

Director will decide whether or not a permit should be issued for economic hardship, as defined in section 10(b) of the Act. In making his decision, the Director shall consider, in addition to the general criteria in § 13.21(b) of this subchapter, the following factors:

(1) Whether the purpose for which the permit is requested will significantly affect the survival of the species in the wild;

(2) The economic, legal, or other alternatives or relief available to the applicant;

(3) The amount of evidence that the applicant was in fact party to a contract or other binding legal obligation which:

(i) Deals specifically with the plant sought to be covered by the permit; and

(ii) Became binding prior to the date of the FEDERAL REGISTER notice of review of the status of the species or proposed rulemaking to list the species as endangered, whichever is earlier;

(4) The severity of economic hardship which the contract or other binding legal obligation referred to in paragraph (b)(3) of this section would cause if the permit were denied;

(5) Where applicable, the portion of the applicant's income which would be lost if the permit were denied, and the relationship of that portion to the balance of his income.

(c) *Permit conditions.* In addition to the general conditions set forth in part 13 of this subchapter, every permit issued under this section may be subject to any of the following special conditions:

(1) If requested, the permittee shall submit to the Director a written report of the activities authorized by the permit. Such report must be postmarked by the date specified in the permit or otherwise requested by the Director.

(2) If requested, the permittee shall report to the Service's office designated in the permit the death, destruction or loss of all living plants covered by the permit. Such report must be postmarked by the date specified in the permit or otherwise requested by the Director.

(d) *Duration of permit.* The duration of a permit issued under this section shall be designated on the face of the permit.

No permit issued under this section shall be valid for more than one year from the date of a FEDERAL REGISTER notice of review of the status of the species or proposed rulemaking to list the species as endangered, whichever is earlier.

[44 FR 54060, Sept. 18, 1979]

### Subpart G—Threatened Plants

#### § 17.71 Prohibitions.

(a) Except as provided in subpart A of this part, or in a permit issued under this subpart, all of the provisions in § 17.61 shall apply to threatened plants, with the following exception. Seeds of cultivated specimens of species treated as threatened shall be exempt from all the provisions of § 17.61, provided that a statement that the seeds are of "cultivated origin" accompanies the seeds or their container during the course of any activity otherwise subject to these regulations.

(b) In addition to any provisions of this part 17, any employee or agent of the Service or of a State Conservation Agency which is operating a conservation program pursuant to the terms of a Cooperative Agreement with the Service in accordance with section 6(c) of the Act, who is designated by that agency for such purposes, may, when acting in the course of official duties, remove and reduce to possession from areas under Federal jurisdiction those threatened species of plants which are covered by an approved Cooperative Agreement to carry out conservation programs.

(c) Whenever a special rule in §§ 17.73 to 17.78 applies to a threatened species, none of the provisions of paragraph (a) of this section will apply. The special rule will contain all the applicable prohibitions and exceptions. If indicated by special rule, the exception for seeds in paragraph (a) of this section shall not apply to the threatened species.

[42 FR 32380, June 24, 1977, as amended at 50 FR 39691, Sept. 30, 1985]

#### § 17.72 Permits—general.

Upon receipt of a complete application, the Director may issue a permit authorizing any activity otherwise prohibited with regard to threatened