

PRT-004520

Applicant: Hawthorn Corporation, Grayslake, IL

The applicant requests a permit to purchase in interstate commerce one female captive-held Asian elephant (*Elephas maximus*) from the Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus in Deland, Florida, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species through conservation education and propagation.

PRT-004521

Applicant: Hawthorn Corporation, Grayslake, IL

The applicant requests a permit to purchase in interstate commerce one female captive-held Asian elephant (*Elephas maximus*) from the American Circus Corporation in Deland, Florida, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species through conservation education and propagation.

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 public is invited to comment on the following applications for a permit to conduct certain activities with marine mammals. The applications 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).

PRT-007280

Applicant: Michael Carpinito, Kent, WA

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

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 700, 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 a hearing is at the discretion of the Director.

Documents and other information submitted with the application 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 above address within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice.

Dated: January 29, 1999.

MaryEllen Amtower,

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

[FR Doc. 99-2541 Filed 2-2-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NV-020-1430-00]

Notice of Availability of Approved Plan Amendment and Decision Record; Nevada

January 25, 1999.

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Availability, Decision Record for the Approved Paradise-Denio and Sonoma-Gerlach Management Framework Plans Lands Amendment.

DATES: The Approved Paradise-Denio and Sonoma-Gerlach Management Framework Plans Lands Amendment and Decision Record will be distributed and made available to the public on or around February 16, 1999.

ADDRESS: A copy of the Approved Plan Amendment and Decision Record can be obtained from: Bureau of Land Management, Winnemucca Field Office, 5100 East Winnemucca Boulevard, Winnemucca, Nevada 89445.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary Figarelle, Realty Specialist, Winnemucca Field Office, 5100 E. Winnemucca Boulevard, Winnemucca, Nevada 89445, (775) 623-1500.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Approved Lands Amendment and Decision Record complete the land use planning process, and document the changes to various decisions as they pertain to the retention, acquisition, and disposal of public lands managed by the Winnemucca Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management.

Terry A. Reed,

Field Manager.

[FR Doc. 99-2479 Filed 2-2-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-HC-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[MT-924-1430-01; MTM 88993]

Notice of Proposed Withdrawal and Opportunity for Public Meeting; Montana

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, has filed an application to withdraw 429,000 acres of National Forest System lands to preserve the area for traditional cultural purposes by Native Americans, protection of threatened and endangered species, and preservation of outstanding scenic values and roadless character. This notice closes the lands for up to 2 years from location and entry under the United States mining laws. The lands will remain open to all activities consistent with applicable Forest plans and those related to exercise of valid existing rights.

DATES: Comments and requests for a public meeting must be received by May 4, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Comments and meeting requests should be sent to the Forest Supervisor, Lewis and Clark National Forest, 1101 15th Street North, Box 869, Great Falls, Montana 59403.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Forest Supervisor, Lewis and Clark National Forest, 1101 15th Street North, Box 869, Great Falls, Montana 59403.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Forest Service has filed an application to withdraw the following-described National Forest System lands from location and entry under the United States mining laws, subject to valid existing rights:

All National Forest System lands in the Rocky Mountain Division of the Lewis and Clark National Forest outside of existing wilderness east of the Rocky Mountain Continental Divide. This includes Federal lands in part or all of the following townships:

Principal Meridian, Montana

Tps. 16 N., Rs. 7 and 8 W.
Tps. 17 N., Rs. 7 and 8 W.
Tps. 18 N., Rs. 8 and 9 W.
Tps. 19 N., Rs. 9 and 10 W.
Tps. 20 N., Rs. 9, 10, and 11 W.
Tps. 21 N., Rs. 9 and 10 W.
Tps. 22 N., Rs. 9 and 10 W.
T. 23 N., R. 9 W.
Tps. 24 N., Rs. 9 and 10 W.
Tps. 25 N., Rs. 9 and 10 W.
Tps. 26 N., Rs. 9 and 10 W.
Tps. 27 N., Rs. 9 and 11 W.
Tps. 28 N., Rs. 10 to 13 W.

Tps. 29 N., Rs. 10 to 13 W.
Tps. 30 N., Rs. 11, 12, and 13 W.
Tps. 31 N., Rs. 12 and 13 W.

In addition, National Forest System lands on the Lincoln Ranger District of the Helena National Forest east and outside of the Scapegoat Wilderness in part or all of the following townships:

T. 15 N., R. 7 W.
Tps. 16 N., Rs. 6, 7, and 8 W.

The areas described aggregate approximately 429,000 acres in Lewis and Clark, Teton, Flathead, Pondera, and Glacier Counties.

For a period of 90 days from the date of publication of this notice, all persons who wish to submit comments, suggestions, or objections in connection with the proposed withdrawal may present their views in writing to the Forest Supervisor, Lewis and Clark National Forest.

