

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service**

[Docket No. 03-010-1]

Big Cat Symposia; Animal Care**AGENCY:** Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

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, information on the location and dates of the first two symposia, and general information on subsequent symposia.

DATES: The first symposium will be held in Fort Worth, TX, on Wednesday, March 26, 2003. The second symposium will be held in Las Vegas, NV, on Wednesday, April 30, 2003. Each symposium will be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Preregistration is requested for both symposia. Parties wishing to attend may preregister by e-mailing ACE@aphis.usda.gov or by calling the Animal Care headquarters office at (301) 734-7833. The preregistration deadline for the Fort Worth meeting is March 1, 2003; for the Las Vegas meeting, the deadline is April 1, 2003.

On-site registration will take place from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. on the day of each symposium.

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

1. Fort Worth, TX: Ramada Plaza Hotel, 1701 Commerce Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102, (817) 335-7000.
2. Las Vegas, NV: Sam's Town Hotel, 5111 Boulder Highway, Las Vegas, NV 89122, (800) 897-8696.

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. Dr. Kohn may be contacted by e-mail at ACE@aphis.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is announcing a series of educational symposia on the care and maintenance of exotic big cats. The symposia will give Animal Care an opportunity to disseminate information on various topics that are key to the

successful management and handling of exotic big cats. The symposia will be held in various geographical locations to facilitate attendance by regulated parties that maintain these animals.

The first symposium will be held on Wednesday, March 26, 2003, at the Ramada Plaza Hotel, Fort Worth, TX, and the second symposium will be at Sam's Town Hotel, Las Vegas, NV, on April 30, 2003. We plan to hold similar symposia at some time between October 2003 and January 2004 in the Midwest, Washington, DC, and Florida.

The symposia have been developed to provide current information and ideas on a variety of topics. Each symposium will follow the same agenda, with possible minor modifications. The symposia will start with general sessions, followed by breakout sessions allowing more interaction between speakers and attendees. The agenda for these symposia is:

- 7:30 a.m.–8:30 a.m.—Registration.
- 8:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m.—General Session. Welcome. Nutrition. Veterinary Care and Tranquilization. Transportation. New Training Methods.
- 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m.—Lunch Break.
- 1:00 p.m.–2:30 p.m.—Concurrent Breakout Session #1. Explaining APHIS Regulations. Nutrition/Zootrition. Heat Budgets and Shade (avoiding overheating and overcooling).
- 2:45 p.m.–4:15 p.m.—Concurrent Breakout Session #2. Training. Transportation Issues. Fixed Exhibit Enclosure Design.
- 4:15 p.m.–5:00 p.m.—Questions and Answers; Closing.

Notices of these symposia are being sent to current Animal Welfare Act licensees with exotic big cats. This notice is also available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ac>, the Animal Care web site. Copies of a brochure containing the information in this announcement can also be requested by calling the Animal Care headquarters office at (301) 734-7833 or by e-mailing a request to 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.

Preregistration

Preregistration is requested by calling the Animal Care headquarters office at

(301) 734-7833 or by e-mailing Animal Care at ACE@aphis.usda.gov and providing your name, number of attendees, phone number, and e-mail address or other contact address. This information is needed so we may inform registrants in a timely manner if any changes are made to the schedules of the symposia. Please preregister for the Fort Worth symposium by March 1, 2003, and for the Las Vegas symposium by April 1, 2003.

Travel and Lodging Information

All attendees are responsible for their own travel and lodging. No rooms have been reserved for attendees at the symposium hotels or any other hotels.

Done in Washington, DC, this 11th day of February, 2003.

Peter Fernandez,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 03-3837 Filed 2-14-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Forest Service****Ketchikan Resource Advisory Committee****AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Ketchikan Resource Advisory Committee will meet in Ketchikan, Alaska, April 8, 2003. The purpose of the meeting is to provide orientation to Advisory Committee members, and to discuss potential projects under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000.

DATES: The meeting will be held April 8, 2003.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Southeast Alaska Discovery Center Learning Center (back entrance), 50 Main Street, Ketchikan, Alaska. Send written comments to Ketchikan Resource Advisory Committee, c/o District Ranger, USDA Forest Service, 3031 Tongass Ave., Ketchikan, AK 99901, or electronically to jingersoll@fs.fed.us.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jerry Ingersoll, District Ranger, Ketchikan-Misty Fiords Ranger District, Tongass National Forest, (907) 228-4100.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting is open to the public. Committee discussion is limited to Forest Service staff and Committee members. However, persons who wish to bring matters to the attention of the

Committee may file written statements with the Committee staff before or after the meeting. Public input sessions will be provided and individuals who made written requests by April 7 will have the opportunity to address the Committee at those sessions.

