

Number of Respondents: 50.
Frequency of Responses:
 Recordkeeping; Reporting: On occasion.
Total Burden Hours: 656.

• **National Agricultural Statistic Service**

Title: Honey Survey.
OMB Control Number: 0535-0153.
Summary of Collection: Respondents provide information on honey production, number of colonies, production, and stocks.

Need and Use of the Information:
 Estimates of the information are used by producers and the agribusiness sector of the honey industry to make production and marketing decisions.

Description of Respondents: Farms.
Number of Respondents: 6,200.
Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 2,067.

Donald Hulcher,

Departmental Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 97-19517 Filed 7-23-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 97-001-1]

Handling, Training, and Exhibition of Potentially Dangerous Exotic or Wild Animals

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Request for information.

SUMMARY: Through this document, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is requesting information concerning what practices are currently used for handling and training potentially dangerous exotic or wild animals used in exhibition (such as, but not limited to, elephants, lions, or tigers), and what training and experience levels trainers and handlers of such animals have. We are seeking this information to help us more thoroughly examine all issues pertaining to the training and handling of potentially dangerous exotic or wild animals used in exhibition.

DATES: Consideration will be given only to comments received on or before September 22, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Please send an original and three copies of your comments to Docket No. 97-001-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, suite 3C03, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238.

Please state that your comments refer to Docket No. 97-001-1. Comments received may be inspected at USDA, room 1141, South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Persons wishing to inspect comments are requested to call ahead on (202) 690-2817 to facilitate entry into the comment reading room.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Stephen Smith, Staff Animal Health Technician, Animal Care, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 84, Riverdale, MD 20737-1234, (301) 734-7833.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Under the Animal Welfare Act (the Act) (7 U.S.C. 2131 *et seq.*), the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to promulgate regulations governing the humane handling, housing, care, treatment, and transportation of certain animals by dealers, research facilities, exhibitors, and carriers and intermediate handlers. Regulations established under the Act are contained in 9 CFR parts 1, 2, and 3. 9 CFR part 2 contains regulations that cover training and handling of animals under the Animal Welfare Act. These regulations generally prohibit physical abuse of performing animals, describe minimum standards for exhibition of animals to prevent risk or harm to the animals and to the public, and require that dangerous animals be directly supervised by a knowledgeable animal handler during public exhibition.

We are seeking additional information concerning the training and handling of potentially dangerous wild and exotic animals used in exhibition in order to obtain a better understanding of the issues pertaining to their welfare. Specifically, we are seeking information that will help us explore the following issues:

1. What handling and training practices are used, both by the majority of the performing animal industry and by other groups, and what practices are considered abusive;

2. What practices are used for controlling potentially dangerous animals that show aggression during exhibition, such as standards for chemical immobilization and recapture of aggressive animals, and what practices are used for preventing animals from being aggressive during exhibition;

3. What is the incidence of aggressive behavior in these animals during exhibition;

4. What identification methods are used for tracking wild or exotic animals (such as tattoos or microchips); and

5. What professional or industry standards exist concerning training and experience levels for trainers and handlers.

We are most interested in receiving information that is in the form of published industry standards, published reports in peer-reviewed journals, studies, and objective scientific data. For those issues on which data or published information is not available, APHIS also requests comments on the most cost-effective means to obtain such data. Interested parties are invited to submit comments on the issues stated above and other pertinent issues related to the training and handling of potentially dangerous wild or exotic animals. Written comments should be submitted within the 60-day comment period specified in this notice under the section entitled **DATES** to the address listed under the section entitled **ADDRESSES**.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 2131-2159; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.2(g).

Done in Washington, DC, this 18th day of July 1997.

