

We are making available the final environmental assessment (EA) and finding of no significant impact (FONSI) under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) for an application submitted by Dallas Zoo Management for a permit to import up to 18 live African elephants (*Loxodonta africana*) from Swaziland. The elephants will be housed at the Dallas Zoo, Dallas, Texas; Sedgwick County Zoo, Wichita, Kansas; and Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo, Omaha, Nebraska. The requested permit would authorize the importation, under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) (27 U.S.T. 1087), of up to 3 adult females, 3 subadult males, and 12 subadult females. CITES is an international treaty designed to regulate international trade in certain animal and plant species that are affected by trade and are now, or potentially may become, threatened with extinction. These species are listed in the Appendices to CITES, which are available on the CITES Secretariat's Web site at <http://www.cites.org>. African elephants in Swaziland are listed in CITES Appendix I. The Service's regulations implementing CITES are found at title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) in part 23.

The African elephant is also classified as threatened under the U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA) (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), with a rule under section 4(d) of the ESA at 50 CFR 17.40(e). To import African elephants into the United States, ESA and CITES requirements must be met. Pursuant to the ESA section 4(d) rule for the African elephant (50 CFR 17.40(e)(3)(i)), live elephants may be imported if all requirements under Service regulations at 50 CFR part 13 (general permitting) and 50 CFR part 23 (CITES) are met.

Issuance of a CITES import permit is categorically excluded under Department of the Interior internal agency policy and procedures from requiring completion of an EA under NEPA (Departmental Manual Part 516, Chapter 8.5(C)(1)). However, we decided to prepare an EA in this case to help ensure that we have conducted a thorough review of all relevant factors and potential impacts on the quality of the human environment as envisioned under NEPA.

We announced the availability of the draft EA in a notice published in the **Federal Register** on October 22, 2015 (80 FR 64008). The EA considered the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the importation of up to 18 live elephants from Swaziland, including the measures that would be

implemented to minimize and mitigate the impacts of the importation and housing of these animals. We received more than 8,000 comments on the draft EA; they may be found at <http://www.regulations.gov> in Docket No. FWS-HQ-IA-2015-0157.

Proposed Action

The proposed action is the issuance of a CITES permit by the Service for the importation of up to 18 African elephants from Swaziland. The elephants are currently housed in an enclosure at the Mkhaya Game Reserve, Swaziland. The elephants were removed from Mkhaya Game Reserve and Hlane National Park, Swaziland, due to overpopulation of elephants within the two protected areas and the negative impact the elephants were having on the vegetation and other wildlife species. Big Game Parks (BGP), the delegated authority responsible for implementation of Swaziland's Game Act of 1953, has determined that the number of elephants in the two protected areas must be reduced. Further, the reduction in the number of elephants within each of the protected areas will facilitate BGP's efforts to increase the population of black rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis*), a critically endangered species, within the two protected areas.

Alternatives

We also considered two alternatives to the proposed action:

1. No Action—No CITES import permit would be issued. According to the applicant and BGP, the 18 elephants will not be returned to the two protected areas. Instead, if importation is not authorized, BGP has stated that they have no option but to cull the animals.

2. Issue a CITES import permit for a reduced number of elephants—This alternative is similar to the Proposed Action, in that the Service would issue an import permit, but the number of elephants authorized for import would be reduced. This alternative could result in some elephants being imported into the United States and housed at one or more of the three zoos. However, according to the applicant and BGP, the elephants that are not imported into the United States would be culled.

Finding of No Significant Impact

The proposed action of issuing the import permit for the 18 elephants is the preferred action. As evaluated in the EA, the proposed action is not expected to result in significant effects to the human environment within the meaning of NEPA and the regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality.

Although we describe potential actions and consequences that could flow from each of the alternatives, we find there is no basis to infer that any such effects, even viewed broadly, will be significant. Therefore, based on a review and evaluation of the information contained in the EA, it is the Service's determination that the issuance of a permit authorizing the import of 18 African elephants from Swaziland will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment under the meaning of section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (as amended). As such, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

Authority

We provide this notice under NEPA and its implementing regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

Brenda Tapia,

Program Analyst/Data Administrator, Branch of Permits, Division of Management Authority.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLCA930000 L1440000.ET0000; CACA 032220]

Public Land Order No. 7848; Extension of Public Land Order No. 7179, California

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Public Land Order.

SUMMARY: This order extends the duration of the withdrawal created by Public Land Order No. 7179 for an additional 20-year period. The extension is necessary to continue protection of the seismic integrity of the University of California-Berkeley Seismic Observatory located in the Klamath National Forest, Siskiyou County which will expire on January 24, 2016, unless extended.

