



Billing Code 4333–15

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[Docket No. FWS–HQ–IA–2018–0011; FXIA1671090000–178–FF09A30000]

Foreign Endangered Species; Receipt of Permit Applications

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of permit applications.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, invite the public to comment on applications to conduct certain activities with foreign endangered species. With some exceptions, the Endangered Species Act (ESA) prohibits activities with listed species unless Federal authorization is acquired that allows such activities. The ESA also requires that we invite public comment before issuing these permits.

DATES: We must receive comments by **[INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*]**.

ADDRESSES: *Document availability:* The applications, as well as any comments and other materials that we receive, will be available for public inspection online in Docket No. FWS–HQ–IA–2018–0011 at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

Submitting Comments: You may submit comments by one of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments on Docket No. FWS–HQ–IA–2018–0011.
- *U.S. mail or hand-delivery:* Public Comments Processing, Attn: Docket No. FWS–HQ–IA–2018–0011 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Headquarters, MS:

BPHC; 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041–3803.

When submitting comments, please indicate the name of the applicant and the PRT# at the beginning of your comment. We will post all comments on <http://www.regulations.gov>. This generally means that we will post any personal information you provide us (see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for more information).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brenda Tapia, (703) 358-2104 (telephone); DMAFR@fws.gov (email).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Public Comment Procedures

A. How Do I Comment on Submitted Applications?

You may submit your comments and materials by one of the methods listed above under *Submitting Comments* in **ADDRESSES**. We will not consider comments sent by email or fax, or to an address not in **ADDRESSES**.

Please make your requests or comments as specific as possible, confine your comments to issues for which we seek comments in this notice, and explain the basis for your comments. Include sufficient information with your comments to allow us to authenticate any scientific or commercial data you include.

The comments and recommendations that will be most useful and likely to influence agency decisions are: (1) Those supported by quantitative information or studies; and (2) those that include citations to, and analyses of, the applicable laws and regulations. We will not consider or include in our administrative record comments we

receive after the close of the comment period (see **DATES**) or comments delivered to an address other than those listed above in **ADDRESSES**.

B. May I Review Comments Submitted by Others?

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the street address listed under **ADDRESSES**. The public may review documents and other information applicants have sent in support of the application unless our allowing viewing would violate the Privacy Act or Freedom of Information Act.

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.

C. Who will See My Comments?

If you submit a comment via <http://www.regulations.gov>, your entire comment, including any personal identifying information, will be posted on the website. If you submit a hardcopy comment that includes personal identifying information, such as your address, phone number, or email address, 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.

II. Background

To help us carry out our conservation responsibilities for affected species, and in consideration of section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended

(ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531et seq.) , we invite public comment on these permit applications before final action is taken.

III. Permit Applications

We invite the public to comment on applications to conduct certain activities with endangered species. With some exceptions, the ESA prohibits activities with listed species unless Federal authorization is acquired that allows such activities.

Applicant: San Diego Zoo Global, San Diego, CA; PRT-72882C (Previously PRT-778487)

The applicant requests renewal of their permit for scientific research with wild and captive-born giant pandas currently held under loan agreement with the Government of China under the provisions of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Panda Policy. The proposed research will cover all aspects of behavior, reproductive physiology, genetics, nutrition, and animal health and is a continuation of activities currently in progress. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

Applicant: Saint Louis Zoo, Saint Louis, MO; PRT-42604C

The applicant requests a permit to import biological samples from African wild dog (*Lycaon pictus*) from Painted Dog Research Trust in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, for scientific research purposes. This notification is for a single import.

Applicant: Center for Conservation of Tropical Ungulates, Punta Gorda, FL; PRT-018969

The applicant requests a captive-bred wildlife registration under 50 CFR 17.21(g) for the following species to enhance species propagation or survival: North Sulawesi babirusa (*Babyrousa celebensis*), lowland anoa (*Bubalus depressicornis*), Javan banteng (*Bos*

javanicus), lowland tapir (*Tapirus terrestris*), Malayan tapir (*Tapirus indicus*), greater one-horned rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*), and black rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis*).

This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

Applicant: Dub Wallace Ranch LLC, Sonora, TX; PRT-63016C

The applicant requests a permit authorizing interstate and foreign commerce, export, and cull of excess Arabian oryx (*Oryx leucoryx*) from a captive herd maintained at their facility, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

Applicant: H & L Sales, Inc., Hunt, TX; PRT-704025

The applicant requests a permit authorizing interstate and foreign commerce, export, and cull of excess Arabian oryx (*Oryx leucoryx*) and barasingha (*Rucervus duvauceli*) from captive herd maintained at their facility, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

Applicant: Dub Wallace Ranch LLC, Sonora, TX; PRT-62275C

The applicant requests a captive-bred wildlife registration under 50 CFR 17.21(g) for Arabian oryx (*Oryx leucoryx*) to enhance species propagation or survival. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

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 <http://www.regulations.gov> under the application number listed in this document (e.g., **PRT-12345X**).

V. Authority

Endangered Species Act of 1973 as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

Brenda Tapia,
Program Analyst/Data Administrator,
Branch of Permits, Division of Management Authority.
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