

[Tele: (301) 443-7024; e-mail: pcockril@samhsa.gov; Fax: (301) 480-6077], Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, SAMHSA, Rockwall II Building, Suite 618, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20857.

Written comments (without a request to personally testify) will also be accepted by the above addressee. Written testimonies are limited to five (5) typed pages using 1.5 line spacing and 12 point font.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Building on recent advances and studies, CSAT has initiated plans to focus on how to apply its extensive knowledge to the practical objective of improving treatment outcomes. The plans include synthesizing current knowledge and recommendations about treatment, service systems, application of best practices, diffusion methods, and organization and financing of substance abuse treatment services. Federal Government and outside experts, as well as the interested public, will explore the current state of the knowledge, resources, needs, and service and organizational capacity. The objective is the culling of priorities for action by the government and by others in the substance abuse treatment field. As noted above, CSAT is inviting the public to comment on five domains as part of the initial step of the plan. The domains, as well as some initial questions for exploration, include:

(1) Closing the Treatment Gap: Where are the gaps? How big are they for different populations? For different types of settings and treatment modalities? How big are gaps in other related systems of care, e.g., welfare, child welfare, housing? What are the policy, organization, and financing issues that must be addressed in the private and public systems, including Medicaid and Medicare, to close the treatment gap?

(2) Reducing Stigma and Changing Attitudes: What are the nature, causes and consequences of addiction stigma? What can CSAT, the treatment field, consumers and families do to address stigma related to addiction, substance abuse treatment and individuals with substance abuse disorders? How do other stigmas impact/compound the stigma of addiction?

(3) Improving and Strengthening Treatment Systems: What are the clinical and organizational challenges facing treatment organizations in the public and private sectors? What can CSAT, the treatment field, consumers and families do to improve and strengthen treatment organizations so

that they can adapt to the new imperatives of the changing treatment system, and to improve the relationship between the general health care system and the specialty substance abuse treatment system? What should be done at the State, county and/or local levels to improve and strengthen substance abuse treatment?

(4) Connecting Services and Research: What are the best methods by which CSAT, the treatment field, consumers and families can foster and support evaluation of proven research findings in community-based settings and identification and adoption of best practices?

(5) Addressing Workforce Issues: What are the issues facing clinicians treating addictions? What can CSAT, the treatment field, consumers and families, and professional associations do to foster training, appropriate credentialing, and licensure in all settings in which treatment occurs, and to support treatment organizations in developing appropriate policies for clinical training?

Hearing Format

The hearings will be divided into five segments (i.e., the five domains described above) of approximately 45-60 minutes each. Each individual/organization participant will be limited to three (3) minutes of oral testimony and five (5) pages of typed testimony per domain. All oral testimonies must be accompanied by a written testimony of no more than five (5) typed pages using 1.5 line spacing and 12 point font. Five copies of written testimonies may either be submitted before the hearing to the addressee listed above or to the registrar at the hearing. As the hearing schedule allows, unscheduled testimonies will be accommodated. All testimonies (recorded and written) will become a part of the public domain.

Dated: August 12, 1999.

Richard Kopanda,

Executive Officer, SAMHSA.

[FR Doc. 99-21475 Filed 8-18-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4162-20-U

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Receipt of Applications for Permit

The following applicants have applied for a permit to conduct certain activities with endangered species. This notice is provided pursuant to Section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, *as amended* (16 U.S.C. 1531, *et seq.*):

PRT-016026

Applicant: John T. Hughes, Muskegon, MI

The applicant requests a permit to import the sport-hunted trophy of one male bontebok (*Damaliscus pygargus dorcas*) culled from a captive herd maintained under the management program of the Republic of South Africa, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

PRT-016089

Applicant: Morgan Wynne, Anchorage, AK

The applicant requests a permit to import the sport-hunted trophy of one male bontebok (*Damaliscus pygargus dorcas*) culled from a captive herd maintained under the management program of the Republic of South Africa, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

PRT-016149

Applicant: Wilson Seay Stout, Dallas, TX

The applicant requests a permit to import the sport-hunted trophy of one male bontebok (*Damaliscus pygargus dorcas*) culled from a captive herd maintained under the management program of the Republic of South Africa, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

PRT-016158

Applicant: International Animal Exchange, Ferndale, MI

The applicant requests a permit to export 1.0 captive born black leopard (*Panthera pardus*) to Baijing Badaling Wild Animal World, Beijing, China, for the purposes of public display, education and captive breeding.

Written data or comments should be submitted to the Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203 and must be received by the Director within 30 days of the date of this publication.

The following applicants have applied for a permit to conduct certain activities with marine mammals. The application was submitted to satisfy requirements of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, *as amended* (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing marine mammals (50 CFR 18).

PRT-016090

Applicant: Harry Koch, Heath, TX

The applicant requests a permit to import a polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) sport-hunted from the Lancaster Sound polar bear population, Northwest Territories, Canada for personal use.

