

rap used to stabilize the drainage. Drainage instability has resulted in past flood damage to riparian vegetation, which has been exacerbated by cattle grazing leading to sparse vegetation in most areas. The proposed action proposes to stabilize the drainage and repair this past damage through extensive planting and reseedling. Remaining disturbance to Preble's habitat on Struthers Ranch would be confined to upland grassy areas. The remaining 16.4 hectares (40.3 acres) of Struthers Ranch not proposed for construction will remain undeveloped. Of the total amount of impacted acreage, 0.5 hectare (1.1 acres) will be temporarily disturbed.

Alternatives considered in addition to the Proposed Action, included waiting for the approval of the El Paso County Regional HCP, an increased impact alternative, and no action. The draft EA analyzes the onsite, off-site, and cumulative impacts of the proposed project and all associated development and construction activities and mitigation activities on the Preble's, other threatened or endangered species, vegetation, wildlife, wetlands, geology/soils, land use, water resources, air and water quality, or cultural resources.

An HCP has been developed as part of the preferred alternative which is proposed to offset impacts associated with construction of Preble's habitat. The proposed HCP will allow for the incidental take of the Preble's by permitting residential and commercial development to be constructed in an area that may be periodically used as foraging or hibernation habitat. The proposed action has been designed to minimize impacts to the riparian vegetation along Black Forest Creek and limits development to the highest elevations on the parcel. This will facilitate development on the property while minimizing, to the greatest extent practicable, impacts to Preble's habitat and waters of the United States. In addition, the proposed action includes extensive onsite conservation measures, as described in section 6.0 (HCP), to repair damage from current cattle grazing practices, poor watershed management upstream, and the heavy flood events. This will result in an overall improvement in the stability of the drainage, which will, in turn,

improve vegetation quality and diversity within the onsite Preble's habitat.

Onsite mitigation is planned for approximately 14.4 hectares (35.5 acres) with varying amounts of restoration, enhancement, and creation of onsite Preble's habitat as described in the HCP (see section 6.0). This results in a mitigation ratio of 2.168:1 for temporary impacts as well as permanent impacts. The mitigation will likely provide a net benefit to the Preble's and other wildlife by improving and creating new riparian areas, planting of native shrubs and grasses, and protecting existing habitat along Black Forest Creek from any future development.

To mitigate impacts that may result from incidental take, the HCP provides mitigation for the residential and commercial site by protection of the Black Forest Creek corridor onsite and its associated riparian areas from all future development. Of the 14.4 hectares (35.5 acres) of mitigation area, restoration and enhancement will occur on 8 hectares (20 acres) of upland areas and restoration will occur on 2 hectares (5 acres) of riparian areas. Restoration and enhancement will be achieved through planting and seeding of native woody, herbaceous, and grassy species, and a combination of removing grazing pressures and noxious weed control. Additionally, limited enhancement will occur on 3.3 hectares (8.1 acres) of uplands. Limited enhancement will consist of weed control and the removal of grazing to encourage existing native grass recovery. No seeding or planting will occur in these areas. Habitat creation will occur on an additional 1 hectare (2.5 acres) including an area proposed for a detention pond in the southwest corner of the property located outside of Preble's habitat and within a Preble's habitat buffer area currently occupied by ranch house outbuildings. Measures will be taken during construction to minimize impact to the habitat, including the use of silt fencing to reduce the amount of sediment from construction activities that reaches the creek. All of the proposed mitigation area is within the boundaries of the Struthers Ranch property, all of which is included in the drainage basin of Black Forest Creek.

The 14.4 hectares (35.5 acres) of undeveloped land along Black Forest Creek will be maintained as a preservation area with extensive

conservation measures to restore and enhance vegetation for local wildlife use.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the ESA. We will evaluate the permit application, the EA/HCP, and comments submitted therein to determine whether the application meets the requirements of section 10(a) of the ESA. If it is determined that those requirements are met, a permit will be issued for the incidental take of the Preble's in conjunction with the residential and commercial construction of Struthers Ranch. The final permit decision will be made no sooner than 60 days from the date of this notice.

Dated: June 18, 2003.

Paul E. Gertler,

Acting Regional Director, Region 6.

[FR Doc. 03-16838 Filed 7-2-03; 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 permit for marine mammals.

SUMMARY: The following permit was issued.

ADDRESSES: Documents and other information submitted with this application 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 date below, as authorized by the provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, *as amended* (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the Fish and Wildlife Service issued the requested permit subject to certain conditions set forth therein.

Marine Mammals

Permit No.	Applicant	Receipt of application Federal Register notice	Permit issuance date
069177	Felix F. Gardina	68 FR 20020; April 23, 2003	June 9, 2003.
070369	Raymond A. Young	68 FR 20166; April 24, 2003	June 10, 2003.
740507	Alaska Science Center	68 FR 20166; April 24, 2003	June 20, 2003.