Dated: February 7, 2003.

Thomas Puchlerz,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 03-3809 Filed 2-14-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Lingle-Ft. Laramie Water Quality Project, Goshen County, WY

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of a finding of no significant impact.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969; the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR Part 1500); and the Natural Resources Conservation Service Regulations (7 CFR Part 650); the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, gives notice that an environmental impact statement is not being prepared for the Lingle-Ft. Laramie Water Quality Project, Goshen County, Wyoming.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Contact Lincoln E. Burton, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Room 3124, Federal Building, 100 East B Street, Casper, Wyoming 82601, telephone (307) 261-6453.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The environmental assessment of this federally assisted action indicates that the project will not cause significant local, regional, or national impacts on the human environment. As a result of these findings, Lincoln E. Burton, State Conservationist, has determined that the preparation and review of an environmental impact statement are not needed for this project.

The project purpose is watershed protection—the on-site treatment of agricultural related pollutants for off-site benefits. The planned works of improvement include accelerated technical assistance for land treatment, accelerated financial assistance to treat 8,300 acres to reduce the amount of nitrogen available to be leached to the groundwater, 25 animal waste management facilities, and 35

abandoned wells will be decommissioned.

The Notice of a Finding Of No Significant Impact (FONSI) has been forwarded to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and to various federal, state, and local agencies, and interested parties. A limited number of copies of the FONSI are available to fill single copy requests at the above address. Basic data developed during the environmental assessment are on file and may be reviewed by contacting Lincoln E. Burton.

No administrative action on implementation of the proposal will be taken until 30 days after the date of this publication in the **Federal Register**. The Environmental Assessment will then be signed and funding authorization requested. All plans will be written within five years, and implementation will continue for up to ten years.

Dated: January 22, 2003.

Lincoln E. Burton,

State Conservationist.

(This activity is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under No. 10.904, Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention, and is subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, which requires intergovernmental consultation with state and local officials)

Finding of No Significant Impact for Lingle-Ft. Laramie Water Quality Project, Goshen County, Wyoming

Introduction

The Lingle-Ft. Laramie Water Quality Project is a federally assisted action authorized for planning under Public Law 83-566, the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act. An environmental assessment was undertaken in conjunction with the development of the watershed plan. This assessment was conducted in consultation with local, state, and federal agencies, including section 7 consultation, as well as with interested organization and individuals. Data developed during the assessment is available for public review at the following location: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Room 3124 Federal Building, 100 East B Street, Casper, Wyoming 82601-1969.

Recommended Action—Alternative 2: Accelerated Land Treatment

Proposed is the development of about 48 conservation plans that will provide for land treatment measures to be applied on farms for the reduction of the agricultural contribution to nitrate contamination of the groundwater. The proposed plan will treat 8,300 acres

with increased irrigation efficiency to reduce the amount of nitrogen available to be leached to the groundwater. Twenty-five animal waste management facilities and application practices will be installed in the watershed. Thirty-five abandoned wells will be decommissioned.

Effect of Recommended Action

The recommended action will improve groundwater quality, improve human health and safety, improve irrigation efficiency, and reduce irrigation labor. Nitrates available for leaching will be reduced through installation of fertilizer injection systems, nutrient management, and irrigation water management.

The proposed action will reduce the amount of nitrogen available to be leached. It is estimated at full implementation, there will be a 33 percent reduction of nitrate leached below the root zone, which equals about 81 pounds of nitrate per acre each year over the entire project area at a 60% participation rate. Nitrogen reduction is considered not to be a controversial issue.

The proposed action will install twenty-five animal waste management systems to collect and store run-off from feed lots until it can be safely applied to the agricultural fields.

The proposed action will improve on farm irrigation efficiency, which will increase the water available to meet crop consumptive use.

A literature review and search of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) records were conducted for the project area. The effect of project installation will be determined for each individual project contract according to Natural Resource Conservation Service, Northern Plains Region procedures.

It is likely that more sites will be discovered during the planning and installation of the accelerated land treatment practices. Since project practices will be installed on a "voluntary participation" basis, location of ground disturbances is presently unknown. Most surface disturbances below the plow zone will occur as a result of installing ag waste facilities, pipelines, land leveling, grading, and shaping. NRCS cultural resources procedures, as described in the NRCS Northern Plains Region procedures, will be followed when ground disturbances are planned.

Compliance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) protection rules for each farm will follow the procedures in the NRCS General Manual, Section 190 and 420, respectively.