

FEDERAL FISH AND WILDLIFE PERMIT APPLICATION FORM

Answers to Option 2, [FWS Form 3-200-59](#)

A) Identify species and activity:

- 1) *For a new Recovery Permit or Amendment of an Existing Permit* (I am applying for a New recovery permit).
 - a. California tiger Salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*), hereafter CTS
 - Central California Distinct Population Segment – Threatened
 - Santa Barbara County Distinct Population Segment - Endangered
 - Sonoma County Distinct Population Segment - Endangered
 - b. As a consultant, my work will be based on project contracts requiring surveys. As such, anywhere from 0 – 1,000 + CTS larvae, juveniles, and adults of both sexes may be caught and released during surveys. The minimum number necessary would be captured and released, following the established protocols for the species.
 - c. I am requesting two activities: Aquatic presence/absence surveys and terrestrial presence/absence surveys for egg masses, larvae, juveniles, and adults, following the established protocols for the species.
 - d. As a consultant, my work will be based on project contracts requiring surveys. No specific projects are known currently.
 - e. I do not hold a valid permit.
- 2) Not applicable; no plants species are requested in this application.

B) Identify location of the proposed activity:

- 1) The proposed activities include the State of California throughout the geographic range the three CTS Distinct Population Segments. Specific counties are not known at this time.
- 2) As I plan to conduct surveys on a contract basis in the future, these maps will be provided once the specific area is known. As the counties are unknown, I am requesting California statewide coverage.
- 3) CTS is an aquatic and terrestrial occupying species that may be found in vernal pools, wetlands, swales, ponds, and man-made aquatic features, among others, throughout much of the state of California. USFWS will be informed of specific aquatic features prior to survey initiation.
- 4) Not applicable; no plants species are requested in this application.

C) Describe the proposed activity:

- 1) *Describe how the activities or proposal would help recover the species:*

- a. There is a Recovery Plan for each Distinct Population Segment of the California Tiger Salamander. The Recovery Plan for the Central California Distinct Population Segment of the California Tiger Salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*) (USFWS 2017) was specifically written to address the threats to the Central California distinct population segment California tiger salamander and lead to its eventual removal from the Endangered Species Act List of species. To meet the recovery goal, “Objective #2: Ameliorate or eliminate the current threats to the species,” I will conduct pre-construction surveys at potential or suspected occupied sites. This will help prevent habitat destruction and provide a better understanding of the species' range. Although this criterion was written solely for the Central California distinct population segment, it is relevant and applicable to all three.
- b. This permit is proposed for presence/absence surveys which will determine species occupancy. This work has been ongoing, as determined by information on CNDDDB. Any new detections would be reported into the California and federal natural heritage databases.
- c. As fine-scale occupancy is not known throughout the entire species' range, my work will help answer this question.
- d. By reporting information on presence/absence determinations, I will help with determining occupied habitat for future habitat preservation.

2) *Describe in detail the purpose(s) and objective(s) of the activities or project.*

- a. My methods and designs will follow as stated in USFWS's protocol, Interim Guidance on Site Assessment and Field Surveys for Determining Presence or a Negative Finding of the California Tiger Salamander (USFWS 2003).
- b. This permit application is not for a specific project.
- c. No individuals are requested to be vouchered or sacrificed, however if dead individuals are found, they will be collected and stored as the USFWS directs disposition at a recommended repository.

3) *Can this activity or project result in the injury, death, or removal from the wild of any individuals of the species?*

- a. By conducting presence/absence surveys in accordance with USFWS's protocol, there should be lower injury or mortality risk. No individuals will be removed from the wild, with the exception of carcass salvage.
- b. Zero is expected, though incidental mortality or injury is unknown and will be immediately reported.
- c. If CTS larvae, juveniles, or adults are encountered during surveys, the fewest number of individuals required would be captured and released.
- d. Not applicable; activities are expected in habitat with unknown, uncertain, or unrecognized occupancy.

- 4) As a consultant, my work will be based on awarded project contracts requiring surveys, whether between private or public entities. No specific projects are known currently.
- 5) No CTS will not be held in captivity.
- 6) When working within more than one sites, I will thoroughly decontaminate my clothing and equipment following the latest USFWS protocols, including the guidelines set by the Declining Amphibian Task Force Fieldwork Code of Practice

D) Identify the persons who will conduct the proposed activity:

- 1) *Provide the full name of all individuals, including first name, middle initial, and last name, who you propose will conduct activities under this permit*
My full legal name is Richard “Richie” Carlisle Gomes.
 - a. Not applicable. Richard “Richie” Carlisle Gomes is the only requested permittee.
 - b. Please find my resume and experience table attached to this application.
 - c. Please find my letters of recommendation from supervisory recovery permittees for CTS attached to this application.