



**Billing Code 4310–55**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Fish and Wildlife Service**

**[FWS–R6–ES–2014–N032; FXES11130600000–145–FF06E00000]**

**Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Recovery Permit Applications**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, invite the public to comment on the following applications to conduct certain activities with endangered or threatened species. With some exceptions, the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act), prohibits activities with endangered and threatened species unless a Federal permit allows such activity. The Act requires that we invite public comment before issuing these permits.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, please send your written comments by **[INSERT**

**DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].**

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments or requests for copies or more information by any of the following methods. Alternatively, you may use one of the following methods to request hard copies or a CD-ROM of the documents. Please specify the permit you are interested in by number (e.g., **Permit No. TE-XXXXXX**).

- *Email:* permitsR6ES@fws.gov. Please refer to the respective permit number (e.g., **Permit No. TE-XXXXXX**) in the subject line of the message.

- *U.S. Mail:* Ecological Services, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 25486–DFC, Denver, CO 80225.

- *In-Person Drop-off, Viewing, or Pickup:* Call (303) 236–4212 to make an appointment during regular business hours at 134 Union Blvd., Suite 645, Lakewood, CO 80228.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kathy Konishi, Permit Coordinator, Ecological Services, (303) 236–4212 (phone); permitsR6ES@fws.gov (email).

## **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

### **Background**

The Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) prohibits activities with endangered and threatened species unless a Federal permit allows such activity. Along with our implementing regulations in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 50 CFR 17, the Act provides for permits and requires that we invite public comment before issuing these permits.

A permit granted by us under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Act authorizes the permittees to conduct activities with U.S. endangered or threatened species for scientific purposes, enhancement of propagation or survival, or interstate commerce (the latter only in the event that it facilitates scientific purposes or enhancement of propagation or survival). Our regulations implementing section 10(a)(1)(A) for these permits are found at 50 CFR 17.22 for endangered wildlife species, 50 CFR 17.32 for threatened wildlife species, 50 CFR 17.62 for endangered plant species, and 50 CFR 17.72 for threatened plant species.

### **Applications Available for Review and Comment**

We invite local, State, and Federal agencies and the public to comment on the following applications. Documents and other information the applicants have submitted with their applications are available for review, subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a) and Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552).

**Permit Application Number TE121914**

*Applicant:* USGS Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, 8711 37<sup>th</sup> Street SE, Jamestown, ND.

The applicant requests an amendment to their existing permit to increase the number of interior least tern (*Sternula antillarum athalassos*) to be banded and to add additional research localities in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Montana for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

**Permit Application Number TE069539**

*Applicant:* Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, Prairie Management Program, 97 South Willow St., Eagle Butte, SD.

The applicant requests the renewal of their existing permit to take (capture, handle, and release) black-footed ferret (*Mustela nigripes*) for research and presence/absence surveys within the boundaries of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Reservation in South Dakota, for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

**Permit Application Number TE060668**

*Applicant:* Mark Bellini, Ojai, CA 93023.

The applicant requests an amendment to an existing permit to conduct presence/absence surveys and nest monitoring throughout the range of the species in Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, and Utah for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

## **National Environmental Policy Act**

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), we have made an initial determination that the proposed activities in these permits are categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement (516 DM 6 Appendix 1, 1.4C(1)).

## **Public Availability of Comments**

All comments and materials we receive in response to these requests will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the address listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

**Authority**

We provide this notice under section 10 of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

**Dated: March 4, 2014.**

**Michael G. Thabault,**

**Assistant Regional Director, Mountain-Prairie Region.**

**[FR Doc. 2014-05446 Filed 03/11/2014 at 8:45 am; Publication Date: 03/12/2014]**