

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service****Extension of Comment Period on Draft Supplemental Information Regarding the Recovery Plan for the Grizzly Bear (*Ursus Arctos horribilis*)**

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice: extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: The Fish and Wildlife Service provides notice that the comment period is being extended for commenting on draft supplemental information to the recovery plan for the grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*). All interested parties that have not done so are invited to submit comments on this information.

DATES: Comments on the draft supplemental information must be received on or before December 1, 1997, to ensure they receive consideration by the Service.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and materials regarding this information should be sent to the Grizzly Bear Recovery Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, University Hall, Room 309, University of Montana, Missoula, MT 59812.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Christopher Servheen, Grizzly Bear Recovery Coordinator (see **ADDRESSES** above), at telephone (406) 243-4903.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

Under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act) as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), the Service approved the revised Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan on September 10, 1993. In May 1994 The Fund For Animals, Inc., and 22 other organizations and individuals filed suit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia over the adequacy of the Plan approved in 1993. Later in May 1994 the National Audubon Society and 19 other organizations and individuals also filed suit in the same court. The two cases were eventually consolidated. In September 1995 the court issued an opinion. The motions for summary judgment of both the plaintiffs and the defendants were granted in part and denied in part. The court ordered the Service to reconsider certain portions of the Plan, and to provide supplemental information. The information presented in the document being made available for review includes supplemental information that the Service was to

provide and the results of its reconsideration.

Section 4(f) of the Act, as amended in 1988, requires that public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment be provided during recovery plan development. The Service will consider all information presented during a public comment period prior to approval of each new or revised recovery plan. The Service and other Federal agencies also will take these comments into account in the course of implementing approved recovery plans.

Public Comments Solicited

The Service solicits written comments on the supplemental information described above. All comments received by December 1, 1997, will be considered prior to finalization of the information. Appropriate portions of the information will be appended to, and become part of, the Plan.

Authority

The authority for this action is section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1533(f).

Dated: October 29, 1997.

Terry T. Terrell,

Deputy Regional Director, Denver, CO.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service****Issuance of Permit for Marine Mammals**

On August 28, 1997, a notice was published in the **Federal Register**, Vol. 62, No. 167, Page 45674, that an application had been filed with the Fish and Wildlife Service by Bobbie F. McLawhorn, New Bern, NC, for a permit (PRT 833590) to import a sport-hunted polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) trophy, taken from the McClintock Channel population, Canada, for personal use.

Notice is hereby given that on October 9, 1997, as authorized by the provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) the Fish and Wildlife Service authorized the requested permit subject to certain conditions set forth therein.

On August 28, 1997, a notice was published in the **Federal Register**, Vol. 62, No. 167, Page 45674, that an application had been filed with the Fish and Wildlife Service by John C. Bryam, Jr., Mission, KS, for a permit (PRT-833352) to import a sport-hunted polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) trophy taken

from the McClintock Channel population, Canada, for personal use.

Notice is hereby given that on October 9, 1997, as authorized by the provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) the Fish and Wildlife Service authorized the requested permit subject to certain conditions set forth therein.

On August 28, 1997, a notice was published in the **Federal Register**, Vol. 62, No. 167, Page 45674, that an application had been filed with the Fish and Wildlife Service by Arlo Speiss, El macero, CA for a permit (PRT-833156) to import a sport-hunted polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) trophy taken prior to April 30, 1994 from the Lancaster Sound population, Canada, for personal use.

Notice is hereby given that on October 10, 1997, as authorized by the provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) the Fish and Wildlife Service authorized the requested permit subject to certain conditions set forth therein.

On April 24, 1997, a notice was published in the **Federal Register**, Vol. 62, No. 79, Page 20019, that an application had been filed with the Fish and Wildlife Service by the Alaska Science Center for amendment of a permit (PRT-766818) to lethally take up to 10 Alaskan sea otters (*Enhydra lutris lutris*) for the purpose of scientific research. On June 26, 1997, a second notice was published in the **Federal Register**, Vol. 62, No. 123, Page 34482, to announce the availability of additional information in reference to the amendment request.

Notice is hereby given that on October 16, 1997, as authorized by the provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) the Fish and Wildlife Service denied the requested permit amendment.

On August 28, 1997, a notice was published in the **Federal Register**, Vol. 62, No. 167, Page 45674, that an application had been filed with the Fish and Wildlife Service by Robert Johnson, Millwood, NY, for a permit (PRT-833623) to import a sport-hunted polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) trophy, taken from the Southern Beaufort Sea population, Northwest Territories, Canada for personal use.

Notice is hereby given that on October 15, 1997, as authorized by the provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) the Fish and Wildlife Service authorized the requested permit subject to certain conditions set forth therein.