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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
Office of the Secretary  

Notice of Deadline for Submitting Completed Applications To Begin Participation in the Tribal Self-Governance Program in Fiscal Year 2004 or Calendar Year 2004  

AGENCY: Office of Self-Governance, Interior.  

ACTION: Notice of application deadline.  

SUMMARY: In this notice, the Office of Self-Governance (OSG) establishes a March 3, 2003, deadline for tribes/consortia to submit completed applications to begin participation in the tribal self-governance program in fiscal year 2004 or calendar year 2004.  

DATES: Completed application packages must be received by the Director, Office of Self-Governance by March 3, 2003.  

ADDRESSES: Application packages for inclusion in the applicant pool should be sent to the Director, Office of Self-Governance, U.S. Department of the Interior, Mail Stop 2548, 1849 C Street NW., Washington, DC 20240.  


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the Tribal Self-Governance Act of 1994 (Pub. L. 103–413), as amended by the Fiscal Year 1997 Omnibus Appropriations Bill (Pub. L. 104–208) the Director, Office of Self-Governance may select up to 50 additional participating tribes/consortia per year for the tribal self-governance program, and negotiate and enter into a written funding agreement with each participating tribe. The Act mandates that the Secretary submit copies of the funding agreements at least 90 days before the proposed effective date to the appropriate committees of the Congress and to each tribe that is served by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) agency that is serving the tribe that is a party to the funding agreement. Initial negotiations with a tribe/consortium located in a region and/or agency which has not previously been involved with self-governance negotiations, will take approximately two months from start to finish. Agreements for an October 1 to September 30 funding year need to be signed and submitted by July 1. Agreements for a January 1 to December 31 funding year need to be signed and submitted by October 1.  

Purpose of Notice  

25 CFR parts 1000.10 to 1000.31 will be used to govern the application and selection process for tribes/consortia to begin their participation in the tribal self-governance program in fiscal year 2004 and calendar year 2004. Applicants should be guided by the requirements in these subparts in preparing their applications. Copies of these subparts may be obtained from the information contact person identified in this notice.  

Tribe/consortia wishing to be considered for participation in the tribal self-governance program in fiscal year 2004 or calendar year 2004 must respond to this notice, except for those which are (1) currently involved in negotiations with the Department; (2) one of the 81 tribal entities with signed agreements; or (3) one of the tribal entities already included in the applicant pool as of the date of this notice.  

Neal A. McCaleb,  
Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.  

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
Fish and Wildlife Service  

Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Assessment of the Addition of Blue-Fronted Amazon Parrots (Amazona aestiva) From a Sustainable Use Management Plan in Argentina to the Approved List of Non-Captive-Bred Birds Under the Wild Bird Conservation Act of 1992  

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.  

ACTION: Notice of availability of a draft Environmental Assessment.  

SUMMARY: The public is invited to comment on the draft Environmental Assessment of the addition of blue-fronted amazon parrots (Amazona aestiva) from a sustainable use management plan in Argentina to the approved list of non-captive-bred birds under the Wild Bird Conservation Act of 1992 (WBCA). We have prepared a draft Environmental Assessment under regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). Council on Environmental Quality regulations in 40 CFR 1501.3(b) state that an agency “may prepare an environmental assessment on any action at any time in order to assist agency planning and decision making.” Future regulations implementing the WBCA may be subject to NEPA documentation requirements on a case-by-case basis.  

DATES: Written data, comments, or requests for a copy of this draft Environmental Assessment must be received by February 7, 2003.  

ADDRESSES: Written data, comments, or requests for a copy of this draft Environmental Assessment should be sent to the Chief, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203.  

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Andrea Gaski, Chief, Branch of Operations, Division of Management Authority, at 703–358–2095.  

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:  

Background  

The WBCA, which was signed into law on October 23, 1992, limits or prohibits imports of exotic bird species...
to ensure that their wild populations are not harmed by trade. It also encourages wild bird conservation programs in countries of origin by ensuring that all imports of such species into the United States are biologically sustainable and not detrimental to the survival of the species. A final rule published in the Federal Register on November 16, 1993 (58 FR 60524), implemented the prohibitions stipulated in the WBCA and provided permit requirements and procedures for some allowed exemptions.

