

conducted by the applicant over a three year period.

*Applicant:* Bowmanville Zoo, Ontario, Canada, PRT-805163. The applicant requests a permit to import and re-export captive-born Bengal tigers (*Panthera tigris 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.

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.

The public is invited to comment on the following applications for permits to conduct certain activities with marine mammals. The applications were 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:* Alberto J. deJongh, Baton Rouge, LA, PRT-008115. The applicant requests a permit to import a polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) sport-hunted from the Lancaster Sound polar bear population, Northwest Territories, Canada for personal use.

*Applicant:* Jeff C. Neal, Tulsa, OK, PRT-008116. The applicant requests a permit to import a polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) sport-hunted from the Davis Strait polar bear population, Northwest Territories, Canada, prior to April 30, 1994 for personal use.

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 with these applications 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

within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203. Phone: (703/358-2104); FAX: (703/358-2281).

Dated: February 23, 1999.

**MaryEllen Amtower,**

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

[FR Doc. 99-4833 Filed 2-25-99; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### North American Wetlands Conservation Council; Availability of Grant Application Instructions

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. North American Wetlands Conservation Act Standard Grant Application Instructions booklet and computer disk are now available. In addition, both will be available via the Internet in early 1999.

**DATES:** Proposals may be submitted at any time. To ensure adequate review time prior to North American Wetlands Conservation Council meetings, due dates continue to be the first Friday in April (April 2, 1999) and August (August 6, 1999).

**ADDRESSES:** For a copy of the booklet and/or disk, contact the Fish and Wildlife Service Publications Unit, c/o National Conservation Training Center Support Services, Route 1, Box 166, Shepherd Grade Road, Shepherdstown, WV 25443 in writing or by phone (304) 876-7203 during normal business hours.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** North American Wetlands Conservation Council Coordinator at (703)358-1784, R9ARW\_NAWWO@MAIL.FWS.GOV or WWW.FWS.GOV/R9NAWWO/NAWCAHP.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Council has two U.S. conservation grants programs for acquisition, restoration, and enhancement of wetlands. Any individual or organization who has a long-term, partner-based project with matching funds can apply. The focus of this notice is the larger (up to \$1,000,000) grants program (a separate notice is issued for "Small Grants"). The booklet provides the schedule, review criteria, definitions, information required in the

proposal, and a format for proposals. The disk contains a proposal outline, budget table and Technical Assessment Questions (including species lists) in Word Perfect and Word word-processing programs.

Major changes and clarifications since last year are:

- (1) Proposals must be unbound.
- (2) We require a Cover Page.
- (3) We require Standard Form 424 and attachments submitted with the proposal, rather than later.
- (4) We wrote instructions in plain language (active voice, more headers, more use of lists, and Table of Contents in question format).
- (5) We included Office of Management and Budget Information Collection Statement.
- (6) We replaced the term "overhead" with clearer statements.
- (7) We disallow the short-hand method for reporting numbers in the Budget Table.

(8) Technical Assessment Question 2 non-waterfowl migratory birds lists are organized by Partners in Flight physical geographic areas.

(9) We gave more information about what to expect after the proposal is approved for funding.

(10) We require appraisals for grant and match tracts acquired and donated in fee or easement.

(11) We must receive proposals by the first Friday in April and August (versus postmarked by).

(12) Part 1 font size = 11 and suggested font face = Times New Roman.

(13) We gave a Technical Assessment Questions Contacts table.

(14) We listed more Internet web sites in the Directory.

We prepared the booklet and disk to assist partners in developing proposals that comply with the "North American Wetlands Conservation Act." The Act established a North American Wetlands Conservation Council, a Federal-State-Private body, that recommends projects to the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission for final approval. The Council requires that proposals contain a minimum of 50 percent non-Federal matching funds and follow a prescribed format.

We have submitted information collection requirements to the OMB for review and approval under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. Law 104-13. On August 24, 1998, OMB gave an emergency approval for this information collection requirement and assigned it approval number 1018-0100. Our request for continued approval has been submitted to OMB. An agency 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. The information collection solicited: is necessary to gain a benefit in the form of a grant, as determined by the Council and the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission; is necessary to determine the eligibility and relative value of wetland projects; results in an approximate paperwork burden of 400 hours per application; and does not carry a premise of confidentiality. The information collections in this program will not be part of a system of records covered by the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552(a)).

Dated: February 19, 1999.