DATES: This withdrawal extension is effective on January 25, 2016.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nathan Price, United States Forest Service, Regional Office, R5, 1323 Club Drive, Vallejo, California 94592, 707-562-8963, or Elizabeth Easley, Bureau of Land Management California State Office (CA-930), Federal Building (Room W-1928), 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, California 95825-1886; 916-979-4673. Persons who use a

telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to contact either of the above individuals. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose for the extension of the duration of the withdrawal created by Public Land Order No. 7179 is to continue protecting seismic monitoring instruments and the seismic integrity of the University of California-Berkeley Seismic Observatory, located on 45 acres of National Forest System land, from future mining activities that either disturb the seismic equipment or create seismic noise in the general area that would interfere with the accuracy of the seismograph.

Order

By virtue of the authority vested in the Secretary of the Interior by Section 204 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C. 1714, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Public Land Order No. 7179 (61 FR 2137 (1996)) which withdrew 45 acres of National Forest System land from location and entry under the United States mining laws, but not from leasing under the mineral leasing laws to protect the seismic integrity of the University of California-Berkeley Seismic Observatory, is hereby extended for an additional 20-year period. This withdrawal will expire on January 24, 2036, unless, as a result of a review conducted before the expiration date pursuant to Section 204(f) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C. 1714(f), the Secretary determines that the withdrawal shall be further extended.

Dated: January 10, 2016.

Janice M. Schneider,

Assistant Secretary—Land and Minerals Management.

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INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Investigation No. 332-556]

Generalized System of Preferences: Possible Modifications, 2015 Review

AGENCY: United States International Trade Commission.

ACTION: Expansion of scope of the investigation.

SUMMARY: Following receipt of an amended request on January 12, 2016, from the United States Trade Representative (USTR), the U.S. International Trade Commission (Commission) has expanded the scope of investigation No. 332-556, *Generalized System of Preferences: Possible Modifications, 2015 Review*, to include five additional HTS statistical reporting numbers relating to certain handbags and travel goods products: 4202.92.30.20; 4202.92.30.31; 4202.92.30.91; 4202.92.90.26; and 4202.92.90.60. The USTR asked that the Commission provide its advice as to the probable economic effect on total U.S. imports, U.S. industries producing like or directly competitive articles, and on U.S. consumers of the elimination of U.S. import duties on these five articles for all beneficiary developing countries under the GSP program, least-developed beneficiary developing countries (LDBDCs), beneficiary developing countries of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), and both LDBDCs and AGOA beneficiary developing countries combined under the GSP program. In his January 12, 2016 letter, the USTR also requested that the Commission provide its advice with respect to whether like or directly competitive products were being produced in the United States on January 1, 1995 for these additional 5 articles as well as for all of the products being considered for addition to and removal from the list of GSP-eligible products listed in Tables A and B of the Annex to the December 30, 2015 request letter.

ADDRESSES: All Commission offices, including the Commission's hearing rooms, are located in the United States International Trade Commission Building, 500 E Street SW., Washington, DC. All written submissions should be addressed to the Secretary, United States International Trade Commission, 500 E Street SW., Washington, DC 20436. The public record for this investigation may be viewed on the Commission's electronic docket (EDIS) at <http://www.usitc.gov/secretary/edis.htm>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Information specific to this investigation may be obtained from Mahnaz Khan, Project Leader, Office of Industries (202-205-2046 or mahnaz.khan@usitc.gov), Jessica Pugliese, Deputy Project Leader, Office of Industries (202-205-3064 or jessica.pugliese@usitc.gov), or Cynthia Foreso, Technical Advisor, Office of Industries (202-205-3348 or cynthia.foreso@usitc.gov). For information on the legal aspects of this

investigation, contact William Gearhart of the Commission's Office of the General Counsel (202-205-3091 or william.gearhart@usitc.gov). The media should contact Margaret O'Laughlin, Office of External Relations (202-205-1819 or margaret.olaughlin@usitc.gov). Hearing-impaired individuals may obtain information on this matter by contacting the Commission's TDD terminal at 202-205-1810. General information concerning the Commission may also be obtained by accessing its Web site (<http://www.usitc.gov>). Persons with mobility impairments who will need special assistance in gaining access to the Commission should contact the Office of the Secretary at 202-205-2000.

Background

The Commission initially instituted this investigation in response to a request letter from the USTR dated December 30, 2015. The Commission published notice of institution of this investigation and the scheduling of a public hearing in the **Federal Register** on January 19, 2016 (81 FR 2904). As previously announced, the public hearing in this investigation will be held on February 24, 2016, and it will include the articles covered by the five additional HTS statistical reporting numbers as well as the articles described in the January 19, 2016 notice. The deadlines for filing requests to appear at the public hearing (February 1, 2016), pre-hearing briefs and statements (February 3, 2016), post-hearing briefs and all other written submissions in this investigation (February 29, 2016) remain the same as previously announced. All other information in the January 19, 2016, notice remains the same, including with respect to the procedures relating to the filing of written submissions and the submission of confidential business information.

The Commission expects to transmit its report to the USTR by April 28, 2016, the date indicated in the earlier notice.

By order of the Commission.

Issued: January 19, 2016.

Lisa R. Barton,

Secretary to the Commission.

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