Documents and other information submitted with these applications are

available for review, *subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act*, by any party who submits a written request for a copy of such documents to the following office within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203. Phone: (703/358-2104); FAX: (703/358-2281).

Dated: August 13, 1999.

Pam Hall,

Acting Chief, Branch of Permits, Office of Management Authority.

[FR Doc. 99-21473 Filed 8-18-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Migratory Bird Permits; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement on Resident Canada Goose Management

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service or we) is issuing this notice to advise the public that we are initiating efforts to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for resident Canada goose management under the authority of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The EIS will consider a range of management alternatives for addressing expanding populations of locally-breeding Canada geese that are increasingly posing threats to health and human safety and injuring personal and public property. This notice describes possible alternatives, invites public participation in the scoping process for preparing the EIS, and identifies the Service official to whom you may direct questions and comments. While we have yet to determine potential sites of public scoping meetings, we will publish a notice of any such public meetings with the locations, dates, and times in the **Federal Register**.

DATES: You must submit written comments regarding EIS scoping by October 18, 1999, to the address below.

ADDRESSES: You should send written comments to the Chief, Office of Migratory Bird Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, ms 634—ARLSQ, 1849 C Street NW., Washington, D.C. 20240. All comments received, including names and addresses, will become part of the public record. You may inspect

comments during normal business hours in room 634—Arlington Square Building, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Virginia.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jonathan Andrew, Chief, or Ron W. Kokel, Office of Migratory Bird Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, (703) 358-1714.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Numbers of Canada geese that nest and reside predominantly within the conterminous United States have increased exponentially in recent years. These geese are usually referred to as "resident" Canada geese. Recent surveys in the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyways suggest that the resident breeding population now exceeds 1 million individuals in both the Atlantic and Mississippi Flyways is increasing dramatically. Because resident Canada geese live in temperate climates with relatively stable breeding habitat conditions and low numbers of predators, tolerate human and other disturbances, have a relative abundance of preferred habitat provided by current urban/suburban landscaping techniques, and fly relatively short distances to winter compared with other Canada goose populations, they exhibit a consistently high annual production and survival. Given these characteristics, the absence of waterfowl hunting in many of these areas, and free food handouts by some people, these urban/suburban resident Canada goose populations are increasingly coming into conflict with human activities in many parts of the country.

Conflicts between geese and people affect or damage several types of resources, including property, human health and safety, agriculture, and natural resources. Common problem areas include public parks, airports, public beaches and swimming facilities, water-treatment reservoirs, corporate business areas, golf courses, schools, college campuses, private lawns, amusement parks, cemeteries, hospitals, residential subdivisions, and along or between highways.

Property damage usually involves landscaping and walkways, most commonly on golf courses and waterfront property. In parks and other open areas near water, large goose flocks create local problems with their abundant droppings and feather litter (Conover and Chasko, 1985). Surveys have found that while most landowners like seeing some geese on their property, eventually, increasing numbers of geese and the associated accumulation of

goose droppings on lawns cause many landowners to view geese as a nuisance and thus reduce both the aesthetic value and recreational use of these areas (Conover and Chasko, 1985).

Negative impacts on human health and safety occur in several ways. At airports, large numbers of geese can create a very serious threat to aviation. Resident Canada geese have been involved in a large number of aircraft strikes resulting in dangerous landing/take-off conditions and costly repairs. As a result, many airports have active goose control programs. Excessive goose droppings are a disease concern for many people. Public beaches in several States have been closed due to excessive fecal coliform levels that in some cases have been traced back to geese and other waterfowl. Additionally, during nesting and brood rearing, aggressive geese have bitten and chased people.

Agricultural and natural resource impacts include losses to grain crops, overgrazing of pastures, and degrading water quality. Goose droppings in heavy concentrations can overfertilize lawns and degrade water quality resulting in eutrophication of lakes with excessive algae growth (Manny *et al.*, 1994). Overall, complaints related to personal and public property damage, agricultural damage and other public conflicts are increasing as resident Canada goose populations increase.

Until recently, we attempted to address this growing problem through existing annual hunting season frameworks and the issuance of control permits on a case-by-case basis. While this approach provided relief in some areas, it did not completely address the problem. On June 17, we published a final rule in the **Federal Register** (64 FR 32766) establishing a new special Canada goose permit. The new permits are specifically for the management and control of resident Canada geese. We will issue permits to State conservation or wildlife management agencies on a State-specific basis, so States and their designated agents can initiate resident goose damage management and control injury problems within the conditions and restrictions of the permit program. The permits, while restricted to the period between March 11 and August 31, increase the use and availability of control measures, decrease the number of injurious resident Canada geese in localized areas, have little impact on hunting or other recreation dependent on the availability of resident Canada geese, and allow injury/damage problems to be dealt with on the State and local level, thereby resulting in more responsive and timely control activities. The new special permits