

	Number of re- spondents	x	Frequency of response	x	Hours per re- sponse	=	Burden hours
92297	1500		1		.17		250

Total Estimated Burden Hours: 250.
Status: New Collection.

Contact: Carissa Janis, HUD (202) 708-3291; Joseph F. Lackey, Jr., OMB, (202) 395-7316.

[FR Doc. 98-22345 Filed 8-19-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Information Collection To Be Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Approval Under the Paperwork Reduction Act

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Information collection; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The collection of information described below has been submitted to OMB for approval under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. Copies of specific information collection requirements, related forms, and explanatory material may be obtained by contacting the Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) Information Collection Clearance Officer at the address or phone number listed below.

DATES: Consideration will be given to all comments received on or before September 21, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Comments and suggestions on specific requirements should be sent to the: Desk Officer for the Interior Department, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503. Please also send a copy of your comments to: Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS 222 ARLSQ, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington D.C. 20240, Telephone 703/358-2287.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeffrey L. Horwath, Division of Fish and Wildlife Management Assistance, Arlington, Virginia, 703/358-1718; or Wells Stephensen, Office of Marine Mammals Management, Anchorage, Alaska, 907/786-3815.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Service has submitted the following information collection clearance requirements to the Office of

Management and Budget (OMB) for approval under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104-13. The Service may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. A 60-day notice inviting public comment on this information collection requirement previously was published in the **Federal Register** on April 1, 1998 (63 FR 15855). No comments on the previous notice were received. Pursuant to this request for approval, comments are invited on: (1) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the function of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. The OMB has up to 60 days to approve or disapprove the information collection but may respond after 30 days; therefore, public comments should be submitted to the OMB within 30 days in order to assure their maximum consideration.

As authorized by Section 109(i) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (Act) (16 U.S.C. 1361-1407), the Service in October 1988 implemented formal Marking, Tagging, and Reporting Regulations in 50 CFR 18.23 for Alaskan Natives harvesting polar bear, sea otter, and Pacific walrus. Under Section 101(b) of the Act, Alaskan Natives residing in Alaska and dwelling on the coast of the North Pacific or Arctic Oceans may harvest these species for subsistence or handicraft purposes. Section 109(i) of the Act authorizes the Service, acting on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior, to prescribe marking, tagging, and reporting regulations applicable to this Native subsistence and handicraft take.

On June 28, 1988, the Service published, under authority of Section 109(i) of the Act, a final rule in the

Federal Register that added paragraph (f) to regulations at 50 CFR 18.23 that enabled the Service to gather data on the Native subsistence and handicraft harvest, and biology of polar bear, sea otter, and Pacific walrus in order to determine what effect such take is having on these populations. It also provided the Service with a means of monitoring the disposition of the harvest to ensure that any commercial use of products created from these species meets the criteria set forth in Section 101(b) of the Act.

The information proposed to be collected by the Service from Alaskan Natives will be used to improve the Service's decision-making ability by substantially expanding the quality and quantity of harvest and biological data upon which future management decisions can be based. It will provide the Service with the ability to make inferences about the condition and general health of these populations, and to consider the importance and impacts to these population from such processes as development activities and habitat degradation. Without authority to collect this harvest information, the Service's ability to measure the take of polar bear, sea otter and walrus is inadequate. Mandatory marking, tagging, and reporting is considered essential to improve the quality and quantity of harvest and biological data upon which future management decisions will be based. It allows the Service to make rational, knowledgeable decisions regarding the Native harvest, habitat degradation, and the effects of oil and gas exploration, development and production planned or underway for areas within the range of these species.

The Service estimates that the annual burden associated with this request will be 482 hours for each year of the 3-year period of OMB authorization. This estimated burden was calculated based on previous experience suggesting that Alaskan Natives annually will take about 1,930 polar bears, sea otter, and Pacific walrus for subsistence and handicraft purposes, and that 15 minutes will be needed to provide the required information for each animal taken.

Title: Marine Mammal Marking, Tagging, and Reporting Program.
Bureau form numbers: R7-50, R7-51, and R7-52.

Frequency of collection: Occasional.

Description of respondents: Individual and households.

Number of respondents:

Approximately 1,930 per year.

Estimated completion time: 15 minutes per response.