Terry L. Medley,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 97-19498 Filed 7-23-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Luck Lake Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare a Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to provide timber for the Ketchikan Area timber sale program. The Record of Decision will disclose how the Forest Service has decided to provide harvest units, roads, and associated timber harvesting facilities. The proposed action is to harvest an estimated 13 million board feet (mmbf) of timber on an estimated 1000 acres. A range of alternatives will be developed and will include a no-action alternative. The proposed timber harvest is located within Tongass Forest Plan Management Area K09 Value Comparison Units 572, 581 and 582 on Prince of Wales Island, Alaska, on the Thorne Bay Ranger

District of the Ketchikan Area of the Tongass National Forest.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of this project should be received by September 30, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Please send written comments to District Ranger; Thorne Bay Ranger District; Tongass National Forest, Ketchikan Area; Attn: Luck Lake EIS; P.O. Box 19001; Thorne Bay, AK 99919.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions about the proposal and EIS should be directed to Stephen J. Kimball, District Ranger, Thorne Bay Ranger District, Tongass National Forest, P.O. Box 19001, Thorne Bay, AK 99919 telephone (907) 828-3304.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Public participation will be an integral component of the study process and will be especially important at several points during the analysis. The first is during the scoping process. The Forest Service will be seeking information, comments, and assistance from Federal, State, local agencies, individuals and organizations that may be interested in, or affected by, the proposed activities. The scoping process will include: (1) identification of potential issues; (2) identification of issues to be analyzed in depth; and, (3) elimination of insignificant issues or those which have been covered by a previous environmental review. Public scoping meetings are scheduled in Alaska at Thorne Bay, August 25, 1997, Whole Passage, August 26, 1997, Coffman Cove, August 27, 1997, Naukati, August 28, 1997 and Klawock, September 3, 1997. Written scoping comments are being solicited through a scoping package that will be sent to the project mailing list. For the Forest Service to best use the scoping input, comments should be received by September 30, 1997. Tentative issues identified for analysis in the EIS include the potential effects of the project on and the relationship of the project to: Subsistence resources, old-growth ecosystem management and the maintenance of habitat for viable populations of wildlife and plant species, timber supply, scenery and recreational resources, anadromous and resident fish habitat, water resources, wetlands, cultural resources and others.

Based on results of scoping and the resource capabilities within the project area, alternatives including a "no action" alternative will be developed for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS). The Draft EIS is projected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in March 1998. Subsistence hearings, as

provided for in Title VIII, Section 810 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), are planned during the comment period on the Draft EIS. The Final EIS is anticipated by September 1998.

The comment period on the draft environmental impact statement will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

The Forest Service believes, at this early stage, it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of draft environmental impact statements must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewer's position and contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Environmental objections that could have been raised at the draft environmental impact statement stage may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *City of Agoon v. Hodel*, 803 F.2d 1016, 1022 (9th Cir. 1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). Because of these court rulings, it is very important that those interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the 45-day comment period so that substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider them and respond to them in the final environmental impact statement.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns of the proposed action, comments during scoping and comments on the draft environmental impact statement should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft statement. Comments may also address the adequacy of the draft environmental impact statement or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the statement. Reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will

be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR Parts 215 or 217. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Requesters should be aware that, under FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within 7 days.

Permits: Permits required for implementation include the following:

1. U.S. Army Corp of Engineers
 - Approval of discharge of dredged or fill material into the waters of the United States under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act;
 - Approval of the construction of structures or work in navigable waters of the United States under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899;
2. Environmental Protection Agency
 - National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (402) Permit;
 - Review Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan;
3. State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources
 - Tideland Permit and Lease or Easement;
4. State of Alaska, Department of Environmental Conservation
 - Solid Waste Disposal Permit;
 - Certification of Compliance with Alaska Water Quality Standards (401 Certification)

Responsible Official: Bradley E. Powell, Forest Supervisor, Ketchikan Area, Tongass National Forest, Federal Building, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901, is the responsible official. The responsible official will consider the comments, response, disclosure of environmental consequences, and applicable laws, regulations, and policies in making the decision and stating the rationale in the Record of Decision.

Dated: July 17, 1997.

Robert L. Vaught,

Deputy Forest Supervisor.

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