

IV. Regulatory Impact Statement

We generally prepare a regulatory flexibility analysis that is consistent with the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) (5 U.S.C. 601 through 612), unless we certify that a notice would not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. For purposes of the RFA, States and individuals are not considered small entities. However, providers are considered small entities. Additionally, section 1102(b) of the Act requires us to prepare a regulatory impact analysis if a notice may have a significant impact on the operations of a substantial number of small rural hospitals. Such an analysis must conform to the provisions of section 604 of the RFA. For purposes of section 1102(b) of the Act, we define a small rural hospital as a hospital that is located outside of a Metropolitan Statistical Area and has fewer than 50 beds.

This notice sets forth no changes in our regulations; rather, it reflects the DSH allotments for each State as determined in accordance with §§ 447.297 through 447.299.

We have discussed the method of calculating the preliminary FFY 1996 national aggregate DSH target and the preliminary FFY 1996 individual State DSH allotments in the previous sections of this notice. These calculations should have a positive impact on payments to DSHs. Allotments will not be reduced for high-DSH States since we interpret the 12-percent limit as a target. Low-DSH States will get their prior FFY DSH allotments plus their growth amounts.

In accordance with the provisions with Executive Order 12886, this notice was reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget.

(Catalog of Federal Assistance Program No. 93.778, Medical Assistance Program)

Dated: February 21, 1996.

Bruce C. Vladeck,

Administrator, Health Care Financing Administration.

Dated: April 5, 1996.

Donna E. Shalala,
Secretary.

(Sec. 1102 of the Social Security Act; 42 U.S.C. 1302)

Dated: June 4, 1996.

Neil J. Stillman,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Information Resources Management.

[FR Doc. 96-14595 Filed 6-7-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4120-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Request for Information Relevant to the Issuance of Import Permits for Argali Sheep From Mongolia, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has been notified that Mongolia, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan have established export quotas for sport-hunted trophies of argali sheep (*Ovis ammon ammon*, *Ovis ammon darwini*, and *Ovis ammon polii*). The Service requests information on argali population status and management in these three countries to be considered in processing permit applications.

DATES: Information from all interested parties must be received by August 9, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Comments, information, and questions should be addressed to the Chief, Office of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 430, Arlington, Virginia 22203. Fax Number (703) 358-2280. Comments and other information received will be available for public inspection, by appointment from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, at the Arlington, Virginia address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kenneth Stansell, Chief, Office of Management Authority, at the above address or by phone at (703) 358-2093.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) classified the argali sheep (*Ovis ammon*) populations as endangered pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, effective January 1, 1993, except for the populations in Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, and Tajikistan (57 FR 28014). At the same time, populations in these three countries were listed as threatened with a special rule that allows for the issuance of threatened species permits for the import of sport-hunted trophies. The special rule also establishes criteria which, if met, would result in the removal of this permit requirement, thus allowing imports in accordance with Sec. 9(c)(2) of the Act.

During the time that this special rule was under legal challenge, the Service proposed reclassifying the argali population in Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, and Tajikistan from threatened to endangered on April 27, 1993, (58 FR 25595) because of concern about the removal of controls on imports into the

United States and the potential for an unlimited number of imports.

After the special rule was sustained by the court, the Service began issuing a limited number of import permits for sport-hunted trophies of argali from Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia, countries with management programs deemed to be sufficient to be able to make the required findings for permit issuance. No permits have been issued for the import of trophies from Tajikistan and the permits for argali from Kyrgyzstan have been limited to those trophies taken in areas believed to be outside the range of *Ovis ammon karelini*.

In 1993, the Service supported a study to obtain additional information on the status and management of argali and enforcement capabilities for this species in Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, and Tajikistan. This study was conducted and a report prepared by Drs. Anna Lushechina and A. Fedosenko, and availability of the report was announced in the March 12, 1994, Federal Register notice (59 FR 13302).

In 1994, Mongolia imposed export quotas of 5 and 10 argali trophies from southeastern and western portions of Mongolia, respectively, representing the range of *Ovis ammon darwini* and *Ovis ammon ammon*. The quotas were increased to 10 animals in each area in 1995 and again in 1996. A portion of the licensing fees have gone toward activities contributing to enhancement of management and conservation of the argali, including population surveys and waterhole construction.

Kyrgyzstan imposed an export quota of 16 argali trophies in 1995 from hunting area(s) in the Naryn area, the range of *Ovis ammon polii*. The quota was increased to 20 for 1996. A portion of the licensing fees have gone toward the management of argali. The Government of Kyrgyzstan, having already established reserves for *Ovis ammon karelini*, is committed to establishing reserves for *Ovis ammon polii*.

The Service has received information from a hunting outfitter indicating that Tajikistan has established a hunting quota of 20 argali trophies for 1996. The Service is currently seeking confirmation of this information with the Ministry of Nature Conservation in Tajikistan. A survey of argali in the eastern Pamirs region of Tajikistan by A.K. Fedosenko, has been recently received by the Service and is available upon request. This report indicates there was a quota of 12-15 argali trophies in previous hunting seasons.

