

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;

tree planting; harvesting and yarding of timber; construction, maintenance and use of logging roads and landings; quarrying of stone and gravel for use in those roads and landings; and cellular phone and radio repeater tower sites.

The Services will conduct an environmental review of the Plan and prepare an environmental document (environmental assessment or environmental impact statement). The environmental review will analyze the proposal as well as a full range of reasonable alternatives, and the associated impacts of each. The Services are currently in the process of developing alternatives for analysis. There are four alternatives proposed thus far. Under Alternative A (no action alternative) no Permit is issued and take will be avoided for any and all threatened and endangered species on the property. Alternative B (preferred alternative) involves issuing a Permit for six threatened and endangered species on the property (bald eagle, peregrine falcon, marbled murrelet, northern spotted owl, grizzly bear, gray wolf) with provisions for approximately 20 unlisted species. The Plan would have minimization and mitigation measures for six threatened and endangered species and approximately 20 unlisted species on the property. Alternative C involves issuing a Permit for northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet only, with provisions for approximately 20 unlisted species. The Plan would have minimization and mitigation measures for northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet and approximately 20 unlisted species. Alternative D involves a Candidate Conservation Agreement with minimization and mitigation measures for anadromous salmonids and bull trout and take avoidance for any and all threatened and endangered species on the property.

Comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties to ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed action are addressed and all significant issues identified. Comments or questions concerning this proposed action and the environmental review should be directed to the Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service at the addresses provided above.

The environmental review of this project will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), and implementing regulations (40 CFR 1500–1508), other appropriate Federal laws and regulations, and policies and procedures of the Services for compliance with those regulations. It is

estimated that the draft environmental document will be available by January 1998.

Dated: August 12, 1998.

Thomas Dwyer,

Acting Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon, Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 98–22267 Filed 8–19–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–55–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Meeting

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a meeting of the Western Regional Panel, a geographic committee of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force. The meeting is open to the public. Meeting topics are identified in the **SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION.**

DATES: The Western Regional Panel will meet from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 23, 1998, and 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon on Thursday, September 24, 1998. Committees of the Panel will meet late Wednesday afternoon and early Thursday morning.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at U.S. Bureau of Reclamation offices, Building 67, Denver Federal Center, 6th and North Street, Lakewood, Colorado 80225.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Max Haegele, Chair, Western Regional Panel at 303–445–2801, Linda Drees, Coordinator, Western Regional Panel at 785–539–3474, extension 20, or Bob Peoples, Executive Secretary, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force at 703–358–2025.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, this notice announces a public meeting of the Recreation Activities Committee of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force. The Task Force was established by the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990.

Topics to be covered during the meeting: nonindigenous species policy and legislative developments, including the proposed Executive Order on Invasives, the Western Governors' Association Resolution on Undesirable Aquatic and Terrestrial Species, the proposed Plant Protection Act, and national voluntary ballast water regulations; the Washington State and

Colorado River basin ANS management plans; a proposed ballast water outreach program; purple loosestrife management; proposed amendment of Panel procedures and its geographic structure; additional tribal representation on the Panel's Executive Committee; review of accomplishments under the Panel's current work plan, committee reports and recommendations for the Panel's 1999 work plan; and proposed Panel actions.

Minutes of the meeting will be maintained by the Coordinator, Western Regional Panel, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 315 Houston Street, Suite E, Manhattan, Kansas 66502, and Executive Secretary, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, Suite 851, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22203–1622. They will be available for public inspection at these locations during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, within 30 days following the meeting.

Dated: August 17, 1998.

Hannibal Bolton,

Acting Co-Chair, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, Acting Assistant Director—Fisheries.

[FR Doc. 98–22385 Filed 8–19–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–55–M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[MT–060–4310–DN–P]

Closure of Public Lands

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Malta Field Office.

ACTION: Notice of permanent closure.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that effective immediately, all non-permitted uses such as, but not limited to, hunting, shooting and camping on public land within the townsites of Landusky and Zortman and the public lands surrounding the Zortman Elementary school are prohibited. Authorized personnel of the Bureau of Land Management, state and local Law Enforcement, and other emergency services are exempt from this closure. The public lands in the townsite of Landusky are located in T. 25 N., R. 24 E., sec. 22 and 27, block 1, block 2 school reserve, block 3 lots 10, 13 and 18, block 4 and block 8. The public lands in the townsite of Zortman are located in T. 25 N., R. 25 E., sec. 16 and 17, block 1, block 3, block 5, block 6 lot 9, block 7, block 8 lots 3, 4 and 8, block 9, block 11, block 14 lots 1 through 4, inclusive, block 15 lots 1 through 4, inclusive, block 16, lots 1 through 4