

Permit No.	Activity	Total number of respondents	Estimated time (in hours)	Total annual burden hours	Regulation
3-200-48	Import of Birds Under an Approved Cooperative Breeding Program (Wild Bird Conservation Act).	25	1	50	50 CFR 15.11, 15.12, 15.21 and 15.24.
3-200-49	Approval of a Cooperative Breeding Program (Wild Bird Conservation Act).	25	3	75	50 CFR 15.11, 15.12, 15.21 and 15.26.
3-200-50	Approval of Scientifically Based Sustainable Use Management Plans (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species).	10	10	100	50 CFR 15.11, 15.12, 15.21 and 15.32.
3-200-51	Approval of Foreign Breeding Facilities Under the Wild Bird Conservation Act.	20	12	240	50 CFR 15.11, 15.12, 15.21 and 15.41.
3-200-52	Reissuance or Renewal of a Permit or Certificate.	400	.250	100	50 CFR 13.21 and 13.22.
3-200-53	Export/Re-export of Captive-Held Marine Mammals (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species).	30	2	60	50 CFR Part 18, 23.11, 23.12, 23.13 and 23.15.

¹ 20 minutes.
² 30 minutes.
³ 40 minutes.
³ 45 minutes.

Approval Number: 1018-0093.
Service Form Number: 3-200-19 through 3-200-53.
Frequency of Collection: On Occasion.
Description of Respondents: Individuals, biomedical companies, circuses, zoological parks, botanical gardens, nurseries, museums, universities, scientists, antique dealers, Exotic pet industry, hunters, taxidermists, commercial importers/exporters of wildlife and plants, freight forwarders/brokers, local, State, tribal and Federal governments.
Total Annual Burden Hours: 5606.5.
Total Annual Responses: 5987.
 Dated: June 23, 2000.

Kenneth Stansell,
Acting Assistant Director—International Affairs.
 [FR Doc. 00-16912 Filed 7-5-00; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior.
ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has published a Revised Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment for the Edwin B. Forsythe and Cape May National Wildlife Refuges in New Jersey. This plan describes how the Service intends to manage the Forsythe and Cape May Refuges for the next 15 years.

DATES: A formal public hearing will be held at 7 PM on July 19, 2000. The hearing will provide an opportunity for all interested parties to present oral or written testimony on the revised draft document before a hearing officer and court reporter. Those wishing to do so will be able to sign up to speak when they enter the hearing room. This formal public hearing will be held at: Absegami High School, 201 South Wrangleboro Road, Galloway Township, Atlantic County, New Jersey.

All other comments should be sent by either traditional or electronic mail, no later than August 4, 2000, to: The Jersey Coast Refuges Planning Team, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 300 Westgate Center Drive, Hadley, MA 01035-9589, or FW5RW_CCP@fws.gov.

ADDRESSES: Additional information or copies of an executive summary of the plan or the complete document may be obtained by contacting Steve Atzert, Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 72, Great Creek Road, Oceanville, New Jersey 08231-0072, telephone 609/652-1665.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Service's Proposed Action and two other alternatives are described, along with the process used to develop them and the environmental consequences of implementing each one. The three alternatives are:

Alternative A. This is the No Action Alternative required by the Council of Environmental Quality's regulations on the implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Selection of this Alternative would mean that there would be no change from our current management programs and emphasis at both Refuges. Seasonal

travel and parking of motor vehicles would continue to be allowed in the Holgate Unit of the Brigantine Wilderness Area, on lands above mean high tide, in violation of the Wilderness Act of 1964.

Alternative B. Alternative B is the Service's Proposed Action. This Alternative would initiate new wildlife population and habitat management programs; provide new wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities; increase our land protection efforts; and provide new office and visitor facilities at both Refuges. All lands above mean high tide in the Holgate Unit of the Brigantine Wilderness Area would be closed to motor vehicle use by the public year-round in compliance with the provisions of the Wilderness Act. We would initiate efforts to establish a seasonal boat concession to ferry anglers and other Refuge visitors to the southern tip of the Holgate Peninsula.

Alternative C. This Alternative would initiate new wildlife population and habitat management programs; provide new wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities Refuge-wide; increase our land protection efforts; and provide new or remodeled office and visitor facilities at both Refuges. All lands above mean high tide in the Holgate Unit of the Brigantine Wilderness Area would be closed to motor vehicle use by the public year-round in compliance with the provisions of the Wilderness Act. We would also seek to further restrict motor vehicle access at the Holgate Unit by obtaining a license from the New Jersey Tidelands Council to close State-owned riparian lands below the mean high tide line. Efforts would be initiated to establish a seasonal boat concession to ferry anglers and other Refuge visitors

to the southern tip of the Holgate Peninsula.

Dated: June 27, 2000.

Mamie A. Parker,

Acting Regional Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Hadley, Massachusetts.

