada, for the purpose of enhancing the propagation or survival of the species. This notification covers a single export conducted by the applicant.

Applicant: Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo & Aquarium, Omaha, NE; PRT-15139C

The applicant requests a permit to import biological samples collected from live, wild animals of the various genera: Allocebus, Avahi, Cheirogaleus, Daubentonia, Eulemur, Hapalemur, Indri, Lemur, Lepilemur, Microcebus, Mirza, Phaner, Prolemur, Propithecus, and Varecia, for the purposes of scientific research. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

Applicant: Jack Phillips, Gladewater, TX; PRT-67438A

The applicant requests a renewal permit to cull red lechwe (*Kobus lechwe*) for the purpose of enhancing the propagation and survival of the species. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

Museum Applicant

Applicant: American Museum of Natural History, New York, NY; PRT-761887

The applicant requests a renewal permit to export and reimport nonliving museum specimens of endangered and threatened species previously accessioned into the applicant's collection for scientific research. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

Trophy Applicant

Applicant: David A. Gitilitz, Aspen, CO; PRT-40731C

The applicant requests a permit to import a sport-hunted trophy of a male bontebok (*Damaliscus pygargus pygargus*) culled from a captive herd maintained under the management program of the Republic of South Africa, for the purpose of enhancing the propagation or survival of the species. This notification covers a single import conducted by the applicant.

IV. Next Steps

If the Service decides to issue permits to any of the applicants listed in this notice, we will publish a notice in the **Federal Register**. You may locate the **Federal Register** notice announcing the permit issuance date by searching *regulations.gov* under the permit number listed in this document.

V. 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 or to an address not listed in **ADDRESSES**.

If you submit a comment via *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 *regulations.gov*.

VI. Authority

The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Joyce Russell,

Government Information Specialist, Branch of Permits, Division of Management Authority.

[FR Doc. 2017-21977 Filed 10-11-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4333-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R8-ES-2017-N121;
FXES1113080000-178-FF08EVEN00]

Receipt of Application for Incidental Take Permit; Draft Low-Effect Habitat Conservation Plan for the California Tiger Salamander; La Purisima Golf Course Solar Array Project, Santa Barbara County, California

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), have received an application from Protek Investments, LLC for an incidental take permit under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. The permit would authorize take of the federally endangered California tiger salamander (Santa Barbara distinct population segment), incidental to otherwise lawful activities associated with the La Purisima Golf Course Solar Array Project draft low-effect habitat conservation plan. We invite public comment.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before November 13, 2017.

ADDRESSES: *To obtain documents:* You may download a copy of the draft habitat conservation plan and draft low-

effect screening form and environmental action statement at <http://www.fws.gov/ventura/>, or you may request copies of the documents by sending U.S. mail to our Ventura office, or by phone (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

To submit written comments: Please send us your written comments using one of the following methods:

- *U.S. mail:* Send your comments to: Stephen P. Henry, Field Supervisor, Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2493 Portola Road, Suite B, Ventura, CA 93003.
- *Facsimile:* Fax your comments to 805-644-3958.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Rachel Henry, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, 805-677-3312 (phone), or at the Ventura address in **ADDRESSES**.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: We have received an application from Protek Investments, LLC (applicant) for an incidental take permit under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*; ESA). The applicant has agreed to follow all of the conditions in the draft habitat conservation plan for the project. The permit would authorize take of the Santa Barbara distinct population segment of the federally endangered California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*) incidental to otherwise lawful activities associated with the draft La Purisima Golf Course Solar Array Project Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). We invite public comment on the application, the draft HCP, draft low-effect screening form, and environmental action statement.

Background

The Santa Barbara distinct population segment (DPS) of the California tiger salamander was listed by the Service as endangered on September 21, 2000 (65 FR 57242). Section 9 of the ESA and its implementing regulations prohibit the "take" of fish or wildlife species listed as endangered or threatened. "Take" is defined under the ESA to include the following activities: "[T]o harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct" (16 U.S.C. 1532); however, under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA, we may issue permits to authorize incidental take of listed species. "Incidental take" is defined by the ESA as take that is incidental to, and not the purpose of, carrying out of an otherwise lawful activity. Regulations governing incidental take permits for threatened and endangered species are in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 50 CFR 17.32 and 17.22, respectively. Under the

ESA, protections for federally listed plants differ from the protections afforded to federally listed animals. Issuance of an incidental take permit also must not jeopardize the existence of federally listed fish, wildlife, or plant species. All species included in the incidental take permit would receive assurances under our “No Surprises” regulations (50 CFR 17.22(b)(5) and 17.32(b)(5)).

