



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R2-ES-2023-N073; FXES11130200000-234-FF02ENEH00]

Endangered Wildlife; Recovery Permit Applications

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of permit applications; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, invite the public to comment on the following applications for a permit to conduct activities intended to recover and enhance endangered species survival. With some exceptions, the Endangered Species Act (ESA) prohibits certain activities that may impact endangered species, unless a Federal permit allows such activity. The ESA also requires that we invite public comment before issuing these permits.

DATES: To ensure consideration, please submit your written comments by **[INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*]**.

ADDRESSES: *Document availability:* Request documents from the contact in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section.

Comment submission: Submit comments by email to fw2_te_permits@fws.gov.

Please specify the permit application you are interested in by number (e.g., Permit Record No. PER1234567).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marty Tuegel, Supervisor, Environmental Review Division, by phone at 505-248-6651, or via email at marty_tuegel@fws.gov. Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services. Individuals outside the United States should use the

relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

With some exceptions, the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), prohibits activities that constitute take of listed species unless a Federal permit is issued that allows such activity. The ESA's definition of "take" includes hunting, shooting, harming, wounding, or killing, and also such activities as pursuing, harassing, trapping, capturing, or collecting.

The ESA and our implementing regulations in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at title 50, part 17, provide for issuing such permits and require that we invite public comment before issuing permits for activities involving listed species.

A recovery permit we issue under the ESA, section 10(a)(1)(A), authorizes the permittee to conduct activities with endangered or threatened species for scientific purposes that promote recovery or enhance the species' propagation or survival. These activities often include such prohibited actions as capture and collection. 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.

Permit Applications Available for Review and Comment

Documents and other information submitted with these applications are available for review by any party who submits a request as specified in **ADDRESSES**. Our release of documents is subject to Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a) and Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) requirements.

Proposed activities in the following permit requests are for the recovery and enhancement of propagation or survival of the species in the wild. We invite local, State,

Tribal, and Federal agencies and the public to submit written data, views, or arguments with respect to these applications. The comments and recommendations that will be most useful and likely to influence agency decisions are those supported by quantitative information or studies. Please refer to the permit record number when submitting comments.

Permit Record Number	Applicant	Species	Location	Activity	Type of Take	Permit Action
PER2682699	Grouse Mountain Environmental Consultants, LLC.; Buffalo, Wyoming	Lesser prairie chicken (<i>Tympanuchus pallidicinctus</i>)	Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas	Presence/absence surveys, lek surveys	Harass, harm	Amend
PER2691439	Zara Environmental, LLC.; Manchaca, Texas	Golden-cheeked warbler (<i>Setophaga chrysoparia</i>), Comanche Springs pupfish (<i>Cyprinodon elegans</i>), Pecos gambusia (<i>Gambusia nobilis</i>), Mexican blindcat (<i>Prietella phreatophila</i>), fountain darter (<i>Etheostoma fonticola</i>), San Marcos gambusia (<i>Gambusia georgei</i>), smalleye shiner (<i>Notropis buccula</i>), sharpnose shiner (<i>Notropis oxyrhynchus</i>), Barton Springs salamander (<i>Eurycea sosorum</i>), Austin blind salamander (<i>Eurycea waterlooensis</i>), Texas blind salamander (<i>Eurycea rathbuni</i>), Comal Springs riffle beetle (<i>Heterelmis comalensis</i>), Comal Springs dryopid beetle (<i>Stygoparnus comalensis</i>), Peck's cave amphipod (<i>Stygobromus pecki</i>), Bee Creek Cave harvestman (<i>Texella reddelli</i>), Bone Cave harvestman (<i>Texella reyesi</i>), Cokendolpher Cave harvestman (<i>Texella cokendolpheri</i>), Government Canyon Bat Cave meshweaver (<i>Cicurina vespera</i>), Government	Oklahoma, Texas	Presence/absence surveys, habitat assessments, voucher specimen collection, collection, biomonitoring	Harass, harm, kill	Renew / Amend