[FR Doc. 00-17013 Filed 7-5-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Availability of a Habitat Conservation Plan and Receipt of an Application for an Incidental Take Permit for the Beaver Creek Tract, Lincoln County, Oregon

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of application.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that Coast Range Conifers, LLC (CRC or applicant) has applied to the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for an incidental take permit pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA). The application has been assigned permit number TE-028956-0. The proposed permit would authorize the incidental take, in the form of habitat modification (harm) and disturbance (harass), of the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) which is federally listed as threatened.

The Service announces the receipt of the applicant's incidental take permit application and the availability of the Coast Range Conifers Beaver Tract Habitat Conservation Plan (Beaver Tract Plan) and draft Implementation Agreement, which accompany the incidental take permit application, for public comment. The Beaver Tract Plan describes the proposed project and the measures the applicant will undertake to minimize for project impacts to the bald eagle. These measures and associated impacts are also described in the background and summary information that follow. The Service is presently conducting the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) process and will announce the availability of NEPA compliance documentation soon.

DATES: Written comments on the permit application and Plan should be received on or before August 7, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Individuals wishing copies of the permit application or copies of the full text of the Beaver Tract Plan, should immediately contact the office and personnel listed below. Documents also will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during

normal business hours at the address below. Comments regarding the permit application, draft Implementation Agreement or the Beaver Tract Plan should be addressed to State Supervisor, Fish and Wildlife Service, Oregon State Office, 2600 S.E. 98th Avenue, Suite 100, Portland, Oregon 97266. Please refer to permit number TE-028956-0 when submitting comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Rich Szlemp, Fish and Wildlife Service, Oregon State Office, telephone (503) 231-6179.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 9 of the ESA and Federal regulation prohibits the "taking" of a species listed as endangered or threatened. However, the Service, under limited circumstances, may issue permits to "incidentally take" listed species, which is take that is incidental to, and not the purpose of, otherwise lawful activities. Regulations governing permits for threatened species are promulgated in 50 CFR 17.32.

Summary of the Beaver Tract Plan

The applicant is proposing to harvest about 12 acres of mature forest approximately 80 to 140 years old within a 40-acre parcel of land. There are approximately 5 to 10 old growth Sitka spruce and Douglas-fir trees present in the proposed harvest area. The surrounding ownership consists of commercial timber lands containing forests of various age classes. The Beaver Tract Plan area contains one known bald eagle nest tree and several other trees that could be utilized as nest or roost trees. Other listed species that may also be affected by the proposed Beaver Tract Plan, but potentially may not be fully addressed, include the threatened marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*) and northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*) (spotted owl). Please refer to "Summary of Service's Concerns and Recommendations" below for additional discussion on this topic.

The Beaver Tract Plan contains two alternatives: preferred and no action. Under their preferred alternative, the applicant would harvest 12 acres of mature timber to the extent allowed by the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (Eagle Act), Migratory Bird Act, and Oregon Forest Practice Act (OFPA) Rules. Under the no action alternative, the subject timber would be left standing to provide bald eagle habitat. The applicants rejected the no action alternative because they believe it would deny them of all economically productive use of the subject timber.

The applicants propose the following minimization and mitigation measures:

- a. Retaining the bald eagle nest tree and two snags or green trees per acre, 30 feet or greater in height and 11 inches or greater in diameter.
- b. Conducting harvest activities outside of the period March 1 to September 15, except for road building.
- c. Replant Douglas-fir, western red cedar, and/or western hemlock over the harvest units. As per OFPA Rules, this planting will take place within 12 months after completion of harvest.
- d. Meet the current OFPA Rules to leave all snags and standing dead trees unharvested until they have fallen to the ground and rotted away, except when they represent a safety hazard for the logging operation.

Additional Background

CRC submitted a written plan on or about June 30, 1998, to the Oregon Department of Forestry to harvest the Beaver Tract to within 330 feet of the bald eagle nest site. The State Forester rejected that written plan on the basis that it did not provide adequate protection for the bald eagle nest site. The State Forester required that a forested buffer of 400 feet around the nest tree and an additional 100 foot band in which 50 percent of the live trees would be retained. CRC proceeded to harvest the 28 acres surrounding the bald eagle nest site, which retained the 12 acres (400 foot radius circle) that are the subject of this incidental take permit application. Oregon law allows (but does not require) the State Forester to approve logging within these protected 12 acres if a landowner receives an Federal incidental take permit.

Summary of Service's Concerns and Recommendations

The Service received the Plan and application on December 28, 1999. Unlike most Plans, the Beaver Tract Plan was prepared without any opportunities for the Service to provide technical assistance prior to the submission of the application. A revised Beaver Tract Plan was received on May 18, 2000, in response to the Service's April 18, 2000, request for clarification of items in the original Beaver Creek Tract Plan. The revised Beaver Tract Plan lacks much of the biological analysis and information routinely provided by other applicants to expedite processing an incidental take permit.

The Service has reviewed the Beaver Tract Plan and has some concerns with the adequacy of the proposed minimization and mitigation measures. We specifically invite the public to