

Application No.	Applicant, city, state	Species	Location	Take activity	Permit action
TE-77123D	Pim Laulikitnont, San Francisco, California.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> California tiger salamander (Santa Barbara County and Sonoma County Distinct Population Segments (DPSs)) (<i>Ambystoma californiense</i>). 	CA	Capture, handle, and release.	New.
TE-77146D	Westervelt Ecological Services, LLC, Sacramento, California.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> California tiger salamander (Santa Barbara County and Sonoma County Distinct Population Segments (DPSs)) (<i>Ambystoma californiense</i>). Conservancy fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta conservatio</i>). Longhorn fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta longiantenna</i>). San Diego fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta sandiegonensis</i>). Riverside fairy shrimp (<i>Streptocephalus woottoni</i>). Vernal pool tadpole shrimp (<i>Lepidurus packardii</i>). 	CA, OR	Capture, handle, release, and collect vouchers.	New.

Public Availability of Comments

Written comments we receive become part of the administrative record associated with this action. 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 request in your comment that we 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.

Next Steps

If we decide to issue permits to any of the applicants listed in this notice, we will publish a notice in the **Federal Register**.

Authority

We publish this notice under section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Angela Picco,

Acting Chief of Ecological Services, Pacific Southwest Region, Sacramento, California.

[FR Doc. 2020-15101 Filed 7-13-20; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R4-ES-2020-N097; FXES11140400000-201-FF04E00000]

Endangered Species; 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, have received applications for permits to conduct activities intended to enhance the propagation or survival of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. 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.

DATES: We must receive written data or comments on the applications by August 13, 2020.

ADDRESSES: *Reviewing Documents:* Documents and other information submitted with the applications are available for review, subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act. Submit a request for a copy of such documents to Karen Marlowe (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

Submitting Comments: If you wish to comment, you may submit comments by one of the following methods:

- *U.S. mail:* U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Office, Ecological

Services, 1875 Century Boulevard, Atlanta, GA 30345 (Attn: Karen Marlowe, Permit Coordinator).

- *Email:* permitsR4ES@fws.gov.

Please include your name and return address in your email message. If you do not receive a confirmation from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that we have received your email message, contact us directly at the telephone number listed in **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karen Marlowe, Permit Coordinator, 404-679-7097 (telephone), karen_marlowe@fws.gov (email), or 404-679-7081 (fax). Individuals who are hearing or speech impaired may call the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 for TTY assistance.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: We invite review and comment from local, State, and Federal agencies and the public on applications we have received for permits to conduct certain activities with endangered and threatened species under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and our regulations in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 50 CFR part 17. With some exceptions, the ESA prohibits activities that constitute take of listed species unless a Federal permit is issued that allows such activities. The ESA's definition of "take" includes hunting, shooting, harming, wounding, or killing, and also such activities as pursuing, harassing, trapping, capturing, or collecting.

A recovery permit issued by us under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA authorizes the permittee to conduct activities with endangered or threatened species for scientific purposes that promote recovery or for enhancement of

propagation or survival of the species. 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

Proposed activities in the following permit requests are for the recovery and enhancement of propagation or survival of the species in the wild. The ESA requires that we invite public comment before issuing these permits. Accordingly, 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.

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.