Dated: June 20, 2003.

Charles S. Hamilton,
*Senior Permit Biologist, Branch of Permits,
Division of Management Authority.*

[FR Doc. 03-16830 Filed 7-2-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Indian Gaming

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of approved Tribal-State Compacts.

SUMMARY: Under section 11 of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988 (IGRA), Public Law 100-497, 25 U.S.C. 2710, the Secretary of the Interior shall publish, in the **Federal Register**, notice of approved Tribal-State Compacts for the purpose of engaging in Class III gaming activities on Indian lands. The Assistant Secretary b Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, through her delegated authority, has approved the Tribal-State Compacts between the Colorado River Indian Tribes and the State of Arizona and between the Zuni Tribe and the State of Arizona. These Compacts expand the scope of gaming activities authorized under the Compacts, increases wager limits, increases the number of permitted gaming devices, and allows the tribes to enter into gaming device transfer agreements with one or more gaming tribes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 3, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: George T. Skibine, Director, Office of Indian Gaming Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Washington, DC 20240, (202) 219-4066.

Dated: June 18, 2003.

Aurene M. Martin,
Acting Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

[FR Doc. 03-16826 Filed 7-2-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-4N-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Indian Gaming

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Tribal-State Gaming Compact Amendment taking effect between the Ho-Chunk Nation and the State of Wisconsin.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 11 of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988

(IGRA), Public Law 100-497, 25 U.S.C. 2710, the Secretary of the Interior shall publish, in the **Federal Register**, notice of the approved Tribal-State compacts for the purpose of engaging in Class III gaming activities on Indian lands. The Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, through her delegated authority, is publishing notice that the Second Amendment to the Gaming Compact of 1992 between the Ho-Chunk Nation and the State of Wisconsin executed on April 25, 2003 are considered approved. By the terms of IGRA, the Second Amendment to the Compacts are considered approved, but only to the extent that the Second Amendments are consistent with the provisions of IGRA.

The Second Amendment expands the scope of gaming activities authorized under the Compact, removes limitations on wager limits, removes limitations on the number of permitted gaming devices, extends the terms of the compact to an indefinite term, subject to re-opener clauses, institutes an entirely new dispute resolution provision, replaces the sovereign immunity provision, and modifies the revenue-sharing provision of the Compact.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 3, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: George T. Skibine, Director, Office of Indian Gaming Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Washington, DC 20240, (202) 219-4066.

Dated: June 19, 2003.

Woodrow W. Hooper, Jr.,
*Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Management.*

[FR Doc. 03-16824 Filed 7-2-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-4N-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Indian Gaming

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Tribal-State Gaming Compact Amendments to the Sokaogon Chippewa Community and the State of Wisconsin Gaming compact of 1991, as amended February 20, 1998 Taking Effect.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 11 of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988 (IGRA), Public Law 100-497, 25 U.S.C. 2710, the Secretary of the Interior shall publish, in the **Federal Register**, notice of approved Tribal-State Compacts for the purpose of engaging in Class III gaming activities on Indian lands. The Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs,

Department of the Interior, through her delegated authority, is publishing notice that the 2003 Amendments to the Sokaogon Chippewa Community and the State of Wisconsin Gaming Compact of 1991, as Amended February 20, 1998 executed on April 25, 2003 are considered approved. By the terms of IGRA, the 2003 Amendments to the Compact are considered approved, but only to the extent the 2003 Amendments are consistent with the provisions of IGRA.

The 2003 Amendments expand the scope of gaming activities authorized under the Compact, remove limitations on wager limits, remove limitations on the number of permitted gaming devices, extend the term of the compact to an indefinite term, subject to re-opener clauses, institute an entirely new dispute resolution provision, replaces the sovereign immunity provision, and modify the revenue-sharing provision of the Compact.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 3, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: George T. Skibine, Director, Office of Indian Gaming Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Washington, DC 20240, (202) 219-4066.

Dated: June 18, 2003.

Aurene M. Martin,
Acting Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

[FR Doc. 03-16825 Filed 7-2-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-4N-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Concession Contracts and Permits: Expiring Contracts; Extension

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Public notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Park Service Concessions Management Improvement Act of 1998, notice is hereby given that the National Park Service intends to issue a temporary contract authorizing operation of marina, campground, food service and sundry sales at Fire Island National Seashore. The temporary contract will be for a term not-to-exceed 1 year. This short-term concession contract is necessary to avoid interruption of visitor services while the National Park Service completes the ongoing financial analysis and issues a prospectus for a long-term contract. This notice is pursuant to 36 CFR part 51, section 51.24(a).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The current concession contract at Fire