



Take Action to Stop Big Cats Export to German Circus

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has published a notice that Feld Entertainment, owner of the recently closed Ringling Bros. Circus, is applying for an Endangered Species Act permit to export 15 big cats (lions, tigers and a leopard) to the Zirkus Krone in Germany. Rather than send the cats to a sanctuary or other acceptable location, these animals will instead continue to endure the inhumane conditions that are inseparable from circuses, including constant travel, intensive confinement and abusive training methods.

Issuance of a permit by the FWS requires an applicant to demonstrate that the underlying activity for which the permit is sought will enhance the propagation or survival of the species. In reality, the use of big cats in circuses fails to educate the public or provide any conservation benefit for the species. In fact, research has shown that seeing an endangered species such as the chimpanzee in an entertainment context can hinder conservation efforts. Still, the FWS has historically engaged in a controversial "pay-to-play" approach that enables an applicant to make a token donation to a conservation program to fulfill the conservation enhancement requirement.

Please [submit a comment](#) to the FWS by June 26, 2017, in opposition to issuance of a permit to export the big cats to Germany. (The application is available for viewing on the website.) In your comments, please reference Feld Entertainment, Inc., PRT-22685C.

Thank you!