Since the publication of the final rule of November 16, 1993, imports of all birds listed in the Appendices of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) as defined in the final rule are prohibited, except for (a) species included in an approved list; (b) specimens for which an import permit has been issued; (c) species from countries that have approved sustainable use management plans for those species; or (d) specimens from approved foreign captive-breeding facilities. We published a proposed rule in the Federal Register on March 17, 1994 (59 FR 12784), that would implement procedures for the establishment of an approved list of captive-bred species listed in the CITES Appendices that can be imported without a WBCA permit, criteria for including non-captive-bred (wild-caught) species in the approved list, and approval of foreign captive-breeding facilities. We published a proposed rule in the Federal Register on January 24, 1996 (61 FR 2084), that would implement procedures for the establishment of an approved list of non-captive-bred (wild-caught) species listed in the CITES Appendices that could be imported. The list of approved non-captive-bred species is contained in 50 CFR 15.33(b). For wild-caught CITES-listed birds to be on the approved list, we must determine that CITES is being effectively implemented for the species for each country of origin from which imports will be allowed. CITES-recommended measures are implemented, and there is a scientifically based management plan for the species that is adequately implemented and enforced. The scientifically based management plan must: (a) Provide for the conservation of the species and its habitat; (b) include incentives for conservation; (c) ensure that the use of the species is biologically sustainable and is well above the level at which the species might become threatened; (d) ensure that the species is maintained throughout its range at a level consistent with its role in the ecosystem; (e) address factors that include illegal trade, domestic trade, subsistence use, disease, and habitat loss; and (f) ensure that the methods of capture, transport, and maintenance of the species minimize the risk of injury or damage to health. For a species with a multinationa distibution, we must also consider (a) whether populations of the species in other countries will be detrimentally affected by exports from the country requesting approval; (b) whether factors affecting conservation of the species are regulated throughout its range so that recruitment and/or breeding stocks will not be detrimentally affected by the proposed export; (c) whether the projected take and export will detrimentally affect breeding populations; and (d) whether the projected take and export will detrimentally affect existing enhancement activities, conservation programs, or enforcement efforts throughout the species’ range. A species and country of export listed in 50 CFR 15.33(b) may be approved for three years, after which time the Service will have an opportunity to consider renewal of the approval.

On August 10, 2000, we published in the Federal Register (65 FR 49007) a notice of receipt of application for approval of a petition from the Management Authority of Argentina, Direcccion de Fauna and Flora Silvestre, requesting that blue-fronted amazon parrots (Amazona aestiva) from an Argentine sustainable use management plan be added to the list of approved non-captive-bred species under the WBCA. Written comments on that petition until October 11, 2000. Approval of Argentina’s petition would result in the need to amend 50 CFR 15.33(b) by adding blue-fronted amazon parrots from Argentina to the list of approved non-captive-bred species. The amendment would allow the export into the United States of blue-fronted amazon parrots removed from the wild in Argentina under an approved sustainable use management plan, without a WBCA import permit. Along with this notice of availability, we will publish a proposed rule to allow the import into the United States of blue-fronted amazon parrots (Amazona aestiva) removed from the wild in Argentina under their approved sustainable use management plan.

Comments on the draft Environmental Assessment will be considered in our decision regarding whether to amend 50 CFR 15.33(b) by adding blue-fronted amazon parrots from Argentina to the list of approved non-captive-bred species. Written comments we have already received in response to the August 10, 2000, notice of receipt of application, have been retained and will be considered during this open comment period. Although we have used information already received in formulating the draft Environmental Assessment, we will address that information as well as any new comments received in our final Environmental Assessment, if necessary.


Peter O. Thomas,
Chief, Division of Management Authority.
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service
Notices of Meeting of the Klamath Fishery Management Council
AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.
ACTION: Notice of meeting.
SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. I), this notice announces a meeting of the Klamath Fishery Management Council, established under the authority of the Klamath River Basin Fishery Resources Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 460ss et seq.). The Klamath Fishery Management Council makes recommendations to agencies that regulate harvest of anadromous fish in the Klamath River Basin. The objectives of this meeting are to hear technical reports, to discuss and develop Klamath fall Chinook salmon harvest management options for the 2003 season, and to make recommendations to the Pacific Fishery Management Council and other agencies. The meeting is open to the public.
DATES: The Klamath Fishery Management Council will meet from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday, April 6, 2003.
ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Red Lion Hotel at the Quay, 100 Columbia Street, Vancouver, Washington.
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Phil Detrich, Project Leader, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1829 South Oregon Street, Yreka, California 96097, telephone (530) 842–5763.
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: At the April 6, 2003, meeting, the Klamath Fishery Management Council may schedule short follow-up meetings to be held between April 7, 2003, and April 11, 2003, at the Red Lion Hotel at the Quay, 100 Columbia Street, Vancouver,