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(4) The severity of economic hardship which the contract or other binding legal obligation referred to in paragraph (b)(3) of this section would cause if the permit were denied;

(5) Where applicable, the portion of the applicant's income which would be lost if the permit were denied, and the relationship of that portion to the balance of his income.

(c) *Permit conditions.* In addition to the general conditions set forth in part 13 of this subchapter, every permit issued under this section may be subject to any of the following special conditions:

(1) If requested, the permittee shall submit to the Director a written report of the activities authorized by the permit. Such report must be postmarked by the date specified in the permit or otherwise requested by the Director.

(2) If requested, the permittee shall report to the Service's office designated in the permit the death, destruction or loss of all living plants covered by the permit. Such report must be postmarked by the date specified in the permit or otherwise requested by the Director.

(d) *Duration of permit.* The duration of a permit issued under this section shall be designated on the face of the permit. No permit issued under this section shall be valid for more than one year from the date of a FEDERAL REGISTER notice of review of the status of the species or proposed rulemaking to list the species as endangered, whichever is earlier.

[44 FR 54060, Sept. 18, 1979]

Subpart G—Threatened Plants

§ 17.71 Prohibitions.

(a) Except as provided in subpart A of this part, or in a permit issued under this subpart, all of the provisions in § 17.61 shall apply to threatened plants, with the following exception. Seeds of cultivated specimens of species treated as threatened shall be exempt from all the provisions of § 17.61, provided that a statement that the seeds are of "cultivated origin" accompanies the seeds or their container during the course of any activity otherwise subject to these regulations.

(b) In addition to any provisions of this part 17, any employee or agent of the Service or of a State Conservation Agency which is operating a conservation program pursuant to the terms of a Cooperative Agreement with the Service in accordance with section 6(c) of the Act, who is designated by that agency for such purposes, may, when acting in the course of official duties, remove and reduce to possession from areas under Federal jurisdiction those threatened species of plants which are covered by an approved Cooperative Agreement to carry out conservation programs.

(c) Whenever a special rule in §§ 17.73 to 17.78 applies to a threatened species, none of the provisions of paragraph (a) of this section will apply. The special rule will contain all the applicable prohibitions and exceptions. If indicated by special rule, the exception for seeds in paragraph (a) of this section shall not apply to the threatened species.

[42 FR 32380, June 24, 1977, as amended at 50 FR 39691, Sept. 30, 1985]

§ 17.72 Permits—general.

Upon receipt of a complete application, the Director may issue a permit authorizing any activity otherwise prohibited with regard to threatened plants. The permit shall be governed by the provisions of this section unless a special rule applicable to the plant is provided in §§ 17.73 to 17.78. A permit issued under this section must be for one of the following: scientific purposes, the enhancement of the propagation or survival of threatened species, economic hardship, botanical or horticultural exhibition, educational purposes, or other activities consistent with the purposes and policy of the Act. Such a permit may authorize a single transaction, a series of transactions, or a number of activities over a specified period of time.

(a) *Application requirements.* A person wishing to get a permit for an activity prohibited by § 17.71 submits an application to conduct activities under this paragraph. For interstate commerce activities the seller gets the permit for plants coming from cultivated stock and the buyer gets the permit if the plants are taken from the wild. The

Service provides Form 3-200 for the application or you may submit the general information and certification required by §13.12(a) of this subchapter. Application requirements differ for permits issued for plants taken from the wild (excluding seeds), seeds and cultivated plants, or herbarium specimens. You must attach the following information and any other information requested by the Director.

(1) For activities involving plants obtained from the wild (excluding seeds), provide the following information:

(i) The scientific names of the plants sought to be covered by the permit;

(ii) The estimated number of specimens sought to be covered by the permit;

(iii) The year, country, and approximate place where taking occurred or will occur;

(iv) If the activities would involve removal and reduction to possession of a plant from an area under Federal jurisdiction, the year, State, county or any other description such as place name, township, and range designation that will precisely place the location where the proposed removal and reduction to possession will occur, the name of the Federal entity having jurisdiction over the area and the name, title, address, and phone number of the person in charge of the area.

