

soliciting public comments on the subject proposal.

DATES: The due date for comments is: January 24, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments regarding this proposal. Comments should refer to the proposal by name and should be sent to: Joseph F. Lackey, Jr., HUD Desk Officer, Office of Management and Budget, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kay F. Weaver, Reports Management Officer, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20410, telephone (202) 708-0050. This is not a toll-free number. Copies of available documents may be obtained from Ms. Weaver.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This Notice informs the public that the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has submitted to OMB, for emergency processing, an information collection package with respect to a proposed "Native American Housing Block Grant Program—Notice of Transition Requirements and Negotiated Rulemaking" [Docket No. FR-4170-N-02]. HUD seeks to implement portions of section 106 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (NAHASDA) (Pub. L. 104-330, approved October 26, 1996), which requires HUD to publish a notice establishing any requirements necessary to provide for the transition from the provision of assistance for Indian tribes and Indian housing authorities under the United States Housing Act of 1937 and other related provisions of law to the provision of assistance in accordance with NAHASDA. The information collection requirements of the notice concern the submission of Indian housing plans (IHPs), a prerequisite to funding under the new program. The requirements of the notice are for transition purposes only, and thus, are temporary in nature. The final requirements will be contained in regulations that are under development.

The Department has submitted the proposal for the collection of information, as described below, to OMB for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 USC Chapter 35):

(1) Title of the information collection proposal:

Native American Housing Block Grant Program—Notice of Transition Requirements and Negotiated Rulemaking

(2) Summary of the collection of information:

The collection of information presents transition requirements for the preparation and submission by, or on behalf of, Indian tribes of Indian Housing Plans (IHPs), which are a prerequisite for any distribution of funds under NAHASDA. In general, the IHP must contain a description of the housing needs of the tribe, planned activities to address those needs, and a description of how the activities will be carried out. The IHP is required by statute to have two main components, a 5-year plan and a 1-year plan.

(3) Description of the need for the information and its proposed use:

NAHASDA eliminates several separate funding programs for Indian housing and establishes instead a single Indian Housing Block Grant Program, to be effective beginning with FY 1998. Section 106 of NAHASDA requires HUD to establish any requirements necessary to provide for the transition from the provision of assistance under the eliminated programs to the provision of assistance under the new law. In order to assure that assistance for Indian housing activities is not interrupted, IHPs must be prepared and submitted well before FY 1998 funds are made available, and this collection of information provides the temporary requirements necessary for the preparation of the first IHPs under the new program. Permanent requirements will be contained in regulations developed to implement NAHASDA.

(4) Description of the likely respondents, including the estimated number of likely respondents, and proposed frequency of response to the collection of information:

Respondents will be Indian tribes or tribally designated housing entities selected by tribal governments to act on their behalf.

The estimated number of likely respondents is 350. As to frequency of responses, there will only be one response submitted under these temporary, transitional requirements. Permanent requirements will be included in program regulations to be developed, for which a separate information approval will be obtained.

(5) Estimate of the total reporting and recordkeeping burden that will result from the collection of information:

Number of respondents: 350.

Burden hours per response: 120.

Frequency of responses: 1.

Total Estimated Burden Hours: 42,000.

Authority: Section 3507 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended.

Dated: January 17, 1997.

Kay Weaver,

Acting Director, IRM Policy and Management Division.

[FR Doc. 97-1716 Filed 1-21-97; 9:58 am]

BILLING CODE 4210-01-P

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-824228

Applicant: Betty Jo Young, West Fork, AK.

The applicant requests a permit to reexport and reimport tiger (*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-822708

Applicant: Steven Gruber, Miramar, FL.

The applicant requests a permit to import 8 Jamaican boas (*Epicrates subflavus*) held in captivity in Jamaica for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species through 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 430, Arlington, Virginia 22203 and must be received by the Director within 30 days of the date of this publication.

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 430, Arlington, Virginia 22203. Phone: (703/358-2104); FAX: (703/358-2281).

Dated: January 17, 1997.
 Mary Ellen Amtower,
 Acting Chief, Branch of Permits, Office of
 Management Authority.
 [FR Doc. 97-1669 Filed 1-22 97; 8:45 am]
 BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

Availability of an Environmental Assessment and Receipt of an Application for a Permit To Allow Incidental Take of Threatened and Endangered Species by Weyerhaeuser Company on Portions of its Lands in Lane, Linn, Benton, and Douglas Counties, Oregon

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The Weyerhaeuser Company has applied to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service (collectively, the Services) for an incidental take permit pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). They have also requested approval of an unlisted species agreement covering other species which may be found in the planning area. The application has been assigned U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service permit number PRT-823550 and National Marine Fisheries Service permit number P626. The Services also announce the availability of an Environmental Assessment (Assessment) for the proposed issuance of the incidental take permit. All comments received will become part of the public record and may be released. This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the Act and National Environmental Policy Act regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

DATES: Written comments on the permit application, Assessment, and associated documents (see **ADDRESSES** below) should be received 60 days from the date of this publication.

