

**SUMMARY:** This is a notice to animal exhibitors, dealers, transporters, researchers, animal protection groups, industry groups, and other interested persons that we are holding a series of educational symposia to present current information on the care and maintenance of exotic big cats. This notice provides the agenda for the symposia and information on the location and dates of the final two symposia.

**DATES:** The next symposium will be held in Bridgeton, MO, on Wednesday, October 27, 2004. The following symposium will be held in Riverdale, MD, on Wednesday, December 8, 2004. Each symposium will be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Registration information is provided in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this notice.

**ADDRESSES:** The symposia will be held at the following locations:

1. Bridgeton, MO: Crowne Plaza St. Louis Airport Hotel, 11228 Lone Eagle Drive, Bridgeton, MO 63044, (314) 291-6700.

2. Riverdale, MD: USDA Center at Riverside, 4700 River Road, Riverdale, MD 20737, (301) 734-7833.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information on the agenda of the symposia, contact Dr. Barbara Kohn, Senior Staff Veterinarian, Animal Care, 4700 River Road Unit 84, Riverdale, MD 20737-1234; (301) 734-7833.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Animal Care, has been hosting a series of educational symposia on the care and maintenance of exotic big cats. The symposia are designed to provide a forum for information dissemination on various topics that are key to the successful management and handling of exotic big cats. These symposia have been held in locations across the country to facilitate attendance by most of our regulated parties that maintain these animals.

The first of these meetings was held on March 26, 2003, in Fort Worth, TX. On April 30, 2003, the second meeting was held in Las Vegas, NV. The third meeting was held November 19, 2003, in Columbus, OH, and the fourth on January 7, 2004, in Sarasota, FL. The final two symposia of this series will be held at the Crowne Plaza St. Louis Airport Hotel, 11228 Lone Eagle Drive, Bridgeton, MO, on October 27, 2004, and at the USDA Center at Riverside, 4700 River Road, Riverdale, MD, on December 8, 2004.

The symposia have been developed to provide current information and ideas on a variety of topics. Each symposium will, with the exception of possible

minor modifications, follow the same agenda. The symposia will start with general session, followed by breakout sessions allowing more interaction between speakers and attendees. The agenda for these symposia is:

7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.—Registration.  
8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.—General Session:  
Welcome.  
Nutrition.  
Veterinary Care and Tranquilization.  
Transportation.  
New Training Methods.  
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.—Lunch (on own).  
1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.—Concurrent Breakout Session #1:  
Explaining APHIS Regulations.  
Nutrition.  
Training.  
2:45 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.—Concurrent Breakout Session #2:  
Transportation/Good and Not so Good.  
Veterinary Care Issues.  
Heat Budgets and Shade (avoiding overheating and overcooling).  
4:15 p.m. to 5 p.m.—Questions and Answers and Closing.

Notice of these symposia is being sent to current Animal Welfare Act licensees with exotic big cats and may be viewed on the Animal Care Web site at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ac>. Copies of the brochure prepared for the symposia can be requested by calling our headquarters at (301) 734-7833 or by e-mailing the request to [ACE@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:ACE@aphis.usda.gov).

Please note that these symposia are being held to provide and disseminate information on the care and maintenance of big exotic cats under the Animal Welfare Act. There will be no opportunity at these symposia to submit formal comments on proposed rules or other regulatory initiatives.

#### Registration

As seating for each symposium is limited, we request that you preregister by calling (301) 734-7833 or by e-mailing Animal Care at [ACE@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:ACE@aphis.usda.gov). Please identify the symposium you will be attending and provide your name, number of attendees, phone number, e-mail address, or other contact address. This information is needed so that we may inform registrants in a timely manner in the event of any changes to the meeting schedule. The deadline for preregistration is October 1, 2004, for the Bridgeton symposium, and December 1, 2004, for the Riverdale symposium. On-site registration will take place from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. on the date of each symposium.

#### Travel and Lodging Information

All attendees are responsible for making their own travel and lodging

arrangements. No rooms have been reserved for attendees at symposium hotels or any other hotels.

#### Parking and Security Procedures for Riverdale Symposium

Please note that a fee of \$2.25 is required to enter the parking lot at the USDA Center at Riverside. The machine accepts \$1 bills or quarters.

Picture identification is required to be admitted into the building. Upon entering the building, visitors should inform security personnel that they are attending the Big Cat symposium.

Done in Washington, DC, this 17th day of September 2004.

**Kevin Shea,**

*Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

[FR Doc. E4-2343 Filed 9-22-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-34-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Natural Resources Conservation Service

#### East Locust Creek Watershed, Putnam and Sullivan Counties, MO

**AGENCY:** Natural Resources Conservation Service.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the Environmental Policy Act of 1969; the Council on Environmental Quality Guidelines (40 CFR part 1500); and the Natural Resources Conservation Service Guidelines (7 CFR part 650); the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, North Central Missouri Regional Water Commission, the Locust Creek Watershed District, and the Sullivan County Soil and Water Conservation District give notice that an environmental impact statement (EIS) is being prepared for East Locust Creek Watershed, Putnam and Sullivan Counties, Missouri.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Roger A. Hansen, State Conservationist, or Harold L. Deckerd, Assistant State Conservationist, 601 Business Loop 70 West, Parkade Center, Suite #250, Columbia, MO 65203, (573) 876-0900.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The environmental assessment of this federally assisted action indicates that the project may cause significant local, regional, or national impacts on the environment. As a result of these findings, Roger Hansen, NRCS State Conservationist, has determined that the preparation and review of an

environmental impact statement (EIS) is needed for this project.

