DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service

Receipt of Applications for Permit

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of applications for permit.

SUMMARY: The public is invited to comment on the following applications to conduct certain activities with endangered species and/or marine mammals.

DATES: Written data, comments or requests for copies of the complete applications or requests for a public hearing on these applications should be submitted to the Director (address above). Anyone requesting a hearing should give specific reasons why a hearing would be appropriate. The holding of such a hearing is at the discretion of the Director.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Division of Management Authority, telephone 703/358–2281.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Endangered Species

The public is invited to comment on the following application(s) for a permit to conduct certain activities with endangered species. This notice is provided pursuant to Section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531, et seq.). Written data, comments, or requests for copies of these complete applications should be submitted to the Director (address above).

PRT–072752
Applicant: Earl J. Skarda, Sussex, WI.

The applicant requests a permit to import the sport-hunted trophy of one male bontebok (Damaliscus pygargus dorcas) culled from a captive herd maintained under the management program of the Republic of South Africa, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

PRT–072921
Applicant: Marlowe Kottke, Longville, MN.

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

PRT–072925
Applicant: Larry J. Reynolds, Arlington, TX.

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 use.

PRT–072926
Applicant: Jason R. Ferche, Rice, MN.

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 use.

PRT–072605
Applicant: Charles C. Adams, Jr., Jackson, WY.

The applicant requests a permit to import a polar bear (Ursus maritimus) sport hunted from the Davis Strait polar bear population in Canada prior to April 30, 1994, for personal use.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has information collection approval from OMB through March 31, 2004, OMB Control Number 1018–0093. Federal Agencies may not conduct or sponsor a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a current valid OMB control number.


Michael S. Moore,
Senior Permit Biologist, Branch of Permits, Division of Management Authority.

BILLING CODE 4310–55–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service

Availability of an Environmental Assessment and Receipt of an Application for an Incidental Take Permit for the Newport Estates Development in Riverside County, CA

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.
ACTION: Notice of availability and receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Pacific Communities Builders, Inc. (Applicant) has applied to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for an incidental take permit pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended. The Service is considering issuing a 15-year permit to the Applicant that would authorize take of the threatened coastal California gnatcatcher (Polioptila californica californica, “gnatcatcher”) incidental to otherwise lawful activities associated with the construction of a residential development on a 278-acre site in the unincorporated community of Menifee, Riverside County, California. The project would result in the incidental take of three pairs of gnatcatchers on the project site through permanent removal of approximately 106.9 acres of habitat.

We request comments from the public on the permit application and an Environmental Assessment, both of which are available for review. The permit application includes the proposed Habitat Conservation Plan (Plan) and an accompanying Implementing Agreement. The Plan describes the proposed action and the measures that the Applicant will undertake to minimize and mitigate take of the gnatcatcher. To review the permit application or Environmental Assessment, see “Availability of Documents” in the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section.

DATES: We must receive your written comments on or before September 5, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Please address written comments to Mr. Jim Bartel, Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 6010 Hidden Valley Road, Carlsbad, California 92009. You also may send comments by facsimile to (760) 918-0638.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Karen Goebel, Assistant Field Supervisor, at the above address or call (760) 431-9440.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Availability of Documents
You may obtain copies of these documents for review by contacting the Assistant Field Supervisor (FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT). Documents also will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address (see ADDRESSES) and at the following libraries in Riverside County:

(1) 26082 Cherry Hills Boulevard, Sun City, California 92586; (2) 31516Rail Road Canyon Road, Canyon Lake, California 92587; (3) 600 West Graham, Lake Elsinore, California 92530; and (4) 3581 Mission Inn Avenue, Riverside, California 92501.

Background
Section 9 of the Act and Federal regulations prohibit the “take” of fish and wildlife species listed as endangered or threatened. Take of federally listed fish and wildlife is defined under the Act as including to “harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct.” The Service may, under limited circumstances, issue permits to authorize incidental take (i.e., take that is incidental to, and not the purpose of, the carrying out of an otherwise lawful activity). Regulations governing incidental take permits for threatened species are found in 50 CFR 17.32.

The Applicant proposes to develop housing containing up to 856 residential units on 278 acres. The project site is located between Newport Road and Holland Road, about 1.3 miles west of Interstate 215 and 6 miles east of Interstate 15 in the community of Menifee, Riverside County, California. The project site is surrounded by a combination of agriculture, residential development, and open space with native vegetation. The property is subject to occasional disturbance by human activity, including off-highway vehicle use and fuel modification activities. The proposed project site is not directly connected to habitat being considered by the Service and local agencies for the long-term conservation of the gnatcatcher and does not occur within designated gnatcatcher critical habitat.

A protocol survey for gnatcatchers from December 1998 to February 1999 documented up to three pairs of gnatcatchers onsite. Based on these survey results, the Service concluded that implementation of the proposed project would likely result in take of up to three pairs of gnatcatchers through the permanent removal of 106.9 acres of Riversidean sage scrub habitat on the 278-acre site.

Federally endangered Quino checkerspot butterfly (Euphydryas editha quino) were not detected on the project site during 3 years of surveys, 1999–2001. The federally endangered Stephens’ kangaroo rat (Dipodomys stephensi) may occupy portions of the proposed project site; however, no Stephens’ kangaroo rat surveys have been conducted at the project site. Because the proposed project site occurs within the plan area boundary of the approved Habitat Conservation Plan for the Stephens’ Kangaroo Rat in Western Riverside County, California (March 1996), compliance with this Plan and its associated implementation agreement will be required prior to any ground-disturbing activities, including vegetation removal.