Notice is hereby given that an opportunity for a public meeting is afforded in connection with the proposed withdrawal. All interested persons who desire a public meeting for the purpose of being heard on the proposed withdrawal must submit a written request to the Forest Supervisor, Lewis and Clark National Forest, within 90 days from the date of publication of this notice. Upon determination by the authorized officer that a public meeting will be held, a notice of the time and place will be published in the **Federal Register** at least 30 days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

The application will be processed in accordance with the regulations set forth in 43 CFR 2300.

For a period of 2 years from the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, the land will be segregated as specified above unless the application is denied or canceled or the withdrawal is approved prior to that date.

Dated: January 29, 1999.

Thomas P. Lonnie,

Deputy State Director, Division of Resources.

[FR Doc. 99-2636 Filed 2-2-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-DN-P

INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Investigation 332-404]

Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE): Conditions Affecting the Domestic Industry

Effective Date: January 27, 1999.

AGENCY: United States International Trade Commission.

ACTION: Institution of investigation and scheduling of public hearing.

SUMMARY: Following receipt of a request on December 23, 1998, from the United States Trade Representative (USTR), the Commission instituted investigation No. 332-404, Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE): Conditions Affecting the Domestic Industry, under section 332(g) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1332(g)).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Industry-specific information may be obtained from Ms. Elizabeth R. Nesbitt, the Project Leader (202-205-3355) or Mr. Christopher Robinson, the Deputy Project Leader (202-205-2334), Office of Industries, U.S. International Trade Commission, Washington, DC, 20436. For information on the legal aspects of this investigation contact Mr. William Gearhart of the Office of the General Counsel (202-205-3091). Hearing impaired individuals are advised that information on this matter can be obtained by contacting the TDD terminal on (202) 205-1810.

Background

The USTR requested that the Commission conduct an investigation and provide a report concerning conditions affecting the U.S. methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) industry. The Commission is requested to provide the study within 9 months of receipt of the letter, or by September 23, 1999.

As requested by the USTR, the Commission will provide the following information in its report, to the extent that such information is available:

- (1) an overview of the global market for MTBE, including consumption, production, capacity, and trade trends during 1994-98, emphasizing the United States and Saudi Arabia;
- (2) a description of the domestic MTBE market, and the major factors affecting it, including imports of MTBE, especially from Saudi Arabia;
- (3) an overview of the current MTBE production processes, with information on costs of production, including those of its major raw material components, and the principal sources of these feedstocks in the United States, as well as in Saudi Arabia; and
- (4) profiles of the U.S. and Saudi Arabian MTBE industries and importers, including information on their patterns of ownership and investment, as well as government policies affecting production, investment, and trade of MTBE. Examples of such policies identified by the USTR include industrial policies, trade policies, and other governmental measures that may affect the cost of raw materials, transportation, and other relevant competitive factors.

In the request letter, the USTR notes that the United States is a significant producer and consumer of MTBE, a chemical used primarily as an oxygenate for gasoline. The USTR stated

that U.S. producers of MTBE have expressed concerns about competitive conditions affecting their industry, including increased MTBE imports from Saudi Arabia, and that the producers believe that these increased imports are the indirect result of the Saudi Arabian government's provision of butane feedstock to domestic MTBE producers at a substantial discount to world market prices.

Public Hearing

A public hearing in connection with the investigation will be held at the U.S. International Trade Commission Building, 500 E Street SW, Washington, DC, beginning at 9:30 a.m. on April 1, 1999. All persons shall have the right to appear, by counsel or in person, to present information and to be heard. Requests to appear at the public hearing should be filed with the Secretary, United States International Trade Commission, 500 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20436, no later than 5:15 p.m., March 17, 1999. Any prehearing briefs (original and 14 copies) should be filed not later than 5:15 p.m., March 19, 1999; the deadline for filing post-hearing briefs or statements is 5:15 p.m., April 14, 1999. In the event that, as of the close of business on March 17, 1999, no witnesses are scheduled to appear at the hearing, the hearing will be canceled. Any person interested in attending the hearing as an observer or non-participant may call the Secretary of the Commission (202-205-1806) after March 17, 1999, to determine whether the hearing will be held.

Written Submissions

In lieu of or in addition to participating in the hearing, interested parties are invited to submit written statements concerning the matters to be addressed by the Commission in its report on this investigation. Commercial or financial information that a submitter desires the Commission to treat as confidential must be submitted on separate sheets of paper, each clearly marked "Confidential Business Information" at the top. All submissions requesting confidential treatment must conform with the requirements of section § 201.6 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (19 CFR 201.6). All written submissions, except for confidential business information, will be made available in the Office of the Secretary of the Commission for inspection by interested parties. To be assured of consideration by the Commission, written statements relating to the Commission's report should be submitted to the Commission at the