

future, more in-depth studies of the tax credit.

Form Number: None.

Respondents: State, Local, or Tribal Government.

Frequency of Submission: Annually.

Reporting Burden:

	Number of respondents	×	Frequency of response	×	Hours per response	=	Burden hours
Information Collection	54		1		24		1,297

Total Estimated Burden Hours: 1,297.

Status: Reinstatement, without changes.

Contact: Stacy Jordan, HUD, (202) 708-0426; Joseph F. Lackey, Jr., OMB, (202) 395-7316.

[FR Doc. 97-16506 Filed 6-23-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Receipt of Application for Endangered Species Permit

The following applicant has applied 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.*):

Applicant: Eco-Tech, Inc., Frankfort, Kentucky, Hal Bryan, President and Senior Ecologist

PRT-810274

The applicant requests an amendment to their existing permit to take (capture, radio-tag selected individuals, and release) Indiana bats, *Myotis sodalis*, and gray bats, *M. grisescens*, for the purpose of enhancement of survival of the species. The amendment would add Missouri and West Virginia to the geographic area in which activities are currently authorized: Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, Ohio, Virginia, New Jersey, and Indiana.

Written data or comments on this application should be submitted to: Regional Permit Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 200, Atlanta, Georgia 30345. All data and comments must be received by July 24, 1997.

Documents and other information submitted with this application 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 to the following office by July 24, 1997: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 200, Atlanta, Georgia 30345 (Attn: David Dell, Permit Biologist); Telephone: 404/679-7313; Fax: 404/679-7081.

Dated: June 16, 1997.

Noreen K. Clough,

Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 97-16408 Filed 6-23-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Exports of Live American Alligators

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has received information that raises concerns on the conservation implications of the export of live American alligators. This notice is to request submission to the Service of any information that may be available on the impacts of exports of live American alligators. In addition, the Service recently denied an application, and other current applications in process raise questions concerning eligibility. The Service announces review of all available information relating to such export to determine to what extent the export of live alligators meet the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and Service criteria for permit issuance. This will allow the agency to examine the potential impacts of future exports of American alligators on the species, on other crocodilians, and on American alligator conservation programs. Information collected will be used in evaluating current and future permit applications to ensure that any permits issued comply fully with all requirements, including Executive Order 11987, Exotic Organisms. If requested, a public meeting or meetings will be used to assist the Service in analyzing the information. While the Service will continue to review applications on a case-by-case basis, any general policy or determinations developed as a result of this review will be published in the **Federal Register** for notice and comment. Applications for export of live American alligators for scientific research, for zoological display, or as personal pets appear to continue to be generally eligible for

permits and will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

DATES: The Service will consider all information and comments received by August 25, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Please send comments to Chief, Office of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 430, Arlington, Virginia 22203. Express and messenger deliveries should be addressed to the same address. Materials received will be available for public inspection by appointment from 7:45 am to 4:15 pm, Monday through Friday, at the Office of Management Authority.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kenneth Stansell, Chief, Office of Management Authority, phone 703-358-2095, fax 703-358-2280.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office of Management Authority has recently received requests from the Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries that the Service review the criteria for issuance of permits for commercial export of live American alligators and to restrict issuance of permits until a review is completed. Both States have a number of conservation concerns about the export of these animals. In addition, the IUCN Crocodile Specialist Group has provided the Service with information that emphasizes the serious ecological consequences of establishing feral populations of exotic species of crocodilians, especially in areas with native crocodilians.

Each permit application must be carefully evaluated to ensure compliance with all applicable regulations and executive orders before a permit can be issued. For American alligators, their parts, or products, an export permit can only be issued if the Service can determine:

1. That the export will not be detrimental to the survival of the species (Code of Federal Regulations, Title 50, 23.15(d)(1));
2. That the animals to be exported were not obtained in violation of laws for their protection (50 CFR 23.15(d)(2));
3. That the authorization requested does not potentially threaten a wildlife population (50 CFR 13.21(b)(4)); and

4. That the requirements of Executive Order 11987, Exotic Organisms, are met. (This Executive Order requires "Executive agencies * * * to restrict the use of Federal funds, programs, or authorities used to export native species for the purpose of introducing such species into ecosystems outside the United States where they do not naturally occur." In this instance, introduction is defined to include "the release, escape, or establishment of an exotic species into a natural ecosystem.")

