



This document is scheduled to be published in the Federal Register on 06/25/2015 and available online at <http://federalregister.gov/a/2015-15606>, and on FDsys.gov

Billing Code 4310–55

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS–R6–ES–2015–N103; FXES1113060000–156–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 eight applications to conduct activities intended to enhance the survival of target endangered species.

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 (719) 628–2670 to make an appointment during regular business hours at 134 Union Blvd., Suite 645, Lakewood, CO 80228.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kathy Konishi, Recovery Permits Coordinator, Ecological Services, (719) 628–2670 (phone); permitsR6ES@fws.gov (email).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) prohibits certain activities with endangered and threatened species unless authorized by a Federal permit. Along with our implementing regulations at 50 CFR 17, the Act provides for permits and requires that we invite public comment before issuing permits for endangered species.

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 TE053925

Applicant: Niobrara National Scenic River, National Park Service, NE.

The applicant requests the renewal of their permit to continue presence/absence surveys for the interior least tern (*Sternula antillarum athalassos*) in Nebraska along the Niobrara River for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

Permit Application Number TE161444

Applicants: California Academy of Sciences, Steinhart Aquarium, San Francisco, CA.

The applicant requests the renewal of their permit for public display and educational efforts at the Steinhart Aquarium in California with pallid sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*) for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

Permit Application Number TE64613B

Applicant: Andrew Phillips, Denver, CO.

The applicant requests a permit to conduct presence/absence surveys for Southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) in Colorado for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

Permit Application Number TE65611B

Applicant: Dennis Skadsen, Grenville, SD.

The applicant requests a permit to conduct presence/absence surveys for Poweshiek skipperling (*Oarisma poweshiek*) in South Dakota, North Dakota, and

Minnesota for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

Permit Application Number TE66505B

Applicant: Wenck Associates, Mandan, ND.

The applicant requests a permit to conduct presence/absence surveys for pallid sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*) in North Dakota and South Dakota on the Missouri River from Garrison Dam to Lake Oahe for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

Permit Application Number TE66521B

Applicant: Western Biology, LLC, Hotchkiss, CO.

The applicant requests a permit to conduct presence/absence surveys for black-footed ferret (*Mustela nigripes*) and Southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) in Colorado and Utah for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

Permit Application Number TE237960

Applicant: Power Engineers, Hailey, ID.

The applicant requests a permit to conduct presence/absence surveys for the American burying beetle in South Dakota, Oklahoma, Texas, and Arkansas for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

Permit Application Number TE66521B

Applicant: Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Fort Collins, CO.

The applicant requests a permit to conduct plague immunity research for black-footed ferret (*Mustela nigripes*) in Colorado to determine the appropriate timing to administer vaccines 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.*).

Michael G. Thabault,

Assistant Regional Director, Mountain-Prairie Region.

[FR Doc. 2015-15606 Filed: 6/24/2015 08:45 am; Publication Date: 6/25/2015]