

appropriate. The holding of such a hearing is at the discretion of the Director.

**PRT-071628**

*Applicant:* Dr. Iskande Larkin,  
University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

The applicant requests a permit to import fecal samples deposited by captive-held manatees (*Trichechus manatus*) from Mexico for the purpose of scientific research. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a five-year period.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, the Division of Management Authority is forwarding copies of the above applications to the Marine Mammal Commission and the Committee of Scientific Advisors for their review.

**PRT-073125**

*Applicant:* Christopher K. Fannin,  
Ashland, KY

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-073132**

*Applicant:* Juan B. Suarez, Coral Gables,  
FL

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-073481**

*Applicant:* Gerald E. Meyer, Sr.,  
Waterford, WI

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-073227**

*Applicant:* Charles Dennis Anderson,  
Anaheim, CA

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.

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 and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a current valid OMB control number.

Dated: June 13, 2003.

**Monica Farris,**

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

[FR Doc. 03-16833 Filed 7-2-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-55-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Fish and Wildlife Service****Draft Environmental Assessment/  
Habitat Conservation Plan and Receipt  
of an Application for an Incidental Take  
Permit for Struthers Ranch, El Paso  
County, CO**

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

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

**SUMMARY:** This notice advises the public that Struthers Ranch Development, LLC, (Applicant) has applied to the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for an incidental take permit pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended. The proposed permit would authorize the incidental take of the Preble's meadow jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius preblei*) (Preble's), federally listed as threatened, through loss and modification of its habitat associated with construction of a residential and commercial development in El Paso County, Colorado. The duration of the permit would be 30 years from the date of issuance.

We announce the receipt of the Applicant's incidental take permit application that includes a combined Environmental Assessment/Habitat Conservation Plan (EA/HCP) for the Preble's for the Struthers Ranch Property. The proposed EA/HCP is available for public review and comment. It fully describes the proposed project and the measures the Applicant would undertake to minimize and mitigate project impacts to the Preble's.

The Service requests comments on the EA/HCP for the proposed issuance of the incidental take permit. We provide this notice pursuant to section 10(a) of the ESA and National Environmental Policy Act regulations (40 CFR 1506.6). All comments on the EA/HCP and permit application will become part of the administrative record and will be available to the public.

**DATES:** Written comments on the permit application and EA/HCP should be received on or before September 2, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments regarding the permit application and EA/HCP should be addressed to Allan Pfister, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Colorado Field Office, 755 Parfet Street, Suite 361, Lakewood, Colorado 80215. Comments also may be submitted by facsimile to (303) 275-2371.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Kathleen Linder, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, Colorado Field Office, telephone (303) 275-2370.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Document Availability**

Individuals wishing copies of the EA/HCP and associated documents for review should immediately contact the above office. Documents also will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

**Background**

Section 9 of the ESA and Federal regulation prohibit the "take" of a species listed as endangered or threatened. Take is defined under the ESA, in part, as to kill, harm, or harass a federally-listed species. However, the Service may issue permits to authorize "incidental take" of listed species under limited circumstances. Incidental take is defined under the ESA as take of a listed species that is incidental to, and not the purpose of, the carrying out of an otherwise lawful activity under limited circumstances. Regulations governing permits for threatened species are promulgated in 50 CFR 17.32.

The Struthers Ranch Property is located along Black Forest Creek on the east side of Interstate 25, roughly 5.6 kilometers (3.5 miles) southeast of the Town of Monument, in northwestern El Paso County, Colorado. The specific legal description for the property is Section 36 of Township 11 South, Range 67 West (S $\frac{1}{2}$  of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ; S $\frac{1}{2}$  of NE $\frac{1}{4}$  and NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ; SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ ; and NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ ). The project site is 43 hectares (107 acres) with development proposed for 27 hectares (67 acres). Of the 27 hectares (67 acres) proposed for development, the Applicant, using the Service's definition of Preble's habitat, has determined that the proposed project would impact approximately 6.6 hectares (16.4 acres) of potential Preble's habitat, which includes 0.5 hectare (1.2 acres) of off-site impacts. Of the 6.6 hectares (16.4 acres) of construction within Preble's habitat, only 1 hectare (2.5 acres) of wetland vegetation will be impacted because of construction of a box culvert crossing over Black Forest Creek, a utility easement, and drop structures and rip-