Annual burden hours: 482 hours.

Current OMB Clearance Number: 0118-0066.

Approval Expires: August 31, 1998.

Dated: August 3, 1998.

Hannibal Bolton,

Acting Assistant Director-Fisheries.

[FR Doc. 98-22384 Filed 8-19-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

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.*):

PRT-843874

Applicant: Hawthorn Corporation, Grayslake, IL.

The applicant requests renewal of this permit to export and re-import captive-born tigers (*Panthera tigris*), and progeny of the animals currently held by the applicant and any animals acquired in the United States by the applicant to/from worldwide locations to enhance the survival of the species through conservation education. This notification covers activities conducted by the applicant over a three year period.

PRT-843994

Applicant: Joyce Sroufe (B-J Game Farm), Ponca City, OK.

The applicant requests a permit to import a male Leopard Cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis bengalensis*) from Jungle Cat World, Ontario, Canada, for the purpose of enhancement of the species through captive propagation.

Written data or comments should be submitted to the Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203 and must be received by the Director within 30 days of the date of this publication.

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, Rm 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203, phone (703) 358-2104 or Fax (703) 358-2281.

Dated: August 14, 1998.

MaryEllen Amtower,

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

[FR Doc. 98-22346 Filed 8-19-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Intent To Conduct Public Scoping and Prepare an Environmental Document

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior; National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of intent to conduct public scoping and prepare an environmental document.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act this notice advises the public that the Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service (Services) intend to gather information necessary to prepare an environmental document (environmental assessment or environmental impact statement) related to the proposed approval of a Habitat Conservation Plan (Plan) and issuance of an incidental take permit (Permit) to take endangered and threatened species in accordance with section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, *as amended* (Act). The Permit applicant is Crown Pacific, Ltd., and the application is related to forest management and timber harvest on a portion of the Hamilton Tree Farm located in Whatcom and Skagit Counties, Washington. Crown Pacific intends to request a Permit for northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet, and possibly bald eagle, peregrine falcon, grizzly bear, and gray wolf. Crown Pacific may also seek coverage for approximately 20 currently unlisted species of concern (including anadromous and resident fish) under specific provisions of the Permit, should these species be listed in the future. In accordance with the Act, Crown Pacific is preparing a Plan for, among other things, minimizing and mitigating any such take which could occur incidental to the proposed Permit

activities (forest management and timber harvest).

The Services are furnishing this notice in order to: (1) Advise other agencies and the public of our intentions; and (2) to obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues to include in the environmental document.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before September 21, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Address comments and requests for more information to: Brian Bogaczyk, Fish and Wildlife Service, 510 Desmond Drive, S.E., Suite 102, Lacey, Washington 98503, (360) 753-5824; or Matt Longenbaugh, National Marine Fisheries Service, 510 Desmond Drive, S.E., Suite 103, Lacey, Washington 98503, (360) 753-7761.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Crown Pacific, Ltd., owns and manages Hamilton Tree Farm, located in Whatcom and Skagit Counties, Washington. The proposed Plan area is composed of several parcels of the Hamilton Tree Farm, totaling 84,430 acres, and is located north and south of State Highway 20, roughly between Sedro-Woolley and Marblemount, Washington. Management activities on the tree farm include forest management and timber harvest. A portion of the proposed Plan area, Arlecho Creek, is in the process of being transferred to the Nature Conservancy and the Lummi Indian Nation, with the understanding that the property will be managed as a natural/cultural area. The transfer is expected to be completed in late 1999.

Some timber management activities have the potential to impact species subject to protection under the Act. Section 10 of the Act contains provisions for the issuance of incidental take permits to non-Federal land owners for the take of endangered and threatened species, provided the take is incidental to otherwise lawful activities, and will not appreciably reduce the likelihood of the survival and recovery of the species in the wild. In addition, the applicant must prepare and submit to the Services for approval, a Plan containing a strategy for minimizing and mitigating all take associated with the proposed activities to the maximum extent practicable. The applicant must also ensure that adequate funding for the Plan will be provided.

Crown Pacific has initiated discussions with the Services regarding the possibility of a Permit and associated Plan for their activities on the Hamilton Tree Farm. Activities proposed thus far for Permit coverage include the following: site preparation;