DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service


ACTION: Notice of receipt of applications for permits.

SUMMARY: We announce our receipt of applications to conduct certain activities pertaining to enhancement of survival of endangered species. The Endangered Species Act requires that we invite public comment on these permit applications.

DATES: Written comments on this request for a permit must be received by May 4, 2011.

ADDRESSES: Submit written data or comments to the Assistant Regional Director—Ecological Services, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 25486, Denver Federal Center, Denver, CO 80225–0466; facsimile 303–236–0027.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Public Availability of Comments

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail 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.

Document Availability

Documents and other information submitted with these applications are available for review, subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a) and Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552), by any party who submits a request for a copy of such documents within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice to Kris Olsen, by mail (see ADDRESSES) or by telephone at 303–236–4256. All comments we receive from individuals become part of the official public record.

Applications

The following applicants have requested issuance of enhancement of survival permits to conduct certain activities with endangered species pursuant to Section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

Renewals

Applicants: Rockford Plettner, Nebraska Public Power District, Columbus, Nebraska, TE–039100; Kathleen Triby, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge, Malta, Montana, TE–127250; and Chadwin Smith, Headwaters Corp., Kearney, Nebraska, TE–183430. These applicants request renewed permits to take interior least terns (Sterna antillarum athalassos) and piping plovers (Charadrius melodus) in conjunction with recovery activities throughout the species’ ranges for the purpose of enhancing their survival and recovery.

Applicants: Brian Holmes, Bureau of Land Management, Meeker, Colorado, TE–121911; Ben Janis, Lower Brule Sioux Tribe, Lower Brule, South Dakota, TE–131398; and Duane Shrouf, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Phoenix, Arizona, TE–163125. These applicants request renewed permits to take black-footed ferrets (Mustela nigripes) in conjunction with recovery activities throughout the species’ range for the purpose of enhancing its survival and recovery.


Applicants: Tony Korth, Ak-sar-ben Aquarium, Gretna, Nebraska, TE–039090. The applicant requests a renewed permit to possess bonytail chub (Gila elegans), humpback chub (Gila cypha), Colorado pikeminnow (Ptychocheilus lucius), razorback sucker (Xyrauchen texanus), desert pupfish (Cyprinodon prosper), and green sea turtle (Chelonia mydas agassisi) for public display and propagation in conjunction with recovery activities for the purpose of enhancing their survival and recovery.

Applicant: Christopher P. Dionghi, Acting Executive Director, National Invasive Species Council.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service


Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, Volusia and Brevard Counties, FL; Collection of Entrance Fees

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, announce our intent to modify the existing fee collection program at Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge by adding entrance fees. The proposed entrance fees are $1.00 a day for one person, $5.00 a day for one vehicle, and $15.00 a year for one person. Under the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (REA), we will identify and post specific visitor fees and begin collecting them. The proposed fees only affect Black Point Wildlife Drive and three improved refuge boat ramps (Bairs Cove, Beacon 42, and Bio Lab). Fees are not required to enter any other portion of the refuge.

DATES: Submit your comments on this action by August 1, 2011. Unless we publish a notice in the Federal Register withdrawing this action, we will begin collecting entrance fees on September 1, 2011.

ADDRESS: Submit your comments by one of the following methods:

• U.S. mail or hand-delivery: Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge (Attention: Dorn Whitmore), P.O. Box 2683, Titusville, FL 32781;
• Fax: 321–861–1276, attn: “Merritt Island Fee”;
• E-mail: Dorn_Whitmore@fws.gov.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In an effort to meet increasing demands for services, and to maintain developed facilities, we announce our intent to add a new class of fees to the existing fee program at Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) under section 3(e) of the REA (16 U.S.C. 6801–6814). The Refuge will add the following type of entrance fees.

Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge Visitors Entrance Fees

2. $1.00—Daily Individual Entrance Fee (fee is per person/per day, when arriving on foot, bicycle, as part of a tour group, or on a bus).
3. $5.00—Daily Noncommercial Vehicle Entrance Fee (fee is per single, private noncommercial vehicle).
4. $5.00—Family Group Entrance Fee (fee is the maximum per day, per family, when arriving on foot, bicycle, as part of a tour group, or on a bus). A family group is defined as up to four adults (16 years and older) and any number of children (15 years and under).
5. $15.00—Annual Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge Pass (per single private noncommercial vehicle) valid for 1 year.

Special Provisions and Exceptions to the Entrance Fee Structure

National Public Lands Day (NPLD) is a “fee-free” day for all visitors to the Refuge. The National Environmental Education Foundation determines the date of NPLD. The Refuge may establish other “fee-free” days in conjunction with special events such as Veterans Day and National Wildlife Refuge Week. The Refuge will not collect entrance fees from volunteers who are actively working on or for the Refuge during their scheduled duty times. Volunteers who contribute and record 80 hours of volunteer service or more during a fiscal year will receive an Annual Refuge Pass at no charge. The Refuge will waive entrance fees for school groups.

Passes in Lieu of Entrance Fees

The Refuge participates in two pass programs, the Federal Duck Stamp and the America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass programs. The Refuge honors and offers for purchase passes associated with these programs. Information on the programs is available at http://www.fws.gov/ducksstamps/ and http://www.fws.gov/refuges/visitors/passes.html.

The Refuge will also honor Golden Eagle, Golden Age, and Golden Access passes. A list of passes the Refuge will honor and/or sell follows. If your pass is not listed, we encourage you to contact the Refuge and inquire about pass acceptance prior to your visit.

1. Federal Duck Stamp (valid for 1 year beginning July 1: $15.00 annually).
2. America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Passes in Lieu of Entrance Fees (fee-free days in conjunction with special events such as Veterans Day and National Wildlife Refuge Week).
5. Golden Eagle, Golden Age, and Golden Access Pass: The Refuge will honor these passes according to the provisions of each, but not available for purchase.
6. Annual Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge Pass: $15.00 annually.