Permit application No.	Applicant	Species	Location	Activity	Type of take	Permit action
TE 18825B-1	Timothy Savidge, Durham, NC.	FISH: Amber darter (<i>Percina antesella</i>), blue shiner (<i>Cyprinella caerulea</i>), Cape Fear shiner (<i>Notropis mekistocholas</i>), Carolina madtom (<i>Noturus furiosus</i>), Cherokee darter (<i>Etheostoma scotti</i>), Conasauga logperch (<i>Percina jenkinsi</i>), Etowah darter (<i>Etheostoma etowahae</i>), goldline darter (<i>Percina aurolineata</i>), Roanoke logperch (<i>Percina rex</i>), and snail darter (<i>Percina tanasi</i>); MUSSELS: Altamaha spiny mussel (<i>Elliptio spinosa</i>), Appalachian elktoe (<i>Alasmidonta raveneliana</i>), Carolina heelsplitter (<i>Lasmigona decorata</i>), Chipola slabshell (<i>Elliptio chipolaensis</i>), Coosa moccasinshell (<i>Medionidus parvulus</i>), Cumberland bean (<i>Villosa trabalis</i>), dwarf-wedge mussel (<i>Alasmidonta heterodon</i>), fat three-ridge (<i>Amblema neislerii</i>), finelined pocketbook (<i>Lampsilis ailtisii</i>), Georgia pigtoe (<i>Pleurobema hanleyianum</i>), Gulf moccasinshell (<i>Medionidus penicillatus</i>), James spiny mussel (<i>Pleurobema collina</i>), littlewing pearly mussel (<i>Pegias fabula</i>), oval pigtoe (<i>Pleurobema pyriforme</i>), oyster mussel (<i>Epioblasma capsaeformis</i>), purple bankclimber (<i>Elliptioideus slotianus</i>), shinyrayed pocketbook (<i>Lampsilis subangulata</i>), southern acornshell (<i>Epioblasma othcaloogensis</i>), southern clubshell (<i>Pleurobema decisum</i>), southern pigtoe (<i>Pleurobema georgianum</i>), tan riffleshell (<i>Epioblasma florentina walkeri</i>), tar spiny mussel (<i>Elliptio steinstansanna</i>), upland combshell (<i>Epioblasma metastrata</i>), and yellow lance (<i>Elliptio lanceolata</i>).	Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina.	Presence/absence surveys.	Fish: Capture with hand nets and seines, handle, identify, and release; Mussels: Capture, handle, identify, release, and salvage relict shells.	Renewal and Amendment.
TE 75524D-0	Daniel Magoulick, U.S. Geological Survey, Fayetteville, AR.	Yellowcheek darter (<i>Etheostoma moorei</i>) ..	Arkansas	Assessment of habitat selection.	Capture via kick seine, handle, identify, and release.	New.
TE 21809A-3	Monica Folk, Kissimmee, FL.	Red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW; <i>Picoides borealis</i>) and Florida scrub jays (<i>Aphelocoma coerulescens</i>).	Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina.	Population management and monitoring.	RCW: Capture, band, monitor nest cavities, construct and monitor artificial nest cavities and restrictors, and translocate; Florida scrub jay: capture, band, and monitor nests.	Renewal.
TE 56749B-4	Patrick Moore, Harrison, AR.	Indiana bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>) and northern long-eared bat (<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>).	Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Dakota, and Wyoming.	Presence/absence surveys, studies to document habitat use, and population monitoring.	Enter hibernacula and maternity roost caves, capture with mist nets or harp traps, handle, identify, collect hair samples, band, radio-tag, light-tag, swab, and wing-punch.	Amendment.
TE 75914D-0	North Carolina State Parks, Raleigh, NC.	Spruce-fir moss spider (<i>Microhexura montivaga</i>).	Grandfather Mountain State Park and Mount Mitchell State Park, North Carolina.	Presence/absence surveys, population monitoring.	Capture, handle, identify, photograph, and release.	New.
TE 76153D-0	Jaime Collazo, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC.	Llanero coqui (<i>Eleutherodactylus juanaveroi</i>).	Puerto Rico	Genetic structure and thermal limit research.	Remove from the wild for temporary holding in captivity of up to 14 individuals for CTMax experiments; removal from the wild and euthanasia of up to 50 individuals for genetic research.	New.
TE 37219B-2	Roger Perry, U.S. Forest Service, Hot Springs, AR.	Gray bat (<i>Myotis grisescens</i>), Indiana bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>), and northern long-eared bat (<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>).	Arkansas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma.	Presence/absence surveys and studies to document habitat use.	Enter hibernacula or maternity roost caves, capture with mist nets, handle, identify, band, radio-tag, collect hair, light-tag, wing-punch, and salvage.	Renewal.