ADDRESSES: Comments regarding the application, Assessment, and associated documents (a Habitat Conservation Plan [Plan] and Implementing Agreement) or requests for those documents, should be addressed to Curt Smitch, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pacific Northwest Habitat Conservation Plan Program, 3773 Martin Way East, Building C, Suite 101, Olympia, Washington 98501. Please refer to permit number PRT-823550 when submitting comments. Individuals seeking copies of the application package should immediately contact the above office.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. David J. Hirsh, U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Service, or Mr. Steve Landino, National Marine Fisheries Service, at the above address; telephone (360) 534-9330.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under section 9 of the Act and its implementing regulations, "taking" of threatened and endangered species is prohibited. However, the Services, under limited circumstances, may issue permits to take threatened or endangered wildlife species if such taking is incidental to, and not the purpose of, otherwise lawful activities. Regulations governing permits for threatened and endangered species are codified in 50 CFR 17.22 and 17.32 and 222.2.

The Weyerhaeuser Company has addressed, in its Plan, species conservation and ecosystem management on approximately 400,000 acres of land in the Willamette Valley and foothills of the Central Cascade Mountains and Coast Ranges of Oregon. The subject ownership occurs in two largely contiguous blocks with some portions in a "checkerboard" pattern with other Federal and non-Federal land. The proposed Plan would be implemented for 40 years with the Services retaining the option to extend the term for up to four additional ten-year periods.

The proposed Plan addresses, in three tiers, the species for which the Weyerhaeuser Company seeks coverage under section 10 of the Act. The first tier includes certain species currently listed or proposed for listing; those species are named below. The second tier includes presently unlisted species that are associated with habitats that are addressed through various measures in the proposed Plan. The third tier includes presently unlisted species that are associated with older, upland, interior forests. Tier 1 and 2 species would be covered upon approval of the Plan by the Services. Tier 3 species could become covered if the Weyerhaeuser Company can show that the proposed Plan benefits the species and those benefits have led to presence in the Plan area.

The Weyerhaeuser Company is requesting a permit for the incidental take of the northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*) which would occur as a result of timber harvest and related activities within the individual portions of the owl sites present on the subject property. There are currently more than 160 owl sites that impact Weyerhaeuser Company operations within the 400,000-acre planning area. The Weyerhaeuser Company plans to avoid the take of the marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*)

but has included murrelets in the permit application in case some unanticipated incidental take occurs. The Weyerhaeuser Company has also included the Umpqua cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki clarki*), American peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), Columbian whitetailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus leucurus*), bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), Aleutian Canada goose (*Branta canadensis leucopareia*), and Oregon chub (*Oregonichthys crameri*) in the permit application to cover circumstances where these species may occur on the subject property and could at some point be subject to take.

The Plan is designed to complement measures being implemented on Federal lands under the Northwest Forest Plan, and includes various forms of minimization and mitigation measures which are integral parts of the Plan. It includes a schedule for early successional forest types to be provided across the landscape during the entire course of plan implementation. Mitigation for other presently listed species and species proposed for listing include specific management prescriptions for those species. For example, the strategy for the northern spotted owl was developed to facilitate connectivity between the Federal Late Successional Reserves in the Oregon Cascades and Coast Ranges. In addition to the specific measures for listed and proposed species, the Plan proposes a comprehensive riparian management strategy, the protection of special biotope areas such as forested wetlands, mineral springs, talus slopes, and caves (among others), supplemental habitat protection for selected species of concern such as pond habitat for the northwestern pond turtle, and reproductive habitat around known nest sites for golden eagles and osprey.

Minimum interim prescriptions are provided for riparian and wetland areas, and prescription development through Watershed Analysis processes according to Washington State regulations will also be completed. Specific prescriptions will also be implemented for the management of areas, such as roads and steep slopes, that are vulnerable to degrading events.

The Assessment considers four alternatives, including the proposed Plan and the no-action alternatives. Under Alternative A, the no-action alternative, the Weyerhaeuser Company would avoid the take of any and all Federally listed species and no permit would be issued. Under Alternative C, conservation of the northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet would be implemented to minimize and mitigate