

DATES: The Service will hold the public meeting on Saturday, October 23, 1999, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Fish and Wildlife Service office located in the Comfort Inn, 3860 Tollgate Boulevard, Naples, Florida 34114. In addition, written comments on the draft plan should be sent no later than November 8, 1999, to the address given below.

ADDRESSES: Comments and requests for copies of the draft plan should be addressed to Mr. Ed Loth, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Southeast Regional Office, 1875 Century Boulevard, Atlanta, Georgia 30345, or by calling 404/679-7155.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Ten Thousand Islands National Wildlife Refuge consists of approximately 35,000 acres located approximately 20 miles southeast of Naples, Florida, and South of U.S. Highway 41. The refuge was established under the authority of the Florida/Arizona Land Exchange Act in order to develop, advance, manage, conserve and protect its unique estuarine ecosystem and fish and wildlife resources. The refuge represents a variety of coastal habitats including mangrove forests, freshwater marsh systems, interspersed freshwater ponds, and small islands or hammocks of upland habitat.

It is the desire of the Fish and Wildlife Service that Ten Thousand Islands National Wildlife Refuge become "a model for natural systems management, featuring unique coastal marshes, islands, and subtropical estuarine mangrove ecosystems. The refuge will provide essential habitat for threatened and endangered species and be an area noted for its cultural resources.

Through effective management and partnering, the refuge will provide outstanding recreational opportunities for present and future generations." To accomplish this vision, the refuge seeks to achieve the following six goals: (1) Wildlife and Habitat Conservation—conserve, enhance, and protect fish and wildlife resources and other natural values supported within the refuge portion of this unique south Florida coastal ecosystem; (2) Public Use—Provide visitors with quality recreational opportunities, guided by the refuge's vision and mission, and compatible with its purpose; (3) Commercial Use—co-manage sustained-yield commercial harvesting, guiding, and other enterprises that are compatible with the purpose of the refuge; (3) Environmental Education—promote the interpretation, education, and appreciation of coastal natural resources for the Ten Thousand Islands

area, and the importance of conserving them; (5) Cooperative Management—promote cooperation among agencies, private landowners, organizations, and other stakeholders in the management of natural and cultural resources within the Big Cypress Watershed; and (6) Archaeological Resources—protect refuge cultural resources, encourage archaeological investigations, and promote interpretation and appreciation of the area's history.

The draft plan evaluates three alternatives for managing the refuge over the next 15 years: Alternative A (no action) advocates that the refuge be managed with minimal monitoring and management direction; Alternative B (ecosystem approach) would allow recreational and commercial activities to continue coupled with extensive monitoring programs to assess the quality of the environment; and Alternative C (maximum public use) emphasizes fishing as well as many other recreational pursuits for the refuge. The Service believes that Alternative B (ecosystem approach) is the best alternative to guide the refuge's future direction. In essence, this alternative will:

- Best meet the primary purposes for which the refuge was established—protecting and enhancing the refuge's unique estuarine ecosystem;
- Recognize the importance of the refuge within the Big Cypress Watershed and define refuge actions to protect and enhance the natural features of this ecosystem;
- Continue to provide the public access to the refuge; visitation would be monitored for its impacts on flora and fauna; and
- Ensure that environmental education and partnership efforts increase.

Dated: September 14, 1999.

Sam D. Hamilton,
Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 99-25255 Filed 9-28-99; 8:45 am]
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Receipt of Applications for Permit

The following applicants have 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: Taylor W. Jones, Atlanta, GA, PRT-017657.

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: Randy Kalp, Pleasant Unity, PA, PRT-017657.

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: University of Illinois/Chicago, Chicago, IL, PRT-017651.

The applicant requests a permit to import blood samples from three (3) captive-held Baird's Tapirs (*Tapirus bairdii*) maintained under the management program of the Belize Zoo, Belize City, Belize, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species through genetic studies.

Applicant: Bowmanville Zoological Park Ltd, c/o Whitfield's Tigers and Lions, Suisun City, CA, PRT-017088.

The applicant requests a permit to purchase and export one Bengal tiger (*Panthera tigris tigris*) to Bowmanville Zoological Park Ltd., Ontario, Canada for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species through propagation and conservation education.

The following applicants have applied for a permit to conduct certain activities with marine mammals. The application was submitted to satisfy requirements of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, *as amended* (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing marine mammals (50 CFR 18).

Applicant: Mike Popper, Sewickley, PA, PRT-017654

The applicant requests a permit to import a polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) sport-hunted, taken prior to April 30, 1994, from the Lancaster Sound polar bear population, Northwest Territories, Canada, for personal use.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, the Office of Management Authority is forwarding copies of this application to the Marine Mammal Commission and the Committee of Scientific Advisors for their review.

