

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service**

[Docket No. FWS-HQ-IA-2023-0217;
FXIA16710900000-234-FF09A30000]

Foreign Endangered Species; Receipt of 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 applications to conduct certain activities with foreign species that are listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). With some exceptions, the ESA prohibits activities with listed species unless Federal authorization is issued that allows such activities. The ESA also requires that we invite public comment before issuing permits for any activity otherwise prohibited by the ESA with respect to any endangered species.

DATES: We must receive comments by December 14, 2023.

ADDRESSES: *Obtaining Documents:* The applications, application supporting materials, and any comments and other materials that we receive will be available for public inspection at <https://www.regulations.gov> in Docket No. FWS-HQ-IA-2023-0217.

Submitting Comments: When submitting comments, please specify the name of the applicant and the permit number at the beginning of your comment. You may submit comments by one of the following methods:

- *Internet:* <https://www.regulations.gov>. Search for and submit comments on Docket No. FWS-HQ-IA-2023-0217.

- *U.S. mail:* Public Comments Processing, Attn: Docket No. FWS-HQ-IA-2023-0217; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Headquarters, MS: PRB/3W; 5275 Leesburg Pike; Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.

For more information, see Public Comment Procedures under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Timothy MacDonald, by phone at 703-358-2185 or via email at DMAFR@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:**I. Public Comment Procedures**

A. How do I comment on submitted applications?

We invite the public and local, State, Tribal, and Federal agencies to comment on these applications. Before issuing any of the requested permits, we will take into consideration any information that we receive during the public comment period.

You may submit your comments and materials by one of the methods in **ADDRESSES**. We will not consider comments sent by email or to an address not in **ADDRESSES**. We will not consider or include in our administrative record comments we receive after the close of the comment period (see **DATES**).

When submitting comments, please specify the name of the applicant and the permit number at the beginning of your comment. Provide sufficient information to allow us to authenticate any scientific or commercial data you include. The comments and recommendations that will be most useful and likely to influence agency decisions are: (1) Those supported by quantitative information or studies; and (2) those that include citations to, and analyses of, the applicable laws and regulations.

B. May I review comments submitted by others?

You may view and comment on others' public comments at <https://www.regulations.gov> unless our allowing so would violate the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a) or Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552).

C. Who will see my comments?

If you submit a comment at <https://www.regulations.gov>, your entire comment, including any personal identifying information, will be posted on the website. If you submit a hardcopy comment that includes personal identifying information, such as your address, phone number, or email address, you may request at the top of your document that we withhold this information from public review. However, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Moreover, 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.

II. Background

To help us carry out our conservation responsibilities for affected species, and

in consideration of section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), we invite public comments on permit applications before final action is taken. With some exceptions, the ESA prohibits certain activities with listed species unless Federal authorization is issued that allows such activities. Permits issued under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA allow otherwise prohibited activities for scientific purposes or to enhance the propagation or survival of the affected species. Service regulations regarding prohibited activities with endangered species, captive-bred wildlife registrations, and permits for any activity otherwise prohibited by the ESA with respect to any endangered species are available in title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations in part 17.

III. Permit Applications

We invite comments on the following applications.

Applicant: International Crane Foundation, Baraboo, WI; Permit No. PER4959507

The applicant requests a permit to export biological samples derived from wild whooping crane (*Grus americana*) taken in Arkansas National Wildlife Refuge, Austwell, Texas, for the purpose of enhancing the propagation or survival of the species through scientific research. This notification is for a single export.

Applicant: Los Angeles Zoo, Los Angeles, CA; Permit No. PER4743691

The applicant requests a permit to export one live captive-bred giant otter (*Pteronura brasiliensis*) to Fundacion Rewilding Argentina, Buenos Aires, Argentina, for the purpose of enhancing the propagation or survival of the species. This notification is for a single export.

Applicant: The Wildcat Sanctuary, Sandstone, MN; Permit No. PER5170171

The applicant requests a permit to import two live captive-bred Bengal tigers (*Panthera tigris tigris*) from Mendoza, Argentina, for the purpose of enhancing the propagation or survival of the species. This notification is for a single import.

Applicant: Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, Claremont, CA; Permit No. PER5068413

The applicant requests authorization to export and re-import nonliving museum specimens of endangered species previously accessioned into the applicant's collection for scientific research. This notification covers

activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

Multiple Trophy Applicants

The following applicants request permits to import sport-hunted trophies of male bontebok (*Damaliscus pygargus pygargus*) culled from a captive herd maintained under the management program of the Republic of South Africa, for the purpose of enhancing the propagation or survival of the species.

