consistent with the purposes and policy set forth in Section 2 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Permit No.</th>
<th>Applicant</th>
<th>Receipt of application Federal Register notice</th>
<th>Permit issuance date</th>
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<td>111974</td>
<td>Danny M. Vines</td>
<td>70 FR 13416; March 15, 2006</td>
<td>April 17, 2006</td>
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<td>761887</td>
<td>American Museum of Natural History</td>
<td>71 FR 10701; March 2, 2006</td>
<td>April 14, 2006</td>
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Michael L. Carpenter, Senior Permit Biologist, Branch of Permits, Division of Management Authority.

The applicant requests a permit to import the sport-hunted trophy of one male scimitar-horned oryx (Oryx dammah) culled from a captive herd in the Republic of South Africa, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.


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

We also invite comments on our preliminary determination that the HCP qualifies as a “low-effect” plan, eligible for a categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act. We explain the basis for this possible determination in a draft Environmental Action Statement, which is also available for public review.

DATES: Written comments must be received no later than July 12, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to Diane Noda, Field Supervisor, Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office, 2493 Portola Road, Suite B, Ventura, California 93003. Comments may also be sent by facsimile to (805) 644–3958.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jacob Martin, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, at the above address or by calling (805) 644–1766.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Endangered Species

The public is invited to comment on the following applications for a permit to conduct certain activities with endangered species.

Applicant: George T. Markou, Mt. Arlington, NJ, PRT-124778

The proposed permit would authorize take of the federally endangered Smith’s blue butterfly (Euphilotes enoptes smithi) and federally threatened California red-legged frog (Rana aurora draytonii) incidental to otherwise lawful activities associated with the expansion and operation of an existing inn, which would remove 0.003 acre of Smith’s blue butterfly habitat and 0.826 acre of California red-legged frog upland habitat within a 91.98 acre parcel in Big Sur, Monterey County, California.

We invite comments from the public on the permit application, which is available for review. The application includes a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), that fully describes the proposed project and the measures that the applicant would undertake to minimize and mitigate anticipated take of the Smith’s blue butterfly and California red-legged frog, as required in section 10(a)(2)(B) of the Act.

We also invite comments on our preliminary determination that the HCP qualifies as a “low-effect” plan, eligible for a categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act. We explain the basis for this possible determination in a draft Environmental Action Statement, which is also available for public review.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jacob Martin, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, at the above address or by calling (805) 644–1766.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Document Availability

Please contact the Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office (see ADDRESSES) if you would like copies of the application, HCP, and Environmental Action Statement. Documents will also be available for review by appointment, during normal business hours, at the Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office (see ADDRESSES) or via the Internet at http://www.fws.gov/ventura.

Background

Section 9 of the Act and Federal regulations prohibit the “take” of fish or wildlife species listed as endangered or threatened, respectively. Take of listed fish or wildlife is defined under the Act to mean harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. However, the Service, under limited circumstances, may issue permits to cover 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 and endangered species are found at 50 CFR 17.32 and 17.22, respectively. Among other criteria, issuance of such permits must not jeopardize the existence of federally listed fish, wildlife, or plants.