

to govern the application and selection process for tribes/consortia to begin their participation in the tribal self-governance program in fiscal year 1998 and calendar year 1998. Applicants should be guided by the requirements in 25 CFR Parts 1001.1 to 1001.5 in preparing their applications. Copies of the interim rules published in the Federal Register on February 15, 1995, may be obtained from the information contact person identified in this notice.

Tribes/consortia wishing to be considered for participation in the tribal self-governance program in fiscal year 1998 or calendar year 1998 must respond to this notice, except for those which are (1) currently involved with negotiations with the Department; (2) one of the 62 tribal entities with signed agreements; or (3) one of the tribal entities already included in the applicant pool as of the date of this notice.

The Director's decision on the actual number of tribes that will enter negotiations will be made at a later date. Tribes already in the applicant pool will retain their existing ranking with tribes entering the applicant pool under these rules receiving a lower ranking. Being in the applicant pool will not guarantee that a tribe will actually be provided the opportunity to negotiate in any given year. However, it does mean that a tribe will not be passed over by a tribe with a lower ranking in the applicant pool or by a tribe not in the applicant pool, with the exception of a tribe already in the negotiation process.

For example, if the Department determines that five tribes will be afforded the opportunity to negotiate self-governance agreements for fiscal year 1998 and calendar year 1998, the five tribes with the highest rankings would be notified and negotiations would be scheduled. The tribe ranked sixth on the list would then have the highest ranking to negotiate a self-governance agreement for 1999 or might enter negotiations for 1998 if one of the first five tribes discontinued negotiations. In such a case, the tribe that discontinued negotiations would remain in the application pool with its original ranking and would be the first to be selected in 1998 for negotiating agreements commencing in 1999.

Dated: January 6, 1997.

William A. Sinclair,
Director, Office of Self-Governance.
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Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of 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.*):

Applicant: Harold L. Ahlberg, Irving, TX, PRT-823758.

The applicant requests a permit to import a sport-hunted cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) from Namibia for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

Applicant: Patricia L. Zerbin, Williston, FL, PRT-823609.

The applicant requests a permit to reexport one Asian elephant (*Elephas maximus*) born in captivity to accompany applicant to Circus Krone, Munchen, Germany for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species. The elephant is not being exported for exhibition purposes.

Applicant: McCarthy's Wildlife Center, Inc., West Palm Beach, FL, PRT-822008.

The applicant has requested a permit to import two male and two female captive-born cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*), from the De Wildt Cheetah Centre, South Africa, for the purpose of enhancement of the species through captive propagation and education.

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 430, Arlington, Virginia 22203 and must be received by the Director within 30 days of the date of this publication.

The public is invited to comment on the following application(s) for permits to conduct certain activities with marine mammals. The application(s) was/were 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).

Applicant: Sea World, Inc., Orlando, FL, PRT-823561.

Type of Permit: Import for public display.

Name and Number of Animals: Polar Bear (*Ursus maritimus*), 1.

Summary of Activity to be Authorized: The applicant has requested a permit to import to Sea World of California for the purpose of public display one male captive-born polar bear for the purposes of public display.

Source of Marine Mammals for Public Display: Hagenbeck Zoo, Germany.

Period of Activity: Up to five years from issuance of a permit, if issued.

Applicant: Sea World, Inc., Orlando, FL, PRT-823560.

Type of Permit: Import for public display.

Name and Number of Animals: Polar Bear (*Ursus maritimus*), 1.

Summary of Activity to be Authorized: The applicant has requested a permit to import to Sea World of California one female captive-born polar bear for the purposes of public display.

Source of Marine Mammals for Public Display: Wuppertal Zoo, Germany.

Period of Activity: Up to five years from issuance of permit, if issued.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the Federal Register, the Office of Management Authority is forwarding copies of this application to the Marine Mammal Commission and the Committee of Scientific Advisors for their review.

Written data or comments, requests for copies of the complete application, or requests for a public hearing on this application should be sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 430, Arlington, Virginia 22203, telephone 703/358-2104 or fax 703/358-2281 and must be received within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice. Anyone requesting a hearing should give specific reasons why a hearing would be appropriate. The holding of such hearing is at the discretion of the Director.

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 within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice at the above address.

Dated: January 7, 1997.

Mary Ellen Amtower,
Acting Chief, Branch of Permits, Office of Management Authority.

[FR Doc. 97-652 Filed 1-9-97; 8:45 am]

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Bureau of Indian Affairs

Distribution of Fiscal Year 1997 Contract Support Funds

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of method for distribution and use of Fiscal Year (FY) 1997 contract support funds (CSF).

SUMMARY: The purpose of this Announcement is to issue the Bureau of