

is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) The accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) Ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Proposed Project: Hepatitis C Among Health Care for the Homeless Program Patients—New

The Health Care for the Homeless Clinicians' Network (HCHCN) of the National Health Care for the Homeless Council, Inc., through a cooperative agreement with the Bureau of Primary Health Care, Health Resources and Services Administration, proposes to conduct epidemiological research regarding hepatitis C. The study will be of adult homeless patients and will be conducted using laboratory tests and

patient interviews. The study is designed to estimate the prevalence of lifetime hepatitis C infection among homeless adults and the rate of comorbidity of hepatitis C and hepatitis B infection, identify high-risk groups, describe health service utilization specific to hepatitis C, and assess patient knowledge and attitudes regarding hepatitis C. The participants will be recruited from eight clinics of the national Health Care for the Homeless Program.

The estimated response burden is as follows:

Respondent	Number of respondents	Responses per respondent	Hours per response	Total hour burden
Patients	400	1	1	400
Total	400			400

Send comments to Susan G. Queen, Ph.D., HRSA Reports Clearance Officer, Room 14-33, Parklawn Building, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857. Written comments should be received within 60 days of this notice.

Dated: November 30, 1999.

Jane Harrison,

Director, Division of Policy Review and Coordination.

[FR Doc. 99-31515 Filed 12-3-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Institute of Child Health and Human Development; Meeting of the National Reading Panel

Notice is hereby given of the Washington, DC area meeting of the National Reading Panel. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 8, 1999, from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM and on Thursday, December 9, 1999, from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM. The meeting location is the Holiday Inn Georgetown, 2101 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20007. The entire meeting will be open to the public.

The National Reading Panel was requested by Congress and created by the Director of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development in consultation with the Secretary of Education. The Panel will study the effectiveness of various approaches to teaching children how to read and report on the best ways to apply these findings in classrooms and at home. Its members include prominent reading

researchers, teachers, child development experts, leaders in elementary and higher education, and parents. The Chair of the Panel is Dr. Donald N. Langenberg, Chancellor of the University System of Maryland.

The Panel will build on the findings presented by the National Research Council's Committee on the Prevention of Reading Difficulties in Young Children. Based on these findings and the National Reading Panel's own review of the literature, the Panel will: Determine the readiness for application in the classroom of the results of these research studies; identify appropriate means to rapidly disseminate this information to facilitate effective reading instruction in the schools; and identify gaps in the knowledge base for reading instruction and the best ways to close these gaps.

The agenda for this meeting will include presentations of subgroup reports and discussions of the reports by The National Reading Panel. A period of time will be set aside at approximately 3:00 PM on Thursday, December 9 for members of the public to address the Panel and express their views regarding the Panel's mission. Individuals desiring an opportunity to speak before the Panel should address their requests to F. William Dommel, Jr., J.D., Executive Director, National Reading Panel, c/o Mr. Patrick Riccards and either mail them to the Widmeyer-Baker Group, 1825 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Fifth Floor, Washington, DC 20009, or e-mail them to patrickr@twbg.com, or fax them to 202-667-0902. Request for addressing the Panel should be received by December 6, 1999. Panel business permitting, each public speaker will be allowed five minutes to present his or

her views. In the event of a large number of public speakers, the Panel Chair retains the option to further limit the presentation time allowed to each. Although the time permitted for oral presentations will be brief, the full text of all written comments submitted to the Panel will be made available to the Panel members for consideration.

For further information contact Mr. Patrick Riccards at 202-667-0901. Individuals who plan to attend and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations, should contact Mr. Patrick Riccards by December 6, 1999.

Dated: November 29, 1999.

Duane Alexander,

Director, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

[FR Doc. 99-31582 Filed 12-3-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Issuance of Permit for Incidental Take of Threatened Species

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Issuance.

On September 22, 1999, a notice was published in the **Federal Register** (64 FR 51333-51334) that an application had been filed with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) by South Central Utah Telephone Association for a permit to incidentally take, pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16

U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) (Act), threatened Utah prairie dog (*Cynomys parvidens*). Anticipated incidental take of this species is in conjunction with otherwise legal activities including installation of a television coaxial cable which passes through occupied Utah prairie dog habitat on private property approximately 8 miles southeast of Panguitch, Garfield County, Utah.

Notice is hereby given that on November 19, 1999, as authorized by the provisions of the Act, the Service issued an incidental take permit (permit number TE-017010) to the above-named party subject to certain conditions set forth herein. The permit was granted only after it was determined that it was applied for in good faith, that by granting the permit it will not be to the disadvantage of the threatened species, and that it will be consistent with the purposes and policy set forth in the Act, as amended.