In relation to Executive Order 11987, Exotic Organisms, there has been an increasing awareness at the international level of the problems associated with species that are, inadvertently or otherwise, introduced into ecosystems where they do not usually occur (also referred to as alien species). International conservation bodies have recently addressed these issues and the problems associated with them. In July 1996, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Secretariat for the Convention on Biological Diversity, UNESCO, and the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE) of the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) sponsored a Conference on Alien Species in Trondheim, Norway. This Conference provided a forum for dialogue among scientists and policy makers on research and management issues related to alien species, contributed to ongoing deliberations in international and national fora dealing with these issues, and developed a sound scientific knowledge base on issues related to alien species.

At the World Conservation Congress in October 1996, the IUCN/SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group conducted a workshop on "Dealing with Alien Invasive Species." During the course of this workshop, draft guidelines for the prevention of biodiversity loss due to biological invasion were made available for further discussion and consideration. The IUCN/SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group is developing a global database of invasive species. The IUCN workshop was followed by further discussion of the invasive species issue at the Third Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in November 1996.

In response to concern over this issue, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has prepared a discussion document entitled "Trade in Alien Species." The Service has asked that the topic be included on the agenda of the meeting of the tenth CITES Conference of the

Parties which will be held in June 1997 in Zimbabwe. The paper notes that: "In the United States, well over 300 nonindigenous fish and wildlife species of foreign origin have already established free-living populations, approximately 122 of which are causing harm and threatening biodiversity (Office of Technology Assessment 1993). Although some of these species were introduced intentionally, many became established by accident. The risk of deleterious introductions, both intentional and unintentional, from species in international commercial trade remains grave."

The IUCN Crocodile Specialist Group has contacted the Service outlining its concern about "the potentially serious ecological consequences of establishing feral populations of exotic species of crocodilians, including competition with native species, impact on prey species, interbreeding with native crocodilians and introduction of diseases * * *. The Crocodile Specialist Group of the SCC/IUCN RECOMMENDS that crocodile species should not be used for commercial farming operations outside their historical range where those operations are located within the range of other native species of crocodilians." This increased international focus is providing information that should be taken into consideration when permit applications are evaluated.

In 1995, 10 CITES export permits were issued for the export of 592 live American alligators. In 1996, 15 CITES export permits were issued for the export of 2,151 live American alligators. The Service currently has several applications for export of a total of over 2,300 American alligators. Some applicants have already stated that they plan to apply for additional export permits for live American alligators. One application has been denied.

In order to ensure that any export permits issued fully comply with Executive Order 11987 as well as all other requirements, the Service is seeking information on the possible conservation impacts of export of live American alligators, including impacts on State management programs for this species in the United States, and on the potential deleterious effects of exported live American alligators on ecosystems outside their natural range into which they may be introduced. Information collected will be used in evaluating current and future applications to ensure that any permits issued are issued in compliance with all current requirements. Applications for export of American alligators, including those for scientific research, for zoological

display, or as personal pets, will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. After a review of the potential impacts of live American alligator export on the status of wild American alligator populations in the United States, as well as a review of whether or not the export may be detrimental to any wildlife or plant population into which the American alligators may be introduced. Any determinations or general policy will be published in the **Federal Register** for notice and comment.

Information Requested

In response to information provided to the Service that raises concerns about the way in which applications for export of live American alligators are evaluated, the increasing number of applications for export of live American alligators, and statements from applicants that more applications for export would be forthcoming, the Service is seeking additional information and public input about the conservation impacts of commercial export of live American alligators and/or their eggs. Information sought would include: (1) potential deleterious effects of exported live American alligators on ecosystems outside their natural range into which they may (inadvertently or otherwise) be introduced; (2) potential impacts on State management programs for this species in the United States including the effectiveness of the programs and successful enforcement of legal trade in American alligator specimens; (3) potential effects of American alligators on other crocodilian species and their habitats in other countries (especially where examples can be cited); and (4) documented examples of effects of other crocodilians introduced outside of their native range. Because there is no ability to monitor subsequent re-export of specimens after the initial export from the United States, the Service is also soliciting comments regarding export of live American alligators to countries outside the range of any crocodilian.

Future Actions

Comments received through this notice will be used in evaluating current and future applications for export of live American alligators. All information received in response to this notice will be thoroughly reviewed and evaluated, and a decision will be made on whether to develop a policy proposal on this issue. Applications for export of American alligators for scientific research, for zoological display, or as personal pets will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. If requested in

writing, the Service will hold public meetings concerning the issue.

Dated: June 17, 1997.

Jay L. Gerst,

Acting Director.

[FR Doc. 97-16519 Filed 6-23-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CA-340-1110-00]

Hunting Closure on Identified Public Lands, CA

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Hunting Closure on Identified Public Lands, California.