With the retention of import controls established in the special rule and without evidence that the status or

management of argali in Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, or Tajikistan has changed since the original classification of these populations in June 23, 1992 (57 FR 28014), the Service continues to consider these populations as threatened. Except for the recent report by Fedosenko on argali in the Pamirs region in Tajikistan, the Service has received little additional information on the status and management of argali in these countries since the 1993 report funded by the Service. Thus, the Service is requesting additional and updated information from the Governments of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Mongolia and from individuals and organizations knowledgeable about the status and management of the argali in these three range countries.

Information Solicited

The Service can only issue a threatened species permit for the import of argali trophies when it finds that the activity will enhance the propagation or survival of the species. So the Service solicits information on the status of argali populations in Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, and Tajikistan, including: (1) Whether the population in each country is sufficiently large, viable, and adequately protected to sustain sport hunting, (2) whether the regulating authorities in these range countries recognize these argali populations as a valuable resource and have the legal and practical means to manage these argali populations, including examples of any recent management initiatives, and (3) whether the regulating authorities can ensure that the exported trophy has in fact been legally taken from the specified population. In addition, the Service seeks information on how any funds derived from the involved sport hunt or any contributions made directly by the applicant and/or the outfitter have been applied to argali conservation, including specific examples.

Information received will be considered in developing the Service's findings for future permit applications for the import of sport-hunted argali trophies. In the meantime, the Service continues to process applications and make its decisions on existing information.

Dated: May 30, 1996.

John G. Rogers,
Acting Director.

[FR Doc. 96-14377 Filed 6-7-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

Bureau of Land Management

Lower Snake River District Resource Advisory Council; Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management—Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Lower Snake River District Resource Advisory Council will meet at the district office to discuss options for applying terms and conditions for improving riparian areas to livestock grazing permits and leases.

DATES: Tuesday, June 18, 1996. The meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. and a public comment period will begin at 9:00 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The Lower Snake River District Office is located at 3948 Development Avenue, Boise, Idaho.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Barry Rose, Lower Snake River District Office (208-384-3393).

Dated: June 4, 1996.

Barry Rose,
Public Affairs Specialist.

[FR Doc. 96-14551 Filed 6-7-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-GG-P

INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[USITC SE-96-11]

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: United States International Trade Commission.

TIME AND DATE: June 18, 1996 at 9:30 a.m.

PLACE: Room 101, 500 E Street S.W., Washington, DC 20436.

STATUS: Open to the public.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

1. Agenda for future meeting
2. Minutes
3. Ratification List
4. Inv. No. 731-TA-739 (Final) (Clad Steel Plate from Japan)—briefing and vote.
5. Inv. No. 731-TA-732-733 (Final) (Circular Welded Non-Alloy Steel Pipe from Romania and South Africa)—briefing and vote.
6. Outstanding action jackets: None.

In accordance with Commission policy, subject matter listed above, not disposed of at the scheduled meeting, may be carried over to the agenda of the following meeting.

By order of the Commission:

Issued: June 6, 1996

Donna R. Koehnke,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-14749 Filed 6-6-96; 1:05 pm]

BILLING CODE 7020-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Office of the Deputy Attorney General

Office of Tribal Justice; Policy on Indian Sovereignty

AGENCY: Office of Tribal Justice, Department of Justice.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice publishes the "Department of Justice Policy on Indian Sovereignty and Government-to-Government Relations." The Policy reaffirms both the Department's recognition of the sovereign status of federally recognized Indian tribes and the Department's adherence to government-to-government relations with federally recognized Indian tribes. The Policy also contains a directive to all components of the Department of Justice to inform attorneys of the responsibilities enumerated in the policy and to make all reasonable efforts to ensure that component activities conform to its terms. The Policy also directs Department of Justice component heads to appoint a contact person to work with the Office of Tribal Justice to address Indian issues within each component.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Herbert A. Becker, Director, Office of Tribal Justice, Room 1509, Main Building, Department of Justice. Telephone: (202) 514-8812. FAX: (202) 514-9078.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Attached is a copy of the "Department of Justice Policy on Indian Sovereignty and Government-to-Government Relations with Indian Tribes," which the Attorney General signed on June 1, 1995.

Dated: June 3, 1996.

Herbert A. Becker,
Director, Office of Tribal Justice.
Office of the Attorney General
Washington, DC 20530

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE POLICY ON INDIAN SOVEREIGNTY AND GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT RELATIONS WITH INDIAN TRIBES

Purpose

To reaffirm the Department's recognition of the sovereign status of federally recognized Indian tribes as domestic dependent nations and to reaffirm adherence to the principles of government-to-government relations; to inform Department personnel, other federal agencies, federally recognized Indian tribes, and the public of the Department's working relationships with federally recognized Indian tribes; and to guide the Department in its work in the field of Indian affairs.

I. Introduction

From its earliest days, the United States has recognized the sovereign status of Indian