

potentially result in a reduction in overwinter survival due to the loss of hibernacula and increased predation due to the loss of vegetation for shelter. More human activity on the 15-acre property would increase the likelihood of human disturbance and disruption of snakes, vehicular strikes of snakes, harassment and/or predation of snakes by pets, and mortality of snakes caused by mowing.

The purpose of the HCP is to ensure incidental take will be minimized and mitigated to the maximum extent practicable and will not appreciably reduce the likelihood of the survival and recovery of this species in the wild. The Long Point Homeowner's Association designed the HCP in consultation with the Service to ensure the project area will continue to support suitable habitat for the species, while allowing for incidental take of Lake Erie water snakes from the proposed activities. Measures in the HCP designed to avoid, minimize, and mitigate the impacts of the proposed action on Lake Erie water snakes include: (1) Seasonal and temperature restrictions on ground disturbing activities including construction and mowing; (2) establishment of a shoreline buffer area to conserve habitat; (3) restrictions on pesticide and fertilizer use; (4) construction of artificial hibernacula; (5) restrictions on size and placement of structures including residences, garages, decks, driveways, and septic systems; and (6) monitoring the Lake Erie water snake population response to the proposed construction and mitigation for 15 years.

Background on Environmental Assessment

The Proposed Action consists of issuing an ITP and implementation of the HCP. The draft EA considers three action alternatives and the "No Action" alternative. The NEPA process will be completed after the comment period, at which time the Service will evaluate the permit application (if appropriate to the selected alternative), the HCP, and comments submitted thereon to determine whether the application meets the requirements of section 10(a) of the Act. If the requirements are met, the Service will issue a permit to the Long Point Homeowner's Association for the incidental take of Lake Erie water snakes associated with the proposed activities on Kelleys Island, Erie County, Ohio. The final permit decision will be made no sooner than 60 days from the date of this notice.

The area encompassed by the HCP may contain facilities eligible to be listed on the National Register of

Historic Places and other historical or archeological resources may be present. The National Historic Preservation Act and other laws require these properties and resources be identified and considered in project planning. The public is requested to inform the Service of concerns about archeological sites, buildings and structures, historic events, sacred and traditional areas, and other historic preservation concerns.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1531, *et seq.*; 42 U.S.C. 4321-4347.

Dated: February 26, 2003.

Lynn M. Lewis,

Acting Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, Region 3, Fort Snelling, Minnesota.

[FR Doc. 03-6239 Filed 3-14-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Issuance of Permit for Marine Mammals

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of issuance of permit for marine mammals.

SUMMARY: The following permits were issued.

ADDRESSES: Documents and other information submitted for these applications are available for review by any party who submits a written request to the 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: On December 24, 2002, a notice was published in the **Federal Register** (67 FR 78504), that an application had been filed with the Fish and Wildlife Service by Robert B. Michalek for a permit (PRT-065467) to import one polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) sport hunted from the Western Hudson Bay polar bear population, Canada, for personal use.

Notice is hereby given that on February 13, 2003, 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.

On January 15, 2003, a notice was published in the **Federal Register** (68 FR 2069), that an application had been

filed with the Fish and Wildlife Service by Raymond Mancuso for a permit (PRT-066169) to import one polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) sport hunted from the Lancaster Sound polar bear population, Canada, for personal use.

Notice is hereby given that on February 14, 2003, 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.

On December 11, 2002, a notice was published in the **Federal Register** (67 FR 76183), that an application had been filed with the Fish and Wildlife Service by David G. Aul for a permit (PRT-065354) to import one polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) sport hunted from the Western Hudson Bay polar bear population, Canada, for personal use.

Notice is hereby given that on February 27, 2003, 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.

Dated: February 28, 2003.

Michael S. Moore,

Senior Permit Biologist, Branch of Permits, Division of Management Authority.

[FR Doc. 03-6317 Filed 3-14-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WO-260-09-1060-00-24 1A]

Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board; Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Announcement of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces that the Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board will conduct a meeting on matters pertaining to management and protection of wild, free-roaming horses and burros on the Nation's public lands.

DATES: The Advisory Board will meet Monday, April 7, 2003 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. local time, and on Tuesday, April 8, 2003 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. local time.

ADDRESSES: The Advisory Board will meet at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel, 10220 N. Metro Parkway East, Phoenix, AZ.

Written comments pertaining to the Advisory Board meeting should be sent