This project involves construction of a multiple-purpose reservoir as a supplement to the on-going Public Law 83-566 East Locust Creek Watershed project. The project supplement will include one rural water supply reservoir with additional purposes of flood protection, recreation, and fish and wildlife habitat enhancement.

A draft EIS will be prepared and circulated for review by agencies and the public. The Natural Resources Conservation Service invites participation and consultation of agencies and individuals that have special expertise, legal jurisdiction, or interest in the preparation of the draft EIS. A field investigation is scheduled for September 27 and 28, 2004, and additional planning Meetings will be scheduled as needed. Further information on the proposed action may be obtained from Harold Deckerd, Assistant State Conservationist, at the above address or telephone number.

Dated: September 16, 2004.

**Roger A. Hansen,**  
State Conservationist.

[FR Doc. 04-21390 Filed 9-22-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-16-P**

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### International Trade Administration

#### President's Export Council: Meeting of the President's Export Council

**AGENCY:** International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of an open meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The President's Export Council (PEC) will hold a full Council meeting to discuss topics related to export expansion. The meeting will include discussion of trade priorities and initiatives, the World Trade Organization, PEC subcommittee activity and proposed letters of recommendation. The PEC was established on December 20, 1973, and reconstituted May 4, 1979, to advise the President on matters relating to U.S. trade. It was most recently renewed by Executive Order 13316.

**DATES:** September 29, 2004.

**TIME:** 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** Room 2237, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515. This program is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be submitted no

later than September 20, 2004, to J. Marc Chittum, President's Export Council, Room 4043, Washington, DC 20230 (Telephone: 202-482-1124). Seating is limited and will be on a first come, first served basis.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** J. Marc Chittum, President's Export Council, Room 4043, Washington, DC 20230 (Phone: 202-482-1124), or visit the PEC Web site, <http://www.ita.doc.gov/td/pec>.

Dated: September 20, 2004.

**J. Marc Chittum,**

Staff Director and Executive Secretary,  
President's Export Council.

[FR Doc. 04-21468 Filed 9-21-04; 12:05 pm]

**BILLING CODE 3510-DR-P**

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 083104A]

#### Taking and Importing Marine Mammals; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Operation of an Offshore Oil and Gas Platform in the Beaufort Sea

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of receipt of application for an incidental take authorization; request for comments and information.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS has received a request from BP Exploration (Alaska), 900 East Benson Boulevard, Anchorage, AK 99519 (BP) for renewal of an authorization to take small numbers of marine mammals incidental to operation of an offshore oil and gas platform at the Northstar facility in the Beaufort Sea in state waters. NMFS is considering whether to propose new regulations that would govern the incidental taking of small numbers of marine mammals under a Letter of Authorization (LOA) issued to BP. In order to promulgate regulations and issue an LOA, NMFS must determine that these takings will have a negligible impact on the affected species and stocks of marine mammals. NMFS invites comment on the application and suggestions on the content of the regulations.

**DATES:** Comments and information must be postmarked no later than October 25, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments on the application should be addressed to Steve Leathery, Chief, Permits,

Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3225, or by telephoning one of the contacts listed here. The mailbox address for providing email comments is [PR1.083104A@noaa.gov](mailto:PR1.083104A@noaa.gov). Include in the subject line of the e-mail comment the following document identifier: 083104A. Please use only one method for submitting comments. NMFS is not responsible for e-mail comments sent to addresses other than the one provided here. Comments sent via e-mail, including all attachments, must not exceed a 10-megabyte file size. A copy of the application containing a list of the references used in this document may be obtained by writing to this address or by telephoning the contact listed here and is also available at: [http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/prot\\_res/PR2/Small\\_Take/smalltake\\_info.htm#applications](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/prot_res/PR2/Small_Take/smalltake_info.htm#applications).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kenneth R. Hollingshead, NMFS, 301-713-2055, ext. 128 or Brad Smith, NMFS, (907) 271-5006.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

Section 101(a)(5)(A) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*)(MMPA) directs the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) to allow, upon request, the incidental, but not intentional taking of marine mammals by U.S. citizens who engage in a specified activity (other than commercial fishing) within a specified geographical region if certain findings are made and regulations are issued.

Permission may be granted for periods of 5 years or less if the Secretary finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s), will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses, and regulations are prescribed setting forth the permissible methods of taking and the requirements pertaining to the monitoring and reporting of such taking.

NMFS has defined "negligible impact" in 50 CFR 216.103 as "an impact resulting from the specified activity that cannot be reasonably expected to, and is not reasonably likely to, adversely affect the species or stock through effects on annual rates of recruitment or survival." Except for certain categories of activities not pertinent here, the MMPA defines "harassment" as any act of pursuit, torment, or annoyance which:

(i) has the potential to injure a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild