§ 15.31 Criteria for including species in the approved list for captive-bred species.

The Director will periodically review the list of captive-bred exotic bird species in paragraph 15.33(a), for which importation into the United States is approved. Any exotic bird species listed in paragraph 15.33(a) pursuant to this section must meet all of the following criteria:

(a) All specimens of the species known to be in trade (legal or illegal) are captive-bred;

(b) No specimens of the species are known to be removed from the wild for commercial purposes;

(c) Any importation of specimens of the species would not be detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild; and

(d) Adequate enforcement controls are in place to ensure compliance with paragraphs (a) through (c) of this section.

§ 15.32 Issuance criteria.

(a) Upon receiving an application completed in accordance with paragraph (a) of this section, the Director will decide whether or not a cooperative breeding program should be approved. In making this decision, the Director shall consider, in addition to the general criteria in part 13 of this subchapter, the following factors:

(1) Whether the cooperative breeding program for which the approval is requested is adequate to justify removing the exotic bird from the wild or otherwise changing its status;

(2) Whether the granting of this approval would be detrimental to the survival of the exotic bird species in the wild, including whether the exotic birds were bred in captivity or will be taken from the wild, taking into consideration the conservation status of the species in the wild;

(3) Whether the granting of this approval would conflict with any known program intended to enhance the survival of the population from which the exotic bird species was or would be removed;

(4) Whether the cooperative breeding program for which the permit is requested would be likely to enhance or promote the conservation of the exotic bird species in the wild or result in a self-sustaining population of the exotic bird species in captivity; and

(5) Whether the expertise or other resources available to the program appear adequate to successfully accomplish the objectives stated in the application.

(c) Publication in the Federal Register. The Director shall publish notice in the Federal Register of each application submitted under §15.26(a). Each notice shall invite the submission from interested parties of written data, views, or arguments with respect to the application. The Director shall publish periodically a notice as appropriate in the Federal Register of the list of approved cooperative breeding programs.

(d) Approval conditions. In addition to the general conditions set forth in part 13 of this subchapter, every approval issued under this paragraph shall be subject to the special condition that the cooperative breeding program shall maintain records of all birds imported under permits issued under this subpart and their progeny, including their sale or transfer, death, or escape, and breeding success. These records shall be made available to the Service on request and when renewing an approval.

(e) Duration of approval. Cooperative breeding programs shall be approved for two years, at which time applicants may apply to the Service for renewal of a program’s approval. Applications for renewal of approval shall comply with the general conditions set forth in part 13 of this subchapter.