Authority

We publish this notice under section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

John Tirpak,

*Deputy Assistant Regional Director,
Ecological Services.*

[FR Doc. 2020-15180 Filed 7-13-20; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Land Management**

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**Notice of Intent To Prepare an
Environmental Impact Statement for
the Proposed Gibellini Project, Eureka
County, Nevada**

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management,
Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA), and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Mount Lewis Field Office, Battle Mountain, Nevada, intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to analyze the potential impacts of approving the proposed Nevada Vanadium Company, Gibellini Project, in Eureka County, Nevada. This notice announces the beginning of the scoping process to solicit public comments and identify issues and alternatives; it also serves to initiate public consultation, as required, under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

DATES: This notice initiates the public scoping process for the EIS. Comments on issues may be submitted in writing until August 13, 2020. The date(s) and location(s) of any scoping meetings will be announced at least 15 days in advance through local media and newspapers and on the BLM website at: <https://www.blm.gov/office/battle-mountain-district-office>. In order to be considered during the preparation of the Draft EIS, all comments must be received prior to the close of the 30-day scoping period or 15 days after the last public meeting, whichever is later. The BLM will provide additional opportunities for public participation upon publication of the Draft EIS.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments related to the proposed Gibellini Project by any of the following methods:

- **Website:** <https://go.usa.gov/xfCHh>.

- **Email:** BLM_NV_BMDO_MLFO_GibelliniEIS@blm.gov.

- **Fax:** (775) 635-4034.

- **Mail:** BLM Mount Lewis Field Office, Attn: Gibellini Project, 50 Bastian Road, Battle Mountain, NV 89820.

Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the Mount Lewis Field Office.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Scott Distel, Project Manager, telephone: (775) 635-4093; address: 50 Bastian Road, Battle Mountain, Nevada, 89820; email: sdistel@blm.gov. Contact Mr. Distel if you wish to add your name to our mailing list. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. The FRS is available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Nevada Vanadium Company (NVC) proposes to construct, operate, reclaim, and close an open pit, heap leach, vanadium mining operation known as the Gibellini Project. The proposed project is in the southern extent of the Fish Creek Range on 6,456 acres of federal lands administered by the BLM in Eureka County, Nevada. The proposed project area is approximately 27 miles southeast of Eureka, Nevada, and is accessed from Eureka by traveling approximately 10 miles south on U.S. Route 50 and turning south on State Route 379 for approximately 8 miles and turning southwest on Fish Creek Ranch Road for approximately 7 miles.

The proposed project area has been prospected for vanadium and manganese since the 1940s, when Union Carbide explored the area for vanadium to support U.S. steel production. The Final List of Critical Minerals published on May 18, 2018 (83 FR 23295) includes vanadium, which has been recognized as a critical mineral due to its strategic importance in steel manufacturing, aerospace applications, and grid scale energy storage. As there is currently no primary domestic production of vanadium, the United States is dependent on foreign sources of vanadium; this creates a strategic vulnerability in the event of supply disruptions for this key mineral. The Gibellini Project would produce nearly 10 million pounds of vanadium annually, which would represent approximately 50% of U.S. demand,

making the project a significant domestic contributor.

The project consists of construction and operation of an open pit mining operation and heap leach process facility to extract and recover vanadium and minor amounts of uranium as a secondary product; the anticipated mine life is approximately 7 years. The project would commence in 2021. Reclamation and site closure activities would require approximately 4 years to complete. Post-closure monitoring is estimated to take an additional 30 years. The proposed project includes mineral exploration activities in the project area.

Approximately 3.3 million tons of material would be mined annually. Mining and crushing would occur up to 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. NVC would employ up to 120 employees for the construction of the proposed Gibellini Project. During mine operations, there would be up to 120 employees with approximately 30 employees on-site at any one time, including contractors.

The primary facilities associated with the Gibellini Project Plan of Operations are an open pit, rock disposal area, mine office and facilities, crushing facilities and stockpile, heap leach pad, process facility, various process and makeup water ponds, borrow areas, and mine and access roads. The approximate 6,456-acre project area and would include approximately 806 acres of disturbance and includes all project components (*e.g.*, mine facilities, access roads, pipelines) and associated buffer areas.

The primary components associated with the proposed Gibellini Project include the following:

- Construction and operation of mine facilities to support mining operations.
- Development of an open pit mine approximately 2,410 feet × 1,560 feet and an approximate maximum depth of 280 feet.
- Construction of a rock disposal area to accommodate permanent storage of approximately 2.5 million tons over the mine life with an approximate height of 125 feet.
- Construction and operation of mined ore crushing facilities and stockpile for ore processing.
- Construction and operation of a heap leach facility where vanadium would be leached out of the ore by a sulfuric acid solution as it percolates through the stacked crushed ore material. Minor amounts of uranium, a secondary product of vanadium processing, would also be leached into the solution. Even though the uranium concentrations in the ore are very low, the process for concentrating vanadium