The applicant requests a permit to re-export biological samples from maned wolf (Chrysocyon brachyurus) to Dr. Beat Bigler, Bern, Switzerland, for the purpose of diagnostic and scientific research. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a five-year period.

**Applicant:** James J. Homann, Sr.,
Omaha, NE, PRT–080210.

The applicant requests a permit to import two male and two female captive ocelots (Leopardus pardalis) cullled 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.

**Applicant:** Atlantic Zoo, Atlanta, GA, PRT–080016.

The applicant requests a permit to import frozen semen samples from one male giant panda (Ailuropoda melanoleuca) from the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding, China, for the purpose of artificial insemination for scientific research and propagation for the enhancement of the survival of the species.

**Applicant:** Michelle L. Sauther,
University of Colorado, Boulder, CO, PRT–040035.

The applicant requests an amendment and renewal of their permit to import biological samples from ring-tailed lemur (Lemur catta) collected in the wild in Madagascar, for the purpose of scientific research. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a five-year period.

**Applicant:** Cleveland Metroparks Zoo,
Cleveland, OH, PRT–080013.

The applicant requests a permit to import two male and two female captive born ocelots (Leopardus pardalis) from several zoos in Brazil, as part of the Brazilian Ocelot Consortium (BOC), for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species through captive propagation and conservation education.

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Fish and Wildlife Service**

**Endangered and Threatened Species Permit Applications**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of receipt of application.

**SUMMARY:** The following applicants have applied for permits 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.).

**DATES:** Written data or comments should be submitted to the Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services, 1 Federal Drive, Fort Snelling, Minnesota 55111–4056, and must be received on or before January 20, 2004.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Peter Fasbender, (612) 713–5343.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Permit Number TE 056081–1**

**Applicant:** EnviroScience, Incorporated, Stow, Ohio.

The applicant requests a permit to take (collect) listed fish and mussel species throughout the State of Georgia. Activities are proposed to identify populations of listed species and to develop methods to minimize or avoid project related impacts to those populations. The scientific research is aimed at enhancement of survival of species in the wild.

**Permit Number TE 023666–0**

**Applicant:** Eric R. Britzke, Clemson University, Clemson, South Carolina.

The applicant requests a permit to take (collect) the northern flying squirrel (Glaucomys sabrinus) throughout North Carolina and Virginia. Activities are proposed for the enhancement of survival of the species in the wild.

**Permit Number TE 079161–0**

**Applicant:** Paula K. Kleinjteis, University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire, Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

The applicant requests a permit to take (harass) Karner blue butterfly (Lycaeides melissa samuelis) in Wisconsin. Activities are proposed for the enhancement of survival of (Lycaeides melissa samuelis) in Wisconsin. Activities are proposed for the enhancement of survival of the species in the wild.

**Permit Number TE 079162–0**

**Applicant:** Jeremy A. Williamson, Polk County Land and Water Resources Department, Balsam Lake, Wisconsin.

The applicant requests a permit to take (collect) Higgins’ eye pearlmussel (Lampsilis bigginsi) and winged mapleleaf (Quadralfa fragosa) in Wisconsin. Activities are proposed for the enhancement of survival of the species in the wild.

**Permit Number TE 072500**

**Applicant:** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Engineer Research and Development Center, Champaign, Illinois.

The applicant requests a permit to take Topka shiner (Notropis topeka) in Illinois. Activities are proposed for the enhancement of survival of the species in the wild.

**Permit Number TE 071254**

**Applicant:** James N. Stahl, Acting Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, Region 3, Fort Snelling, Minnesota.

The applicant requests a permit to take Northern flying squirrel (Glaucomys sabrinus) in Minnesota. Activities are proposed for the enhancement of survival of the species in the wild.

**Permit Number TE 074600**

**Applicant:** Ronald J. Bartels, Schriever, LA, PRT–080350.

The applicant requests a permit to import a polar bear (Ursus maritimus) sport hunted from the Baffin Bay polar bear population in Canada prior to February 18, 1997, for personal use.

**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**

**Receipt of Applications for Endangered Species Permits**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of receipt of applications for permits.

**SUMMARY:** The public is invited to comment on the following applications to conduct certain activities with endangered species. The applications were submitted to satisfy requirements of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.), and the regulations governing marine mammals (50 CFR Part 18). 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.

**Applicant:** Ronald J. Bartels, Schriever, LA, PRT–080350.

The applicant requests a permit to import a polar bear (Ursus maritimus) sport hunted from the Baffin Bay polar bear population in Canada prior to February 18, 1997, for personal use.

**Dated:** December 5, 2003.

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

**FR Doc. 03–31212 Filed 12–17–03; 8:45 am**

**BILLING CODE 4310–55–P**
The applicant requests authorization to take (trap, handle, relocate, radio-tag, PIT-tag, and release) the Alabama beach mouse (*Peromyscus polionotus ammobates*) and Perdido Key beach mouse (*Peromyscus polionotus trissylepsis*) while conducting presence and absence studies and population monitoring. The proposed activities would occur on Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge, Baldwin County, Alabama; Johnson Beach of Gulf Island National Seashore, Escambia County, Florida; Perdido Key State Recreation Area, Escambia County, Florida; and Alabama Point, Baldwin County, Alabama.

**Applicant:** Jereme N. Phillips, Gulf Shores, Alabama, TE080229–0.

The applicant requests authorization to take (trap, mark, recapture, and release) the Alabama beach mouse (*Peromyscus polionotus ammobates*) while conducting presence and absence studies. The proposed activities would occur on Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge, Baldwin County, Alabama.

**Applicant:** Jerome N. Phillips, Gulf Shores, Alabama, TE080229–0.

**DATES:** The finding announced in this document was made on December 11, 2003. You may submit new information concerning this species for our consideration at any time.

**ADDRESSES:** Questions or information concerning this petition should be sent to the Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services, 755 Parfet, Lakewood, Colorado 80215. The separate petition finding, supporting data, and comments are available for public review, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Susan Linner at 303–275–2370 (see ADDRESSES section).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

Background

Section 4(b)(3)(A) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), requires that the Service make a finding on whether a petition to list, delist, or reclassify a species presents substantial scientific or commercial information to demonstrate that the petitioned action may be warranted. This finding is to be based on all information readily available to the Service at the time the finding is made. To the maximum extent practicable, the finding shall be made within 90 days following receipt of the petition and promptly published in the Federal Register. Following a positive finding, section 4(b)(3)(B) of the Act requires the Service to promptly commence a status review of the species.

The Preble’s meadow jumping mouse is a small rodent in the family Zapodidae and is 1 of 12 recognized subspecies of the species *Zapus hudsonius*, the meadow jumping mouse. Preble’s is native only to the Rocky Mountains-Great Plains interface of eastern Colorado and southeastern Wyoming. This shy, largely nocturnal mouse is 8 to 9 inches long (its tail accounts for 60 percent of its length) with hind feet adapted for jumping. It occurs in foothills riparian habitat from southeastern Wyoming to south central Colorado. Preble’s meadow jumping mice regularly use upland grasslands adjacent to riparian habitat, and they may be dependent upon some amount of open water. The species hibernates near riparian zones from mid-October to early May. Loss of riparian habitats and other factors associated with urbanization appear to be the major threat to the species.

On August 16, 1994, the Service received a petition from the Biodiversity Legal Foundation to list the Preble’s...