(v) A brief description of the applicant's expertise and facilities as related to the proposed activity;

(vi) A justification of the activities sought to be authorized by the permit and the relationship of such activities to scientific purposes, enhancing the propagation or survival of the species, or other objectives consistent with the purposes and policy of the Act; and

(vii) A statement of the applicant's willingness to participate in a cooperative propagation program, and to maintain or contribute data relating to such efforts.

(2) For activities involving seeds obtained from the wild and cultivated plants, provide the following information:

(i) The scientific names of the plants sought to be covered by the permit;

(ii) A statement of the applicant's willingness to participate in a cooperative propagation program, and to main-

tain or contribute data relating to the success of such efforts; and

(iii) A justification of the activities sought to be authorized by the permit and the relationship of such activities to scientific purposes, enhancing the propagation or survival of the species, or other objectives consistent with the purposes and policy of the Act.

(iv) If the activities would involve removal and reduction to possession of seeds from an area under Federal jurisdiction, the year, State, county, or any other description such as place name, township, and range designation that will precisely place the location where the proposed removal and reduction to possession will occur, the name of the Federal entity having jurisdiction over the area and the name, title, address, and phone number of the person in charge of the area.

(3) For importation or exportation involving the non-commercial loan, exchange or donation of herbarium or other preserved, dried or embedded museum specimens of all threatened species between scientists or scientific institutions, provide the following information:

(i) The name and address of the institution or other facility where the plants sought to be covered by the permit will be used or maintained; and

(ii) A justification of the activities sought to be authorized by the permit and the relationship of such activities to scientific purposes, enhancing the propagation or survival of the species, or other objectives consistent with the purposes and policy of the Act.

(4) When the activity applied for involves a species also regulated by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, additional requirements of §23.15(c) of this subchapter must be met. For your convenience, §23.15(c) is repeated here.

Application requirements for permits or certificates to import, export or re-export wildlife or plants listed in Appendix I, II or III that are not subject to the regulations in part 17 or part 18 of this subchapter. Any person subject to the jurisdiction of the United States who wishes to get such a permit or certificate submits an application under this section to the Director, Fish and Wildlife Service (Attention: Office of Management Authority), 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 700,

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Arlington, VA 22203. The Service provides Form 3-200 for the application to which as much of the following information relating to the purpose of the permit or certificate must be attached:

(1) The scientific and common names of the species (or taxa to the rank listed in Appendix I, II, or III) sought to be covered by the permit, the number of wildlife or plants, and the activity sought to be authorized (such as importing, exporting, re-exporting, etc.);

(2) A statement as to whether the wildlife or plant, at the time of application, (i) is living in the wild, (ii) is living, but not in the wild, or (iii) is dead;

(3) A description of the wildlife or plant, including (i) size, (ii) sex (if known), and (iii) type of goods, if it is a part or derivative;

(4) In the case of living wildlife or plants, (i) a description of the type, size, and construction of any container the wildlife or plant will be placed in during transportation, and (ii) the arrangements for watering and otherwise caring for the wildlife or plant during transportation;

(5) The name and address of the person in a foreign country to whom the wildlife or plant is to be exported from the United States, or from whom the wildlife or plant is to be imported into the United States;

(6) The country and place where the wildlife or plant was or is to be taken from the wild;

(7) In the case of wildlife or plants listed in Appendix I to be imported into the United States, (i) a statement of the purposes and details of the activities for which the wildlife or plant is to be imported; (ii) a brief resume of the technical expertise of the applicant or other persons who will care for the wildlife or plant; (iii) the name, address, and description, including diagrams or photographs, of the facility where the wildlife or plant will be maintained; and (iv) a description of all mortalities, in the two years preceding the date of this application, including any wildlife species covered in the application (or any species of the same genus or family) held by the applicant, including the causes and steps taken to avoid such mortalities; and

(8) Copies of documents, sworn affidavits, or other evidence showing that either (i) the wildlife or plant was acquired prior to the date the Convention applied to it, or (ii) the wildlife or plant was bred in captivity, or artificially propagated, or was part of or derived therefrom, or (iii) the wildlife or plant is an herbarium specimen, or live plant material to be imported, exported, or re-exported as a noncommercial loan, donation, or exchange between scientists or scientific institutions.