- Marianne Kelley, Oklahoma City, OK; Permit No. 37949D
- Donald Detweiler, Telford, PA; Permit No. PER4147647
- George Ready, Hernando, MS; Permit No. PER5176185
- James Frash, Naples, FL; Permit No. PER5176234
- Deborah Holland, New Market, AL; Permit No. PER3088762

IV. Next Steps

After the comment period closes, we will make decisions regarding permit issuance. If we issue permits to any of the applicants listed in this notice, we will publish a notice in the **Federal Register**. You may locate the notice announcing the permit issuance by

searching <https://www.regulations.gov> for the permit number listed above in this document. For example, to find information about the potential issuance of Permit No. 12345A, you would go to [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) and search for “12345A”.

V. Authority

We issue this notice under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and its implementing regulations.

Timothy MacDonald,

Government Information Specialist, Branch of Permits, Division of Management Authority.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of the Secretary

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Environmental Justice Strategic Plan Draft Vision, Goals and Objectives

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, Interior.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Executive Order (E.O.) 14096, *Revitalizing our Nation's Commitment to Environmental Justice for All*, the Department of the Interior (Department) is updating its Environmental Justice Strategic Plan and soliciting feedback on its draft environmental justice vision, goals, and objectives (included in Supplemental Information). The Department is also soliciting feedback on priority actions and performance metrics the Department should evaluate to advance the draft environmental justice vision, goals, and objectives.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to provide oral feedback on the Department's draft environmental justice vision, goals, and objectives and priority actions or performance metrics the Department should evaluate to advance the draft environmental justice vision, goals, and objectives during one of three public virtual listening sessions:

Date	Time	Location	Registration link
November 30, 2023	3:00–4:30 p.m. ET	Virtual	https://bit.ly/generalpublicsession1 .
November 30, 2023	6:30–8:00 p.m. ET	Virtual	https://bit.ly/generalpublicsession2 .
December 1, 2023	3:00–4:30 p.m. ET	Virtual	https://bit.ly/generalpublicsession3 .

Interested persons are also invited to provide written feedback. Consideration will be given to all comments received during the public listening sessions or postmarked by December 15, 2023. Please clearly indicate whether feedback is intended for the Department's draft vision, draft goals, and/or draft objectives, priority actions and performance metrics.

ADDRESSES:

Submitting Comments: Interested persons may submit written comments by one of the following methods:

1. *By email to:* Environmental_Justice@ios.doi.gov.
2. *By hard copy to:* Environmental Justice, U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance (MS–2629), 1849 C Street NW, Washington DC 20240.

Written submissions must include your name and reference the Department's Environmental Justice Strategic Plan. All feedback, including any personal information you provide, may be made public. Therefore, the Department cautions participants against providing information they do not want made available to the public or

submitting materials that contain personal information (either about themselves or others).

Accessing Documents and Additional Information: You may access information on the Department's Environmental Justice program, information on the Environmental Justice Strategic Plan update, and the Department's current Environmental Justice Strategic Plan at the Department's environmental justice website at <https://www.doi.gov/oepc/resources/environmental-justice>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cheryl Kelly, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance, at 202 208–7565 or by email at cheryl_kelly@ios.doi.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.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background: Executive Order 14096 directs Federal agencies to develop an Environmental Justice Strategic Plan that will “set forth the agency's vision, goals, priority actions, and metrics to

address and advance environmental justice and to fulfill the directives of [the E.O.], including through the identification of new staffing, policies, regulations, or guidance documents”, as well as “identify and address opportunities through regulations, policies, permits, or other means to improve accountability and compliance with any statute the agency administers that affects the health and environment of communities with environmental justice concerns.”

To advance environmental justice, the Department established an Environmental Justice Steering Committee, made up of representatives of the Department's bureaus and offices. The Environmental Justice Steering Committee's Policy Subcommittee developed the draft environmental justice vision, goals, and objectives on which feedback is being sought by evaluating the Department's existing 2016 Environmental Justice Strategic Plan, the Department's 2022–2026 Strategic Plan, recent Executive Orders, and input received from Departmental employees in feedback sessions. The Policy Subcommittee will evaluate all