Written data or comments, requests for copies of the complete application, or requests for a public hearing on this application should be sent to the U.S.

Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203, telephone 703/358-2104 or fax 703/358-2281 and must be received within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice. Anyone requesting a hearing should give specific reasons why a hearing would be appropriate. The holding of such a hearing is at the discretion of the Director.

Documents and other information submitted for these applications are available for review by any party who submits a written request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203. Phone (703) 358-2104 or Fax (703) 358-2281.

Dated: September 24, 1999.

Kristen Nelson,

Acting Chief, Branch of Permits, Office of Management Authority.

[FR Doc. 99-25319 Filed 9-28-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Submission of Collection of Water Delivery and Electric Service Data for the Operation of Irrigation and Power Projects and Systems to Office of Management and Budget

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is submitting two information collection requests for extension to the Office of Management and Budget. The two collections are: Electrical Service Application, 1076-0021, and Water Request, 1076-0141.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before October 29, 1999, to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to: Attn: Desk Officer for Department of the Interior, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, OMB, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503. Send a copy to Bureau of Indian Affairs, Branch of Irrigation, Power, and Safety of Dams, Mail Stop 4513-MIB, Washington, DC 20240.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Interested persons may obtain copies of the information collection requests without charge by contacting Ross Mooney at 202-208-5480, or facsimile

number: 202-219-1255, or E-mail: Ross_Mooney@IOS.DOI.GOV.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A request for comments regarding the two information collection requests was published in the **Federal Register** on June 8, 1999 (64 FR 30533-30534). No comments were received during the comment period.

Request for Comments

The Bureau of Indian Affairs solicits comments in order to:

- (1) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the bureau, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- (2) Evaluate the bureau's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- (3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- (4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond.

OMB has up to 60 days to approve or disapprove the information collection but may respond after 30 days; therefore, comments submitted within 30 days are more assured of receiving maximum consideration. Please note that comments, names and addresses of commentors are available for public review during normal business hours. If you wish us to withhold any information you submit, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will honor your request to the extent allowable by law.

Title: Water Request, 25 CFR 171.

Frequency of Collection: On occasion.

Description of Respondents: BIA Irrigation Project Water Users.

Total Respondents: 25,000.

Total Annual Responses: 51,500.
Total Annual Burden Hours: 4,292 hours.

Title: Electric Service Application, 25 CFR 175.

Frequency of Collection: On Occasion.

Description of Respondents: BIA Electric Power Consumers.

Total Respondents: 4,750.

Total Annual Responses: 4,750.
Total Annual Burden Hours: 1,188 hours.

Dated: September 23, 1999.

Kevin Gover,

Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

[FR Doc. 99-25280 Filed 9-28-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[MT-963-1020-04-WEED]

Certified Noxious Weed-Free Forage, ND

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Interior.

ACTION: Notice of final supplementary rules to require the use of certified noxious weed-free forage on BLM-administered lands in North Dakota.

SUMMARY: The North Dakota Field Office of the BLM recently prepared an environmental assessment (EA) documenting the analysis of two alternatives for managing noxious weeds on public lands in North Dakota. The EA's proposed action consisted of a supplementary rule under 43 CFR 8365.1-6 to require the use of certified noxious weed-free forage on those public lands. Forage subject to this supplementary rule would include hay, straw, cubes, grains, and mulch. The Field Manager of the BLM's North Dakota Field Office has issued a decision record stating the EA's proposed action will not have any significant impact on the human environment and that an environmental impact statement is not required. Therefore, the Field Manager is requiring that public land users, including local, State, or Federal government agents conducting administrative activities, recreationists using pack and saddle stock, and contractors using straw or other mulch for reseeding purposes, use certified noxious weed-free forage products, or other approved products such as pelletized feed, while on the approximately 60,000 acres of BLM administered public lands in North Dakota. Copies of the EA, Finding of No Significant Impact, and Decision Record are available at the BLM North Dakota Field Office in Dickinson, ND.

There were no comments on the Notice of Proposed Supplementary Rules To Require the Use of Certified Noxious Weed-Free Forage on BLM Administered Lands in North Dakota, placed in the **Federal Register** dated June 17, 1999.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The Final Supplementary Rules will be effective October 29, 1999 and will remain in effect until modified or rescinded by the Authorized Officer.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: BLM—North Dakota Field Office, Don Ruffedt, Natural Resource Specialist, 2933 3rd Ave. W., Dickinson, ND