

Consistent with the Safe Harbor Agreement policy and implementing regulations, we propose to issue a permit to the Applicant authorizing them to incidentally take these endangered and threatened species, which occur on the enrolled lands, as a result of lawful activities on enrolled lands, so long as baseline conditions are maintained and terms of the Agreement are implemented. Future activities of the Applicant could result in a return to the baseline condition.

We provide this notice pursuant to section 10(c) of the Act and pursuant to implementing regulations for NEPA (40 CFR 1506.6). We will evaluate the proposed SHA, associated documents, and comments submitted thereon to determine whether the requirements of section 10(a) of the Act and NEPA regulations have been met. If we determine that the requirements have been met, we will sign the SHA and issue an enhancement of survival permit under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Act to Santa Ana Pueblo in accordance with the terms of the Agreement and specific terms and conditions of the authorizing permit. We will not make our final decision until after the end of the 30-day comment period and will fully consider all comments received.

**Susan MacMullin,**

*Acting Regional Director, Region 2.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Public Meeting on the Harvest and Export of American Ginseng

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Announcement of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the time and place for a public meeting on American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*). In preparation of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's current and future finding for the export of American ginseng, we are particularly interested in obtaining any current information on the status of American ginseng in the wild. We will discuss the Federal regulatory framework for the export of American ginseng and how these regulations control the international trade of this plant. We will also discuss the different CITES definitions as they are applied to American ginseng grown under different production systems and how these

systems affect the export of ginseng roots.

**DATES:** The public meeting will be held on May 21, 2003, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., in Lexington, Kentucky.

#### ADDRESSES:

##### Public Meeting

The public meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn North, 1950 Newton Pike, Lexington, Kentucky. Directions to the meeting location can be obtained by contacting the Division of Scientific Authority or the Division of Management Authority (*see FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT*, below) or by visiting our World Wide Web site: <http://international.fws.gov/animals/ginindx/.html>. Please note that the location is accessible to the handicapped, and all persons planning to attend the meeting will be required to present photo identification when entering the building. Persons planning to attend the meeting who require interpretation for the hearing impaired must notify the Division of Scientific Authority as soon as possible (*see FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT*, below).

##### Available Information

Information from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's American ginseng workshop, held in St. Louis, Missouri, February 19-21, 2003, is available upon request from the Division of Scientific Authority or the Division of Management Authority (*see FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT*, below), a copy of the workshop report will be available from our World Wide Web site <http://international.fws.gov/animals/ginindx/>. The purpose of the workshop was to meet with representatives of State and Federal agencies, as well as to recount the results of new research by academics, on the status and management of American ginseng and the CITES export program for the species. We worked cooperatively with representatives of these State and Federal agencies to develop recommendations to improve the management and the CITES export program of this plant.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Robert R. Gabel, Chief, Division of Scientific Authority, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 750, Arlington, VA 22203; e-mail at [scientificauthority@fws.gov](mailto:scientificauthority@fws.gov); fax: 703-358-2276; or Dr. Peter O. Thomas, Chief, Division of Management Authority, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, VA 22203; e-mail at: [managementauthority@fws.gov](mailto:managementauthority@fws.gov); fax: 703-358-2298.

## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

### Background

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES or Convention) is an international treaty designed to control and regulate international trade in certain animal and plant species that are now or potentially may be threatened with extinction by international trade. These species are listed in Appendices to CITES, copies of which are available from the Division of Scientific Authority or the Division of Management Authority at the above addresses, from our World Wide Web site <http://international.fws.gov>, or from the official CITES Secretariat World Wide Web site: <http://www.cites.org/>. Currently, 161 countries, including the United States, are Parties to CITES. American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*) was listed in appendix II of CITES on July 1, 1975. The Division of Scientific Authority and the Division of Management Authority of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regulate the export of American ginseng, including whole plants, whole roots, and root parts. To meet CITES requirements for export of American ginseng from the United States, the Division of Scientific Authority must determine that the export will not be detrimental to the survival of the species, and the Division of Management Authority must be satisfied that the American ginseng roots to be exported were legally acquired.

Since the inclusion of American ginseng in CITES appendix II, the Divisions of Scientific Authority and Management Authority have issued findings on a State-by-State basis. To determine whether or not to approve exports of American ginseng, the Division of Scientific Authority has annually reviewed available information from various sources (other Federal agencies, State regulatory agencies, industry and associations, nongovernmental organizations, and academic researchers) on the biology and trade status of the species. After a thorough review, the Division of Scientific Authority makes a non-detriment finding and the Division of Management Authority makes a legal acquisition finding on the export of American ginseng to be harvested during the year in question. As of 1999, the Division of Scientific Authority has included in its non-detriment findings for the export of wild (including wild-simulated) American ginseng roots an age-based restriction (*i.e.*, plants must be at least 5 years old).