SUMMARY:

Through this document, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is requesting information concerning what practices are currently used for handling and training potentially dangerous exotic or wild animals used in exhibition (such as, but not limited to, elephants, lions, or tigers), and what training and experience levels trainers and handlers of such animals have. We are seeking this information to help us more thoroughly examine all issues pertaining to the training and handling of potentially dangerous exotic or wild animals used in exhibition.

DATES: Consideration will be given only to comments received on or before September 22, 1997.

ADDRESS: Please send an original and three copies of your comments to Docket No. 97–001–1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, suite 3C03, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737–1238.

Please state that your comments refer to Docket No. 97–001–1. Comments received may be inspected at USDA, room 1141, South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Persons wishing to inspect comments are requested to call ahead on (202) 690–2817 to facilitate entry into the comment reading room.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Stephen Smith, Staff Animal Health Technician, Animal Care, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 84, Riverdale, MD 20737–1234, (301) 734–7833.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Under the Animal Welfare Act (the Act) (7 U.S.C. 2131 et seq.), the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to promulgate regulations governing the humane handling, housing, care, treatment, and transportation of certain animals by dealers, research facilities, exhibitors, and carriers and intermediate handlers. Regulations established under the Act are contained in 9 CFR parts 1, 2, and 3. 9 CFR part 2 contains regulations that cover training and handling of animals under the Animal Welfare Act. These regulations generally prohibit physical abuse of performing animals, describe minimum standards for exhibition of animals to prevent risk or harm to the animals and to the public, and require that dangerous animals be directly supervised by a knowledgeable animal handler during public exhibition.

We are seeking additional information concerning the training and handling of potentially dangerous wild or exotic animals. Written comments should be submitted within the 60-day comment period specified in this notice under the section entitled DATES to the address listed under the section entitled ADDRESSES.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 2131–2159; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.2(g).

Done in Washington, DC, this 18th day of July 1997.

Terry L. Medley, Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Luck Lake Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: The Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to provide timber for the Ketchikan Area timber sale program. The Record of Decision will disclose how the Forest Service has decided to provide harvest units, roads, and associated timber harvesting facilities.

The proposed action is to harvest an estimated 13 million board feet (mmbf) of timber on an estimated 1000 acres. A range of alternatives will be developed and will include a no-action alternative. The proposed timber harvest is located within Tongass Forest Plan Management Area K9 Value Comparison Units 572, 581 and 582 on Prince of Wales Island, Alaska, on the Thorne Bay Ranger