(b) *Issuance criteria.* Upon receiving an application completed in accordance

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with paragraph (a) of this section, the Director will decide whether or not a permit should be issued. In making his decision, the Director shall consider, in addition to the general criteria in §13.21(b) of this subchapter, the following factors:

(1) Whether the purpose for which the permit is requested will enhance the survival of the species in the wild;

(2) Whether the purpose for which the permit is requested will enhance the propagation of the species;

(3) The opinions or views of scientists or other persons or organizations having expertise concerning the plant or other matters germane to the application; and

(4) Whether the expertise, facilities, or other resources available to the applicant appear adequate to successfully accomplish the objectives stated in the application.

(c) *Permit conditions.* In addition to the general conditions set forth in part 13 of this subchapter, every permit issued under this section shall be subject to the following special conditions:

(1) If requested, the permittee shall submit to the Director a written report of the activities authorized by the permit. Such report must be postmarked by the date specified in the permit or otherwise requested by the Director.

(2) A copy of the permit or an identification label, which includes the scientific name, the permit number, and a statement that the plant is of "wild origin" or "cultivated origin" must accompany the plant or its container during the course of any activity subject to these regulations, unless the specimens meet the special conditions referred to in paragraph (c)(3) of this section.

(3) In the case of plants that are herbarium specimens, or other preserved, dried, or embedded museum specimens to be imported or exported as a non-commercial loan exchange or donation between scientists or scientific institutions, the names and addresses of the consignor and consignee must be on each package or container. A description such as "herbarium specimens" and the code letters assigned by the Service to the scientist or scientific institution must be entered on the Customs declaration form affixed to each

package or container. If the specimens are of taxa also regulated by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the letters "CITES" (acronym for the convention) also must be entered on the Customs declaration form as indicated in §23.15(e)(3) of this subchapter.

(d) *Duration of permit.* The duration of a permit issued under this section shall be designated on the face of the permit.

[42 FR 32380, June 24, 1977, as amended at 50 FR 39691, Sept. 30, 1985; 63 FR 52636, Oct. 1, 1998]

§§ 17.73–17.78 [Reserved]

Subpart H—Experimental Populations

SOURCE: 49 FR 33893, Aug. 27, 1984, unless otherwise noted.

§ 17.80 Definitions.

(a) The term *experimental population* means an introduced and/or designated population (including any off-spring arising solely therefrom) that has been so designated in accordance with the procedures of this subpart but only when, and at such times as the population is wholly separate geographically from nonexperimental populations of the same species. Where part of an experimental population overlaps with natural populations of the same species on a particular occasion, but is wholly separate at other times, specimens of the experimental population will not be recognized as such while in the area of overlap. That is, experimental status will only be recognized outside the areas of overlap. Thus, such a population shall be treated as experimental only when the times of geographic separation are reasonably predictable; e.g., fixed migration patterns, natural or man-made barriers. A population is not treated as experimental if total separation will occur solely as a result of random and unpredictable events.

(b) The term *essential experimental population* means an experimental population whose loss would be likely to appreciably reduce the likelihood of the survival of the species in the wild.

All other experimental populations are to be classified as *nonessential*.

§ 17.81 Listing.

(a) The Secretary may designate as an experimental population a population of endangered or threatened species that has been or will be released into suitable natural habitat outside the species' current natural range (but within its probable historic range, absent a finding by the Director in the extreme case that the primary habitat of the species has been unsuitably and irreversibly altered or destroyed), subject to the further conditions specified in this section; *provided*, that all designations of experimental populations must proceed by regulation adopted in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 553 and the requirements of this subpart.

(b) Before authorizing the release as an experimental population of any population (including eggs, propagules, or individuals) of an endangered or threatened species, and before authorizing any necessary transportation to conduct the release, the Secretary must find by regulation that such release will further the conservation of the species. In making such a finding the Secretary shall utilize the best scientific and commercial data available to consider:

(1) Any possible adverse effects on extant populations of a species as a result of removal of individuals, eggs, or propagules for introduction elsewhere;

(2) The likelihood that any such experimental population will become established and survive in the foreseeable future;

(3) The relative effects that establishment of an experimental population will have on the recovery of the species; and

(4) The extent to which the introduced population may be affected by existing or anticipated Federal or State actions or private activities within or adjacent to the experimental population area.

The Secretary may issue a permit under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Act, if appropriate under the standards set out in subsections 10(d) and (j) of the Act, to allow acts necessary for the establishment and maintenance of an experimental population.