



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

14 October 2010

Mr. Timothy J. Van Norman
Chief, Branch of Permits
Division of Management Authority
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
4401 North Fairfax Drive
Arlington, VA 22203

Re: Permit Application No. PRT-19806A
(Thomas Postel)

Dear Mr. Van Norman:

The Marine Mammal Commission, in consultation with its Committee of Scientific Advisors on Marine Mammals, has reviewed the above-referenced permit application with regard to the goals, policies, and requirements of the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

The applicant is requesting authorization to take by Level B harassment up to 100 Florida manatees by close approach during filming activities at Blue Spring State Park. The applicant, in consultation with Bob Giguere, Equinox Documentaries, proposes, upon approval by Park management, to film manatees up to four hours a day, up to three days a month, from mid-December 2010 to mid-March 2011. The applicant would approach the animals no closer than 6 m (20 ft) to minimize disturbance. The applicant states that the film footage would be used for educational purposes by Blue Spring State Park and Save the Manatee Club and also would be made available to the Blue Spring Working Group, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and members of the public for educational purposes.

RECOMMENDATION

The Marine Mammal Commission recommends that the Fish and Wildlife Service approve the requested permit.

The Commission believes that the activities for which it has recommended approval are consistent with the purposes and policies of the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

Please contact me if you have any questions concerning these recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Suzanne Montgomery for".

Timothy J. Ragen, Ph.D.
Executive Director