Applicant's Proposed Activities

The applicant has applied for a permit for incidental take of the California tiger salamander. The potential take will occur in association with activities necessary for the implementation of the installation of a 3 acre solar array project. The site includes suitable upland habitat for the California tiger salamander. The HCP includes avoidance and minimization measures for the covered species. As mitigation for unavoidable loss of occupied upland habitat the applicant is supporting recovery goals for the California tiger salamander by facilitating and funding survey work to detect the presence of invasive barred tiger salamanders in the area.

Our Preliminary Determination

The Service has made a preliminary determination that issuance of the incidental take permit is neither a major Federal action that will significantly affect the quality of the human environment within the meaning of section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*; NEPA), nor will it individually or cumulatively have more than a negligible effect on the species covered in the HCP. Therefore, the permit qualifies for a categorical exclusion under NEPA.

Public Comments

If you wish to comment on the permit application, draft HCP, and associated documents, you may submit comments by one of the methods in **ADDRESSES**.

Public Availability of Comments

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 view, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Authority

We provide this notice under section 10 of the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

Dated: October 4, 2017.

Stephen P. Henry,

Field Supervisor, Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office, Ventura, California.

[FR Doc. 2017-22092 Filed 10-11-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4333-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R8-ES-2017-N134;
FXES11130800000-178-FF08EVEN00]

Receipt of Application for Incidental Take Permit; Draft Low-Effect Habitat Conservation Plan for the California Tiger Salamander; Rice Ranch Development Project, Santa Barbara County, California

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), have received an application from John Scardino of Highlands at Double R, LLC for an incidental take permit under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. The permit would authorize take of the federally endangered California tiger salamander (Santa Barbara distinct population segment), incidental to otherwise lawful activities associated with the Rice Ranch Development Project draft low-effect habitat conservation plan. We invite public comment.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before November 13, 2017.

ADDRESSES: *To obtain documents:* You may download a copy of the draft habitat conservation plan and draft low-effect screening form and environmental action statement at <http://www.fws.gov/ventura/>, or you may request copies of the documents by sending U.S. mail to our Ventura office, or by phone (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

To submit written comments: Please send us your written comments using one of the following methods:

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Rachel Henry, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, 805-677-3312 (phone), or at the Ventura address in **ADDRESSES**.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: We have received an application from John Scardino of Highlands at Double R, LLC (applicant) for an incidental take permit under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*; ESA). The applicant has agreed to follow all of the conditions in the draft habitat conservation plan for the project. The permit would authorize take of the Santa Barbara distinct population segment of the federally endangered California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*) incidental to otherwise lawful activities associated with the draft Rice Ranch Development Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). We invite public comment on the application, the draft HCP, draft low-effect screening form, and environmental action statement.

Background

The Santa Barbara distinct population segment (DPS) of the California tiger salamander was listed by the Service as endangered on September 21, 2000 (65 FR 57242). Section 9 of the ESA and its implementing regulations prohibit the “take” of fish or wildlife species listed as endangered or threatened. “Take” is defined under the ESA to include the following activities: “[T]o harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct” (16 U.S.C. 1532); however, under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA, we may issue permits to authorize incidental take of listed species. “Incidental take” is defined by the ESA as take that is incidental to, and not the purpose of, carrying out of an otherwise lawful activity. Regulations governing incidental take permits for threatened and endangered species are in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 50 CFR 17.32 and 17.22, respectively. Under the ESA, protections for federally listed plants differ from the protections afforded to federally listed animals. Issuance of an incidental take permit also must not jeopardize the existence of federally listed fish, wildlife, or plant species. The permittee would receive assurances under our “No Surprises” regulations (50 CFR 17.22(b)(5) and 17.32(b)(5)) regarding conservation activities for the California tiger salamander.

Applicant's Proposed Activities

The applicant has applied for a permit for incidental take of the California tiger salamander. The potential take will