**Jamie Rappaport Clark,**

*Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*

[FR Doc. 99-4803 Filed 2-25-99; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### **Announcement of the Time and Place of the Eleventh Regular Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); Announcement of the Times and Places of the Next Meetings of the CITES Plants and Animals Committees; Announcement of Public Meeting**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the time and place of the eleventh regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP11) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). This notice also announces that the next meeting of the CITES Plants Committee will be held June 7-11, 1999, in Darwin, Australia, and the next meeting of the CITES Animals Committee will be held July 5-9, 1999, in Madagascar. A public meeting will be held to discuss issues that will be raised at the next meetings of the CITES Plants and Animals Committees.

**DATES:** The public meeting will be held on May 6, 1999, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. For COP11 and Committee meeting dates, see the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this notice.

**ADDRESSES:** The public meeting will be held in Room 200 of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Arlington Square building at 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22203.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Office of Scientific Authority, phone 703/358-1708, fax 703/358-2276, E-mail: r9osa@mail.fws.gov; or Office of Management Authority, Branch of CITES Operations, phone 703/358-2095, fax 703/358-2298, E-mail: r9oma\_cites@mail.fws.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Arlington Square building is accessible to the handicapped. Persons requiring interpretation for the hearing impaired should notify the Office of Scientific Authority as soon as possible, so that arrangements can be made. You may obtain directions to the building or other information on the Plants and Animals Committees by contacting the Office of Scientific Authority; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; 4401 North Fairfax Drive; Room 750; Arlington, Virginia 22203, or via E-mail at: r9osa@mail.fws.gov. You may obtain logistical information on COP11 by contacting the Office of Management Authority; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; 4401 North Fairfax Drive; Room 700; Arlington, Virginia 22203, or via E-mail at: r9oma\_cites@mail.fws.gov.

#### **Background**

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, TIAS 8249, hereinafter referred to as CITES, is an international treaty designed to control and regulate international trade in certain animal and plant species that are now or potentially may be threatened with extinction. These species are listed in Appendices to CITES, copies of which are available from the Office of Management Authority at the above address, from the Service's World Wide Web site <http://www.fws.gov/r9dia/applinks.html>, or from the official CITES Web site at <http://www.wcmc.org.uk/CITES/english>. Currently, 145 countries, including the United States, are Parties to CITES. CITES calls for biennial meetings of the Conference of the Parties, which review its implementation, make provisions enabling the CITES Secretariat in Switzerland to carry out its functions, consider amendments to the list of species in Appendices I and II, consider reports presented by the Secretariat, and make recommendations for the improved effectiveness of CITES. Any country that is a Party to CITES may propose amendments to Appendices I and II, resolutions, or agenda items for consideration by the other Parties.

This is our third in a series of **Federal Register** notices which, together with announced public meetings, provides

you with an opportunity to participate in the development of the United States' negotiating positions for the eleventh regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (COP11). We published our first such **Federal Register** notice on January 30, 1998 (63 FR 4613), and with it we requested your information and recommendations on potential species amendments for the United States to consider submitting for discussion at COP11. Information on that **Federal Register** notice, and on species amendment proposals, is available from the Office of Scientific Authority at the above address. We published our second such **Federal Register** notice on September 4, 1998 (63 FR 47316), and with it we requested your information and recommendations on potential resolutions and agenda items for the United States to consider submitting for discussion at COP11. You may obtain information on that **Federal Register** notice, and on proposed resolutions and agenda items, from the Office of Management Authority at the above address. You may locate our regulations governing this public process in 50 CFR §§ 23.31-23.39.

The CITES Animals and Plants Committees are technical committees established by the CITES Conference of the Parties. They meet to discuss scientific and technical issues pertaining to CITES implementation for animals and plants, respectively.

The Animals Committee provides scientific expertise on animal-related issues, develops and maintains a standardized list of animal species, reviews trade impacts on heavily traded Appendix II species; and analyzes and makes recommendations to the CITES Parties on a number of issues directed to it by the Conference of the Parties. The Committee meets several times between COPs (usually once a year) to work on resolving CITES animal related issues carried over from past Animals Committee meetings and COPs, as well as identifying new issues in need of resolution. The members of the Animals Committee are individuals with scientific and technical expertise selected by the countries in each of the six CITES geographic regions. The regional representative for North America (selected by the United States, Canada, and Mexico) is Dr. Susan Lieberman, Chief of the Office of Scientific Authority (OSA). She is also the Vice-Chair of the Animals Committee. A list of other regional representatives is available upon request from OSA. The Chair of the Animals Committee is Hank Jenkins, with the Government of Australia, and the regional representative for Oceania. The