To mitigate take of gnatcatchers on the project site, the Applicant proposes to purchase credits towards conservation in perpetuity of 320 acres of Riversidean sage scrub vegetation and three pairs of gnatcatchers from the Joe A. Gonzalez Wilson Creek Conservation Bank in western Riverside County. The conservation bank collects fees that fund a management endowment to ensure the permanent management and monitoring of sensitive species and habitats, including the gnatcatcher.

The Service’s Environmental Assessment considers the environmental consequences of four alternatives, including: (1) The No Action Alternative, which consists of issuing an incidental take permit and implementation of the Plan and Implementing Agreement; (2) the No Action Alternative, which consists of no permit issuance and no development at this time; (3) the Reduced Project Alternative, which consists of issuing a permit for a smaller development, which would impact 69.6 acres of Riversidean sage scrub vegetation instead of 106.9 acres; and (4) the Increased Density Alternative, which would impact all 129.6 acres of Riversidean sage scrub vegetation onsite. The No Action Alternative and Reduced Project Alternative would result in less long-term conservation for the gnatcatcher within western Riverside County, as they would not contribute as much, or at all, to conservation of areas within or directly connected to habitat being considered by the Service and local agencies for long-term conservation of the species. The Increased Density Alternative would leave no habitat remaining onsite, eliminating the possibility that the site could ever be used for gnatcatcher breeding or dispersal.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(a) of the Act and the regulations of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (40 CFR 1506.6). All comments that we receive, including names and addresses, will become part of the official administrative record and may be made available to the public. We will evaluate the application, associated documents, and comments submitted therein to determine if the application meets the requirements of NEPA regulations and section 10(a) of...
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management

AK—962–1410–HY–P; F–14924–A; CAA–1]

Alaska Native Claims Selection

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of decision approving lands for conveyance.

SUMMARY: As required by 43 CFR 2650.7(d), notice is hereby given that an appealable decision approving lands for conveyance pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act will be issued to The Kuskokwim Corporation for lands in Tps. 20 N., Rs. 44 and 45 W., Seward Meridian, located in the vicinity of Red Devil, Alaska, containing 5,010.51 acres. Notice of this decision will also be published four times in the Anchorage Daily News.

DATES: The time limits for filing an appeal are:

1. Any party claiming a property interest which is adversely affected by the decision, shall have until August 6, 2003 to file an appeal.

2. Parties receiving service by certified mail shall have until 30 days from the date of receipt to file an appeal.

Parties who do not file an appeal in accordance with the requirements of 43 CFR part 4, subpart E, shall be deemed to have waived their rights.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Chris Sitbon, Associate Director, Administration, Business Practices and Workforce Development. [FR Doc. 03–17062 Filed 7–3–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–85–P

INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

INV. NO. 337–TA–477

In the Matter of Certain Ammonium Octamolybdate Isomers; Notice of Commission Determination To Review a Final Initial Determination Finding No Violation of Section 337; Schedule for Filing Written Submissions on the Issues Under Review and on Remedy, the Public Interest, and Bonding

AGENCY: International Trade Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the U.S. International Trade Commission has determined to review in its entirety the final initial determination (ID) issued by the presiding administrative law judge (ALJ) on May 15, 2003, finding no violation of section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930, 19 U.S.C. 1337, in the above-captioned investigation.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Wayne Herrington, Esq., Office of the General Counsel, U.S. International Trade Commission, 500 E Street, SW., Washington, DC 20436, telephone (202) 205–3090. Copies of the ALJ’s ID and all other nonconfidential documents filed in connection with this investigation are or will be available for inspection during official business hours (8:45 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.) in the Office of the Secretary, U.S. International Trade Commission, 500 E Street, SW., Washington, DC 20436, telephone (202) 205–2000. General information concerning the Commission may also be obtained by accessing its Internet server (http://www.usitc.gov). The public record for this investigation may be viewed on the Commission’s electronic docket (EDIS) at http://edis.usitc.gov. Hearing-impaired persons are advised that information on this matter can be obtained by contacting the Commission’s TDD terminal on 202–205–1810.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Commission instituted this investigation on August 20, 2002, based on a complaint filed by Climax Molybdenum Company (“Climax”) against one respondent, Molychem LLC (Molychem). 67 FR 53966. In that complaint, as supplemented, Climax alleged violations of section 337 in the importation into the United States, sale for importation, and/or sale within the United States after importation of certain ammonium octamolybdate isomers by reason of infringement of claim 1 of Climax’s U.S. Patent No. 5,985,236. Subsequently, the complaint and notice of investigation were amended to add four additional respondents to the investigation: Anhui Wonder Trade Co., Ltd.; Pudong Trans USA, Inc. (Pudong); John S. Conner, Inc. (Conner); and Chem-Met International, Inc. One of these respondents, Conner, was eventually terminated from the investigation as the result of a settlement agreement. On May 15, 2003, the ALJ issued his final ID on violation and his recommended determination on remedy and bonding. The ALJ found no violation of section 337 because he concluded that claim 1 of the ‘236...