DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
Federal Emergency Management Agency
[Docket ID FEMA–2015–0006]


AGENCY: Federal Emergency Management Agency, DHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice serves to inform the public that the Department of the Interior held a meeting of the interagency Water Resources Council on Thursday, October 8, 2015, in the John Muir Conference Room, 1849 C St. NW., Washington, DC 20240 at 10 a.m. EDT to consider the recommendations of the Mitigation Framework Leadership Group and vote on the issuance of revised “Guidelines for Implementing Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, and Executive Order 13690, Establishing a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard and a Process for Further Soliciting and Considering Stakeholder Input.”


DATES: Effective Date: October 8, 2015.

Please consult the individual agency responsible for a program with questions regarding their time frames and processes for updating their implementing procedures for Executive Order 11988.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On January 30, 2015, the President signed Executive Order 13690, Establishing a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard and a Process for Further Soliciting and Considering Stakeholder Input, which amended Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, issued in 1977. Consistent with the President’s direction, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, as Chair of the Mitigation Framework Leadership Group, published for public comment in the Federal Register Draft Guidelines to provide guidance to agencies on the implementation of Executive Orders 13690 and 11988 (80 FR 6530, February 5, 2015). After an extension, the public comment period lasted 90 days, during which Federal Emergency Management Agency and other members of the Mitigation Framework Leadership Group held eight in-person public listening sessions across the country and one public webinar, to ensure input from stakeholders and the public.

This notice serves to inform the public that the Department of the Interior held a meeting of the interagency Water Resources Council on Thursday, October 8, 2015, in the John Muir Conference Room, 1849 C St. NW., Washington, DC 20240 at 10 a.m. EDT to consider the recommendations of the Mitigation Framework Leadership Group and vote on the issuance of revised “Guidelines for Implementing Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, and Executive Order 13690, Establishing a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard and a Process for Further Soliciting and Considering Stakeholder Input.”


The Implementing Guidelines are in the docket for this Notice on www.regulations.gov, under Docket ID FEMA–2015–0006.

Authority: Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, as amended.


Roy E. Wright.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service

Draft Environmental Assessment; Dallas Zoo Management; Dallas, Texas

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability; request for public comments.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, make available the draft environmental assessment under the National Environmental Policy Act regarding a permit application submitted by Dallas Zoo Management, on behalf of the Dallas Zoo, Sedgwick County Zoo, and Omaha’s Henry Doorly Zoo. The three zoos are requesting authorization under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora to import 18 live African elephants from Swaziland.

DATES: To ensure consideration, written comments must be received or postmarked on or before November 23, 2015. Comments submitted electronically using the Federal eRulemaking Portal (see ADDRESSES) must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on the closing date. Any comments that we receive after the closing date may not be considered.

ADDRESSES:

Availability of Documents

Internet: You may obtain copies of the draft environmental assessment and related documents by going to the Federal eRulemaking Portal: http://www.regulations.gov. In the Search box, enter FWS–HQ–IA–2015–0157, which is the docket number for this notice. Click the “Open Docket Folder” link.

In-Person: Copies of the draft environmental assessment are also available for public inspection and review at the following location, by appointment and written request only, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Management Authority, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041.

Comment submission: You may submit written comments on the draft environmental assessment by one of the following methods:

Internet: Go to the Federal eRulemaking Portal: http://www.regulations.gov. In the Search box, enter FWS–HQ–IA–2015–0157, which is the docket number for this notice. Click the “Open Docket Folder” link. Click
the “Open Docket Folder” link. Click “Comment Now!” to comment.

U.S. mail or hand-delivery: Public
Comments Processing, Attn: FWS–HQ–
IA–2015–0157; Division of Policy,
Performance, and Management
Programs; U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Service; 5275 Leesburg Pike, MS: BPHC;
Falls Church, VA 22041–3803. We
request that you send comments by only
one of the methods described above. All
information received will be posted on
http://www.regulations.gov. This
generally means that we will post any
personal information you provide us
(see the Public Availability of
Comments section for more
information).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Timothy Van Norman, Chief, Branch of
Permits, Division of Management
Authority, 5275 Leesburg Pike, MS–IA,
Falls Church, VA 22041; or by phone at
(703) 358–2350.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: We make
available the draft environmental
assessment (EA) under the National
Environmental Policy Act of 1969
(NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) for an
application submitted by Dallas Zoo
Management for a permit to import 18
live African elephants from Swaziland.
If the importation is authorized, and the
elephants are imported, the elephants
will be housed at the Dallas Zoo, Dallas,
Texas; Sedgwick County Zoo, Wichita,
Kansas; and Omaha’s Henry Doorly Zoo,
Omaha, Nebraska. The requested
permits, if granted, would authorize the
importation, under the Convention on
International Trade in Endangered
Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
(CITES) (27 U.S.T. 1087) of 3 adult
females, 3 subadult males, and 12
subadult females. CITES is an
international treaty designed to regulate
international trade in certain animal and
plant species that are affected by trade
and are now, or potentially may
become, threatened with extinction.
These species are listed in the
Appendices to CITES, which are
available on the CITES Secretariat’s Web
elephants in Swaziland are listed in
CITES Appendix I. The Service’s
requirements implementing CITES are
found at 50 CFR part 23.