		<p>Canyon Bat Cave spider (<i>Tayshaneta microps</i>), Madla Cave meshweaver (<i>Cicurina madla</i>), Robber Baron Cave meshweaver (<i>Cicurina baronia</i>), Tooth Cave pseudoscorpion (<i>Tartarocreagris texana</i>), Tooth Cave spider (<i>Tayshaneta myopica</i>), Beetle (<i>Rhadine infernalis</i>), Beetle (<i>Rhadine exilis</i>), Coffin Cave mold beetle (<i>Batrisodes texanus</i>), Helotes mold beetle (<i>Batrisodes venyivi</i>), Kretschmarr Cave mold beetle (<i>Texamaurops reddelli</i>), Tooth Cave ground beetle (<i>Rhadine persephone</i>), phantom tryonia (<i>Tryonia cheatumi</i>), phantom springsnail (<i>Pyrgulopsis texana</i>), diminutive amphipod (<i>Gammarus hyalleloides</i>), Texas hornshell (<i>Popenaias popeii</i>), Ouachita rock pocketbook (<i>Arcidens wheeleri</i>), scaleshell (<i>Leptodea leptodon</i>), winged mapleleaf (<i>Quadrula fragosa</i>)</p>				
PER0052843	Pernicano, Martina; Golden, Colorado	Southwestern willow flycatcher (<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>)	Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, Texas	Presence/absence surveys	Harass, harm	Renew / Amend
PER3012383	Nueces County Coastal Parks;	Kemp's ridley sea turtle (<i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>), hawksbill sea turtle	Texas	Document, examine, and salvage stranded sea turtles; capture/handle,	Harass, harm,	New

	Corpus Christi, Texas	(<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>), leatherback sea turtle (<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>)		transport, and release rehabilitated sea turtles; tissue/blood sample collection; educational display	capture, collect	
PER2756918	Courage, Susan; San Antonio, Texas	Golden-cheeked warbler (<i>Setophaga chrysoparia</i>)	Texas	Presence/absence surveys, habitat assessments	Harass, harm	Renew
PER3111685	Boeing, Wiebke; Las Cruces, New Mexico	Pecos assimineia (<i>Assimineia pecos</i>)	New Mexico	Salvage relic shells	Collect	Amend
PER3115282	Karraker, Nancy; Kingston, Rhode Island	Jemez Mountains salamander (<i>Plethodon neomexicanus</i>)	New Mexico	Presence/absence surveys, capture, handle, bio-sample, and release	Harass, harm, capture	Renew
PER3856727	City of Austin - Watershed Protection Department; Austin, Texas	Barton Springs salamander (<i>Eurycea sosorum</i>), Austin blind salamander (<i>Eurycea waterlooensis</i>), Tooth Cave spider (<i>Tayshaneta myopica</i>), Tooth Cave pseudoscorpion (<i>Tartarocreagris texana</i>), Bee Creek Cave harvestman (<i>Texella reddelli</i>), Kretschmarr Cave mold beetle (<i>Texamaurops reddelli</i>), Tooth Cave ground beetle (<i>Rhadine persephone</i>), Bone Cave harvestman (<i>Texella reyesi</i>), Coffin Cave mold beetle (<i>Batrisodes texanus</i>), ground beetle (<i>Rhadine exilis</i>), ground beetle (<i>Rhadine infernalis</i>), Helotes mold beetle (<i>Batrisodes venyivi</i>), Cokendolpher Cave harvestman (<i>Texella cokendolpheri</i>), Robber Baron Cave meshweaver (<i>Cicurina baronia</i>), Madla Cave meshweaver (<i>Cicurina</i>)	Texas	Presence/absence surveys, handling, capture, voucher specimen collection	Harass, harm, kill, capture	Renew

		<i>madla</i>), Government Canyon Bat Cave meshweaver (<i>Cicurina vespera</i>), Government Canyon Bat Cave spider (<i>Neoleptoneta microps</i>)				
PER3324977	Savarino, Patrick; Dripping Springs, Texas	Lesser prairie chicken (<i>Tympanuchus pallidicinctus</i>)	Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas	Presence/absence surveys, habitat assessments	Harass, harm	New
PER4208629	Turtles Fly Too; Boise, Idaho	Kemp's ridley sea turtle (<i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>); leatherback sea turtle (<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>); Olive ridley sea turtle (<i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i>); hawksbill sea turtle (<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>)	Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas	Transport	Harass, harm	New

Public Availability of Comments

All comments we receive become part of the public record associated with this action. Requests for copies of comments will be handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and Service and Department of the Interior policies and procedures. 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 to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public disclosure in their entirety.

Authority

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

Amy Lueders,

Regional Director, Southwest Region,

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 2023-20614 Filed: 9/22/2023 8:45 am; Publication Date: 9/25/2023]