

permits. The permittee will receive a number of single-use permits, valid for 6 months from the issuance date. Each shipment exported must be accompanied by an original document. This new procedure would require that an individual or business submit an application that, if approved, would allow the Service to set up a "Master File." All information regarding the applicant and activities being requested would be maintained in this file. The Service would then be able to issue single-use permits based on the Master File. Since the permits would be valid only for 6 months, the permittee would need to evaluate how many permits would be required during this time period and request that number of permits. The original application for the Master File would require an application fee of \$200, and the file would be valid for 3 years. As long as no changes are made to the file, no additional application fee would be required for the 3 years. If, however, changes or amendments are made to the file, an additional application fee of \$100 (one half of the original fee) would be charged. After 3 years, the Master File would need to be updated if the permittee wishes to continue receiving single-use permits. This will require that the permittee submit a renewal application and an application fee of \$100. A \$5 fee charge will be assessed for each single-use permit issued from the Master File. Any permit not used within the 6-month period will expire, and no refund or exchange will be made. Please note that we consider permittees who currently receive multiple-use permits to already have a Master File established and, therefore, they will not need to apply to the Division of Management Authority to establish a new one. They will need to update these files every 3 years and pay the \$100 renewal fee.

(4) *Passport Documents.* In addition to switching to security paper, the Service will also begin issuing "passport" documents for personally owned pets and traveling exhibition live animals. Under CITES, a passport can be issued for personal pets and traveling exhibition animals in lieu of a typical CITES permit. The passport is valid for 3 years and is issued for a single animal. The animal must travel with the original passport, which must be presented to the appropriate agents at the ports of exit and entry. The passport is only valid for the single animal listed on the document. If the animal is lost, sold, or dies, the passport must be returned to the Division of Management Authority. The application fee for a CITES passport

for a personal pet or traveling exhibition animal is \$75 and is valid for 3 years. The fee for a passport for an animal listed under both CITES and the ESA is \$100 and is also valid for 3 years. Since the passport is issued for a specific specimen and must be returned to the Division of Management Authority if any changes occur to the status of the specimen, we cannot amend the passport once it has been issued.

(5) *Native Appendix III Species.* Under CITES, any Party can unilaterally list a native species in Appendix III. The country that lists a species in Appendix III must issue export permits for any specimens that are exported from that country. Specimens from another country would normally require a Certificate of Origin to be exported or reexported, indicating that they did not originate in the listing country. Currently, the United States has not listed any native species in Appendix III. However, in anticipation of this possibility, we propose an alternative fee schedule to address unique aspects of such a listing. One such aspect could be the need to permit the export of specimens from captive-breeding operations that produce large numbers of specimens intended for a limited number of exportations under very restricted conditions. Permitting for the export of specimens from such an operation could be conducted under a permitting procedure similar to a Master File (described above). We are proposing that a fee schedule be established that would allow an applicant to set up an Annual Program for a \$50 processing fee. If approved, the Annual Program permittee would be issued a number of single-use permits, valid for 6 months, that would allow for specimens produced by that permittee to be exported by that permittee. As with permits issued under a Master File, each permit would cost \$5 to cover processing. Annual Programs could also be established for Appendix-III species that are harvested from the wild which, due to perishability, must be exported within a few days of harvest. Finally, Annual Programs could be established for breeding operations of native Appendix-II species that are being produced in a closed production system. As with personally owned pet passports, Annual Programs will be established for very specific situations. If the permitted program changes, the Division of Management Authority would need to re-evaluate the complete program. As such, any amendments or changes to the program would void the currently permitted program, and a new application would need to be submitted.

(6) *Wild Bird Conservation Act Cooperative Breeding Programs.* Under the WBCA, cooperative breeding programs can be established to import and breed specifically authorized avian species. These programs are made up of individuals or zoological institutions with specialized skills in the propagation of a particular species. If the program is approved, authorization can be given to import birds under the WBCA. Currently, no fee has been charged to apply for the approval of a cooperative breeding program or to amend and renew currently authorized programs. However, given the length of time and expertise required to review applications for cooperative breeding programs, we will now require an application fee to cover a small portion of the costs involved. We will charge a fee of \$200 to process an application to establish a new cooperative breeding program, and a fee of \$100 to amend a current program. Amendments would consist of adding a species to or removing a species from the program. We will charge \$50 to renew a current breeding program. If an amendment is requested at the time of renewal, the application fee would be only \$100.

Combining Permit Authorizations

Sometimes applicants need more than one type of permit to cover their proposed activities, for example, for the export of a bird covered by both CITES and the MBTA, or the take from the wild of a bird covered by both the ESA and MBTA. In such cases, where the applicant requires two or more permit authorizations simultaneously for the same activity, or for more than one activity involving the same wildlife, and the authorizations can be made by the same permit issuance office, the Service can issue a consolidated permit combining the multiple authorizations (see 65 FR 26664, May 8, 2000, Revisions of Regulations for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora). In such cases, the applicant would pay a single fee for the more costly permit.

Renewals and Amendments

To ensure consistency, the Service is clarifying its policy on permit renewals and amendments. Applications to renew a permit when the tenure of a permit is expiring or has expired are effectively new permit applications. Therefore, all applicable fees will be applied.

The Service will assess a fee for amendments to a valid permit where the amendment reflects a substantive change within the scope of the permit. We will not charge permittees for