The African elephant is also classified
as threatened under the U.S.
Endangered Species Act (ESA) (16
U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), with a rule under
Section 4(d) of the ESA 50 CFR 17.40(e). To
import African elephants into the
United States, ESA and CITES
requirements must be met. Pursuant to
the ESA 4(d) rule for the African
elephant (50 CFR 17.40(e)(3)(i)), live
elephants may be imported if all
requirements under Service regulations
at 50 CFR part 13 (general permitting)
and 50 CFR part 23 (CITES) are met.

Issuance of a CITES import permit is
categorically excluded under
Department of the Interior internal
agency policy and procedures from
requiring completion of an EA under
NEPA (Departmental Manual Part 516,
Chapter 8.5(C)(1)). However, we have
decided to prepare a draft EA in this
case to help ensure that we have
conducted a thorough review of all
relevant factors and potential impacts
on the quality of the human
environment as envisioned under
NEPA.

The draft EA considers the direct,
indirect, and cumulative effects of the
importation of 18 live elephants from
Swaziland, including the measures that
would be implemented to minimize and
mitigate the impacts of the importation
and housing of these animals.

Proposed Action

The proposed action is the issuance of
a CITES permit by the Service for the
importation of 18 African elephants
from Swaziland. The elephants are
currently housed in an enclosure at the
Mkhaya Game Reserve, Swaziland. The
elephants were removed from Mkhaya
Game Reserve and Hlane National Park,
Swaziland, due to overpopulation of
elephants within the two protected
areas and the negative impact the
elephants were having on the vegetation
and other wildlife species. Big Game
Parks (BGP), the delegated authority
responsible for implementation of
Swaziland’s Game Act of 1953, has
determined that the number of
elephants in the two protected areas
must be reduced. Further, the reduction
in the number of elephants within each of
the protected areas will facilitate
BGP’s efforts to increase the population
of black rhinoceros (Diceros bicornis), a
critically endangered species, within the
two protected areas.

Alternatives

We are also considering two
alternatives to the proposed action:
1. No Action—No CITES import
permits would be issued. According to
the applicant and BGP, the 18
elephants will not be returned to the two
protected areas. Instead, if importation is
not authorized, BGP has stated that they
have no option but to cull the animals.

2. Issue a CITES import permit for a
reduced number of elephants—This
alternative is similar to the Proposed
Action, in that the Service would issue
an import permit, but the number of
18 elephants authorized for import would
be reduced. This could result in some
elephants being imported into the
United States and housed at one or more
of the three zoos. However, according to
the applicant and BGP, the elephants
that are not imported into the United
States would be culled.

Public Availability of Comments

Written comments that we receive
become part of the public record
associated with this action. Before
including your address, phone number,
email address, or other personal
identifying information in your
comment, you should be aware that
your entire comment—including your
personal identifying information—may
be made publicly available at any time.
While you may request in your
comment that we withhold your
personal identifying information from
public review, we cannot guarantee that
we will be able to do so. We will not
consider anonymous comments. All
submissions from organizations or
businesses, and from individuals
identifying themselves as representatives or officials of
organizations or businesses, will be
made available for public disclosure in
their entirety.

Authority

We provide this notice under NEPA
and its implementing regulations (40
CFR 1506.6).

Brenda Tapia,
Program Analyst/Data Administrator, Branch
of Permits, Division of Management
Authority.

[FR Doc. 2015–26834 Filed 10–21–15; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4333–15–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LL962000 L1420000.B0000 15X]

Eastern States: Filing of Plats of Survey

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Filing of Plats of Survey; Maryland.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will officially file the plats of survey of the lands described below in the BLM-Eastern States Office, Washington DC at least 30 calendar days from the date of publication in the Federal Register.