

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R3-ES-2020-N137;
FXES11130300000-201-FF03E00000]

**Endangered and Threatened Species;
Receipt of 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 or threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. 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 your written comments on or before November 23, 2020.

ADDRESSES: *Document availability and comment submission:* Submit requests for copies of the applications and related documents, as well as any comments, by one of the following methods. All requests and comments should specify the applicant name(s) and application number(s) (e.g., TEXXXXXX; see table in

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION):

- *Email:* permitsR3ES@fws.gov.

Please refer to the respective application number (e.g., Application No. TEXXXXXX) in the subject line of your email message.

- *U.S. Mail:* Regional Director, Attn: Nathan Rathbun, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services, 5600 American Blvd. West, Suite 990, Bloomington, MN 55437-1458.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Nathan Rathbun, 612-713-5343 (phone); permitsR3ES@fws.gov (email). Individuals who are hearing or speech impaired may call the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 for TTY assistance.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et*

seq.), prohibits certain activities with endangered and threatened species unless authorized by a Federal permit. The ESA and our implementing regulations in part 17 of title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) provide for the issuance of such permits and require that we invite public comment before issuing permits for activities involving endangered species.

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

We invite local, State, and Federal agencies; Tribes; and the public to comment on the following applications:

Application No.	Applicant	Species	Location	Activity	Type of take	Permit action
TE85465D	Consumers Energy, Jackson, MI.	Indiana bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>), Northern long-eared bat (<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>).	MI	Conduct scientific research on the impacts of wind turbine smart curtailment, population management and monitoring.	Harass, kill, salvage	New.
TE33381D	Neosho National Fish Hatchery, Neosho, MO.	Hungerford's crawling water beetle (<i>Brychius hungerfordi</i>), Arkansas fatmucket (<i>Lampsilis powellii</i>), fat pocketbook (<i>Potamilus capax</i>), Neosho mucket (<i>Lampsilis rafinesqueana</i>), Ouachita rock pocketbook (<i>Arkansia wheeleri</i>), pink mucket (<i>Lampsilis abrupta</i>), rabbitsfoot (<i>Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica</i>), scaleshell (<i>Leptodea leptodon</i>), sheepnose (<i>Plethobasus cyphus</i>), snuffbox (<i>Epioblasma triquetra</i>), spectaclecase (<i>Cumberlandia monodonta</i>), winged mapleleaf (<i>Quadrula fragosa</i>).	AR, KS, MI, MO, OK.	Conduct presence/ absence surveys, document habitat use, conduct population monitoring, evaluate impacts.	Capture, handle, hold, tag, propagate, culture, release, relocate, head-start, buccal swab.	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. 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.

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.*).

Lori Nordstrom,

Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services.

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

[FWS-HQ-NWRS-2020-N096;
FXRS126109HD000-201-FF09R23000; OMB
Control Number 1018-New]

**Agency Information Collection
Activities; Submission to the Office of
Management and Budget for Review
and Approval; Programmatic
Clearance for U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Service Social Science Research**

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of information collection; request for comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, we, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), are proposing a new information collection.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before November 23, 2020.

ADDRESSES: Send your comments and suggestions on the information collection requirements to the Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior at OMB-OIRA at (202) 395-5806 (fax) or *OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov* (email). Please provide a copy of your comments to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS: PRB (JAO/3W), 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803 (mail); or by email to *Info_Coll@fws.gov*. Please reference OMB Control Number "1018-Programmatic" in the subject line of your comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Madonna L. Baucum, Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, by email at *Info_Coll@fws.gov*, or by telephone at (703) 358-2503. Individuals who are hearing or speech impaired may call the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 for TTY

assistance. You may also view the ICR at <http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA, 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) and 5 CFR 1320.8(d)(1), we provide the general public and other Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on new, proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. It also helps the public understand our information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format.

On April 17, 2020, we published in the **Federal Register** (86 FR 21450) a notice of our intent to request that OMB approve this information collection. In that notice, we solicited comments for 60 days, ending on June 16, 2020. No comments were received in response to that notice.

As part of our continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burdens, we are again soliciting comments from the public and other Federal agencies on the proposed ICR that is described below. We are especially interested in public comment addressing the following:

- (1) Whether or not the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether or not the information will have practical utility;
- (2) The accuracy of our estimate of the burden for this collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- (3) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- (4) How might the agency minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, *e.g.*, permitting electronic submission of response.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. 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.

Abstract: Improving customer experience with Federal services is part of the President's Management Agenda (OMB Circular A-11, Section 280, "Managing Customer Experience and Improving Service Delivery"). The collection of information is necessary to enable the Service to garner customer and stakeholder feedback in an efficient, timely manner, in accordance with our commitment to improving service delivery. Additionally, this new programmatic clearance is needed in order to be more responsive to Secretarial Orders 3356 (hunting and fishing opportunities), 3362 (big game habitat), and 3366 (outdoor recreation). This proposed new collection of information will also allow the Service to improve customer service delivery and response. This is important because OMB Circular A-11 designates the Service as a High-Impact Service Provider.

The programmatic clearance applies to social science surveys, interviews, and focus groups designed to provide information to Service managers and practitioners to improve quality and utility of agency programs, services, and planning efforts. To ensure continuous improvement, Service activities and projects require ongoing systematic assessment of their design, implementation, and outcomes. Data from collections undertaken through the proposed programmatic clearance would provide information for planning, monitoring, and evaluating National Wildlife Refuge System efforts as well as efforts of other Service programs. The scope of this programmatic clearance includes individual surveys, focus groups, and interviews of refuge visitors, potential visitors, and residents of communities near Service-managed units, and stakeholders and partners, including tribal interests.

To qualify for the generic programmatic review process, survey questions must show a clear tie to Service management needs. The programmatic review may only be used for noncontroversial information collections that are unlikely to attract or include topics of significant public interest. We must obtain OMB approval of all surveys developed using the pre-approved suite of questions before the survey can be initiated. This suite of questions will be used to develop customer experience and satisfaction surveys to meet requirements of OMB Circular A-11, as well as commitments to respond to the above-named Secretarial Orders.