Additional information on this permit action may be obtained by contacting the Assistant Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Utah Ecological Services Field Office, 145 East 1300 South Street, Suite 404, Salt Lake City, Utah 84115, telephone (801) 524-5001, on weekdays between the hours of 8 AM and 4:30 PM.

Dated: November 23, 1999.

Susan E. Baker,

Regional Director, Region 6, Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 99-31468 Filed 12-3-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

RIN 1018-AF66

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); Carrying Out the Inclusion of All Species of the Order Acipenseriformes (Sturgeon and Paddlefish) in the Appendices to CITES

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of policy.

SUMMARY: We will no longer issue or accept for import any "pre-Convention" certificates for caviar. A pre-Convention certificate for caviar documents that the caviar pre-dates April 1, 1998, the effective date of the listing of all previously unlisted species of the Order Acipenseriformes (sturgeon and paddlefish) in the Appendices to the Convention on International Trade in

Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

DATES: This policy is effective on December 6, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Teiko Saito, Chief, Office of Management Authority, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, telephone (703) 358-2093, fax (703) 358-2280.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: To make sure that commercial demand does not threaten the survival of wild sturgeon, the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (COP10) adopted a proposal on June 20, 1997, to include all previously unlisted species of the Order Acipenseriformes (sturgeon and paddlefish) in Appendix II of CITES, effective April 1, 1998. Therefore, all international shipments of sturgeon and paddlefish specimens or their parts and products, including caviar, made on or after April 1, 1998, must include a valid CITES export permit, re-export certificate, or pre-Convention certificate, which shows that the CITES treaty is being followed.

We have issued pre-Convention certificates for the re-export of caviar only when we were satisfied that it was imported before April 1, 1998. We have learned from the sturgeon products industry and others that the normal shelf life for caviar is 12 months. On the effective date of this policy, the normal shelf life of any caviar imported before April 1, 1998, will have been exceeded by more than 8 months. In addition, it has become evident since April 1, 1998, that the false declaration of caviar as having been acquired before April 1, 1998, is a means of circumventing the CITES treaty. So, we will no longer issue pre-Convention certificates for caviar.

On March 12, 1999, the CITES Secretariat issued Notification to the Parties No. 1999/23, which recommends that no permits or certificates declaring pre-Convention caviar should be accepted after April 1, 1999. Consistent with that recommendation, we will no longer accept pre-Convention certificates for the importation of Appendix II sturgeon caviar into the United States.

For imports, this policy does not affect aquaculture-produced caviar or caviar harvested from the wild after April 1, 1998, which will continue to be allowed with a valid CITES export permit from the country of origin or a valid CITES re-export certificate from the country of re-export. For exports or re-exports from the United States, this policy does not affect aquaculture-produced caviar or caviar acquired from the wild after April 1, 1998, if a valid

CITES permit or re-export certificate is issued and accompanies the shipment.

On October 26, 1999, we published a proposed policy [64 FR 57645] that we would no longer issue or accept for import any pre-Convention certificates for caviar. Effective [date of publication], we are going to carry out this policy.

Comments and Information Received

Comments were received from one conservation organization. This organization strongly supported the proposed policy to no longer issue or accept pre-Convention certificates for caviar.

Required Determinations

This document has not been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget under Executive Order 12866.

The Department of the Interior certifies that this document will not have a significant effect on a substantial number of small entities under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*). This policy would restrict the sturgeon industry within the United States from engaging in foreign commerce with pre-Convention caviar that is, according to industry representatives, perhaps no longer available, and if available, only in very limited quantities at greatly reduced value. We estimate that there would likely be less than 100 businesses with remaining stocks of pre-Convention caviar. Any such caviar has exceeded its normal shelf life and has decreased in value dramatically. Therefore, this policy is restricting the sturgeon industry within the United States from engaging in commerce, under an exemption of CITES, with a commodity that may no longer even be available, and if available, only in very limited quantities at greatly reduced value. Therefore, it does not appear likely that this policy will have a significant economic effect on a substantial number of small entities as defined under the Regulatory Flexibility Act. It should be noted that this policy will not restrict members of the sturgeon products industry from conducting business with caviar that has been obtained after April 1, 1998. Only the availability of the pre-Convention exemption for caviar is terminated by this policy.

Similarly, this policy is not a major rule under 5 U.S.C. 804(2), the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act.

This policy does not impose an unfunded mandate of more than \$100 million per year or have a significant or unique effect on State, local, or tribal governments or the private sector