

water; however, these opportunities are limited by local precipitation. Opportunities for active management of this refuge have been limited due to its remote location, lack of resident staff, and access issues. Future management efforts will focus on improving access and public wildlife viewing opportunities.

The Draft CCP/EA addresses a range of topics including habitat and wildlife management, public use opportunities, invasive species control, and administration and staffing for the refuges. The key refuge issues and how they are addressed in the plan alternatives are summarized below. Alternative A is the current management, or what is currently offered, at the refuge. Alternative B is the proposed action. Under Alternative C, refuge habitats would be managed solely by the uses of prescribed fire. Under Alternative D, management of refuge habitats would be accomplished through mechanical means such as haying or mowing. Alternative E would call for no active management on the refuge.

*Habitat management activities:*

*Alternative A:* Grazing has historically been the primary grassland management tool used on the refuge. Efforts to use prescribed fire and control invasive species have been limited. *Alternative B:* The managed grazing program would be modified and integrated with prescribed fire and mechanical vegetative manipulation to encourage ecological integrity, promote native prairie restoration, control invasive plant species, and provide/enhance habitat for grassland birds and other resident wildlife. *Alternative C:* Grazing would be discontinued. Prescribed fire would be the primary tool used to manage refuge habitats and control invasive plants. *Alternative D:* Grazing would be discontinued. Mechanical means such as haying and mowing would be used to manage refuge grassland habitats and control invasive plant species. *Alternative E:* No active management of grassland habitat. Habitats would be allowed to evolve into climax conditions. Limited use of biological controls would be used as an experiment to control invasive plant species.

*Improvements to public use opportunities:* *Alternative A:* The public use program would remain at current levels and no new facilities would be developed on the refuge. Hunting would continue to be prohibited. *Alternative B:* The public use program would increase and/or enhance educational and outreach activities, recreational opportunities (including consideration

of hunting opportunities), community involvement, and improve facilities. *Alternative C:* The public use program would be similar to *Alternative B*. *Alternative D:* The public use program would be similar to *Alternative B*. *Alternative E:* The public use program would be discontinued.

*Refuge Land and Boundary*

*Protection: Alternative A:* There would be no acquisition and no exploration of possible refuge boundary expansion. *Alternative B:* Land protection would be accomplished through partnerships with adjacent owners. Refuge boundary expansion would only occur as a means to improve access to the public and would be considered under a separate public process. Any mention of acquisition is conceptual in nature only. *Alternative C:* Same as *Alternative B*. *Alternative D:* Same as *Alternative B*. *Alternative E:* Same as *Alternative A*.

Dated: August 15, 2003.

**Geoffrey L. Haskett,**

*Acting Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Albuquerque, New Mexico.*  
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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Receipt of Applications for Permit

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

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

**SUMMARY:** The public is invited to comment on the following applications to conduct certain activities with endangered species and/or marine mammals.

**DATES:** Written data, comments or requests must be received by November 7, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Documents and other information submitted with these applications are available for review, subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act, by any party who submits a written request for a copy of such documents within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice to: 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:**

### Endangered Species

The public is invited to comment on the following application(s) for a permit 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.*). Written data, comments, or requests for copies of these complete applications should be submitted to the Director (address above).

*Applicant: Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden, Cincinnati, Ohio, PRT-077059*

The applicant requests a permit to import blood and serum samples collected from captive and wild ocelots (*Leopardus pardalis*) in Mexico for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species/scientific research. This notification covers activities conducted by the applicant over a five year period.

*Applicant: Archie Wilson, Batavia, OH, PRT-077669*

The applicant requests a permit to import the sport-hunted trophy of one male bontebok (*Damaliscus pygargus dorcas*) culled 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: Larry L. Hehl, Greenwood, SC, PRT-077674*

The applicant requests a permit to import the sport-hunted trophy of one male bontebok (*Damaliscus pygargus dorcas*) culled 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.

### Marine Mammals

The public is invited to comment on the following application(s) for a permit to conduct certain activities with endangered marine mammals and/or marine mammals. The application(s) was/were submitted to satisfy requirements of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, *as amended* (16 U.S.C. 1531, *et seq.*) and/or the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, *as amended* (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing endangered species (50 CFR part 17) and/or 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