SUMMARY: In cooperation with the California Department of Fish and Game, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the Regents of the University of California, the Quail Ridge Wilderness Conservancy, and the Quail Ridge Association, and under authority of 43 CFR 8364.1, the Clear Lake Resource Area of the Bureau of Land Management is designating as closed to hunting approximately 558.38 acres of BLM lands. These public lands are located within the Quail Ridge Reserve at Lake Berryessa in Napa County, California and are cooperatively managed by the above agencies and organizations as the Quail Ridge Reserve. The 558.38 acres of BLM lands closed to hunting are legally described as:

Township 7 North, Range 3 West, MDM,
Sec. 1, W $\frac{1}{2}$ Lot 2 in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$, 38.38 acres;
Sec. 1, W $\frac{1}{2}$ Lot 1 in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$, 40 acres;
Sec. 2, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, 40 acres.
Township 8 North, Range 3 West, MDM,
Sec. 25, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$,
W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, 360 acres;
Sec. 26, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, 40 acres;
Sec. 35, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, 40 acres.

This is a permanent year-round hunting closure until and unless the Management Team for the Quail Ridge Reserve agrees to rescind or modify the closure. An exception to this closure are special hunts agreed upon by the Management Team as necessary to control the proliferation of nonnative game species i.e. feral pigs. Any special hunts will be coordinated by the California Department of Fish and Game.

A map depicting BLM lands to be closed to hunting is available upon request from the Clear Lake Resource Area office of the BLM in Ukiah, California.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This closure will become effective upon publication in the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Phil Damon, Acting Clear Lake Resource Area Manager at 707-468-4000.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This closure applies to BLM lands located within the Quail Ridge Reserve (QRR) at Lake Berryessa in Napa County, California. In a Cooperative Agreement approved in 1992 between the Regents of the University of California and the Bureau of Land Management, the BLM agreed to provide to the University of California the use of the above-described public lands for teaching, research, and other educational purposes. In this agreement the BLM also agreed to support a hunting closure on these lands primarily to avoid potential conflicts with animal population studies, but also to decrease the safety hazards to researchers and visitors during hunting seasons.

QRR includes lands owned and managed by the agencies and organizations listed in the above Summary of this Notice. With the exception of the BLM, all lands owned and managed by these agencies and organizations have already been closed to all hunting. The Department of Fish and Game has not enforced the hunting closure on DFG-administered lands because it is very difficult to determine common boundaries between the BLM lands and DFG lands on the ground. In the absence of a hunting closure on BLM lands, the integrity of the cooperative management of QRR by agencies and organizations which already have hunting closures in place will be compromised. Implementing the hunting closure on BLM lands is necessary to complete the final link in the cooperative goal of closing lands within QRR to hunting. As stated, the BLM has signed cooperative agreement to support a hunting closure.

Phil Damon,

Acting Clear Lake Resource Area Manager.

[FR Doc. 97-16478 Filed 6-23-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-40-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CA-360-1020-00]

Resource Advisory Council Meeting, Ukiah (Northwest California) Redding, CA

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The U. S. Bureau of Land Management's Ukiah (Northwest California) Resource Advisory Council will meet Thursday and Friday, July 24 and 25, 1997, at the Victorian Inn, 1709 Main Street (Highway 299), Weaverville, CA. The meeting will include a business session and field tour.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Thursday, July 24 meeting begins at 10 a.m. in the conference room of the Victorian Inn. Agenda items include a review of the BLM-California draft environmental impact statement on Standards for Healthy Rangelands and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing. The council will also hear a subcommittee report on the proposed Yahi-Ishi National Conservation Area, and a subcommittee report on recreation user fees. Public comments will be taken at 1 p.m. Depending on the number of persons wishing to speak, a time limit could be imposed.

On Friday, July 25, the members will convene at 8 a.m. the Victorian Inn and depart immediately for a field tour of conservation projects in the BLM's Redding Resource Area. Members of the public are invited on the tour. They must provide their own four-wheel-drive transportation and lunch. The tour will conclude at 3 p.m.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: Chuck Schultz, BLM Redding Resource Area Manager, (916) 224-2100.

Joseph J. Fontana,

Public Affairs Officer.

[FR Doc. 97-16477 Filed 6-23-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-40-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

Bay-Delta Advisory Council Meetings

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meetings.

SUMMARY: The Bay-Delta Advisory Council (BDAC) will meet to discuss several issues including: an overview and discussion of the process to evaluate and narrow the program alternatives; an update on the activities of the Ecosystem Restoration program and the Ecosystem Roundtable subcommittee; an update from the fact finding BDAC work groups (finance, ecosystem restoration and assurances); and other issues. The Ecosystem Roundtable (a subcommittee of the BDAC) will meet to discuss the following issues: the evaluation and selection process for the 1997 Category III Request for Proposals; contract