

Uruguay Round Agreements Act (19 U.S.C. 3511(a), Pub. L. 103–465, 108 stat. 4814). Tariff-rate quotas permit a specified quantity of merchandise to be entered or withdrawn for consumption at a reduced duty rate during a specified period. Furthermore, section 2012.3 of title 15 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) states that beef may only be entered as a product of an eligible country for a tariff-rate quota if the importer makes a declaration to U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) that a valid export certificate is in effect with respect to the beef. In addition, the CBP regulations, at 19 CFR 132.15, set forth provisions relating to the requirement that an importer must possess a valid export certificate at the time of entry, or withdrawal from warehouse, for consumption, to claim the in-quota tariff rate of duty on entries of beef subject to the tariff-rate quota.

The Electronic Certification System (eCERT) is a system developed by CBP that uses electronic data transmissions of information normally associated with a required export document, such as a license or certificate, to facilitate the administration of quotas and ensure that the proper restraint levels are charged without being exceeded. Argentina currently submits export certificates to CBP via email, and in the administration of the quota, CBP validates these certificates with the certificate numbers provided by importers on their entry summaries. Argentina requested to participate in the eCERT process to comply with the United States' tariff-rate quota for beef exported from Argentina for importation into the United States. CBP has coordinated with Argentina to implement the eCERT process, and now Argentina is ready to participate in this process by transmitting its export certificates to CBP via eCERT.

Foreign countries participating in eCERT transmit information via a global network service provider, which allows connectivity to CBP's automated electronic system for commercial trade processing, the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE). Specific data elements are transmitted to CBP by the importer of record (or an authorized customs broker) when filing an entry summary with CBP, and those data elements must match eCERT data from the foreign country before an importer may claim any applicable in-quota tariff rate of duty. An importer may claim an in-quota tariff rate when merchandise is entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption, only if the information transmitted by the importer matches the information transmitted by the foreign government. If there is no transmission

by the foreign government upon entry, an importer must claim the higher over-quota tariff rate.<sup>1</sup> An importer may subsequently claim the in-quota tariff rate under certain limited conditions.<sup>2</sup>

This document announces that Argentina will be implementing the eCERT process for transmitting export certificates for beef entries subject to the tariff-rate quota. Imported merchandise that is entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after January 18, 2022, must match the eCERT transmission of an export certificate from Argentina in order for an importer to claim the in-quota tariff rate. The transition to eCERT will not change the tariff-rate quota filing process or requirements. Importers will continue to provide the export certificate numbers from Argentina in the same manner as when currently filing entry summaries with CBP. The format of the export certificate numbers will not change as a result of the transition to eCERT. CBP will reject entry summaries that claim an in-quota tariff rate when filed without a valid export certificate in eCERT.

Dated: January 7, 2022.

**AnnMarie R. Highsmith,**

*Executive Assistant Commissioner, Office of Trade.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

**[FWS–R1–ES–2021–N208;  
FXES11130100000–212–FF01E00000]**

### Endangered Species; Receipt of Recovery Permit Applications

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

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

<sup>1</sup> If there is no associated foreign government eCERT transmission available upon entry of the merchandise, an importer may enter the merchandise for consumption subject to the over-quota tariff rate or opt not to enter the merchandise for consumption at that time (e.g., transfer the merchandise to a customs bonded warehouse or foreign trade zone or export or destroy the merchandise).

<sup>2</sup> If an importer enters the merchandise for consumption subject to the over-quota tariff rate and the associated foreign government eCERT transmission becomes available afterwards, an importer may claim the in-quota rate of duty by filing a post summary correction (before liquidation) or a protest under 19 CFR part 174 (after liquidation). In either event, the in-quota rate of duty is allowable only if there are still quota amounts available within the original quota period.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, have received applications for permits to conduct activities intended to enhance the propagation and 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 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 February 14, 2022.

### ADDRESSES:

*Document availability and comment submission:* Submit a request for a copy of the application and related documents and submit any comments by one of the following methods. All requests and comments should specify the applicant name and application number (e.g., Dana Ross, ESPER0001705):

- *Email:* [permitsR1ES@fws.gov](mailto:permitsR1ES@fws.gov).
- *U.S. Mail:* Marilet Zablan, Regional Program Manager, Restoration and Endangered Species Classification, Ecological Services, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland Regional Office, 911 NE 11th Avenue, Portland, OR 97232–4181.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Colleen Henson, Regional Recovery Permit Coordinator, Ecological Services, (503) 231–6131 (phone); [permitsR1ES@fws.gov](mailto:permitsR1ES@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:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, invite the public to comment on applications for permits under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). The requested permits would allow the applicants to conduct activities intended to promote recovery of species that are listed as endangered under the ESA.

### Background

With some exceptions, the ESA 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 such activities as pursuing, harassing, trapping, capturing, or collecting, in addition to hunting, shooting, harming, wounding, or killing.

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 in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 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.

Application number	Applicant, city, state	Species	Location	Take activity	Permit action
ES012136 .....	Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Hillsboro, OR.	Lost River sucker ( <i>Deltistes luxatus</i> ), Shortnose sucker ( <i>Chasmistes brevirostris</i> ).	Oregon .....	Harass by capture, handle, collect physical metrics, release, and salvage.	Renew.
ES67121B .....	Pacific Rim Conservation, Honolulu, HI.	Hawaiian petrel ( <i>Pterodroma sandwichensis</i> ), O'ahu 'elepaio (listed in 50 CFR 17 as Oahu elepaio ( <i>Chasiempis ibidis</i> )).	Hawaii .....	Hawaiian petrel: Harass by survey, monitor, capture, handle, collect physical metrics, biosample, band, translocate, captive propagate, release, and deploy social attraction system. O'ahu 'elepaio: Harass by survey, monitor, capture, band, collect physical metrics, biosample, attach transmitters, and release.	Amend.

#### 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 a permit to an applicant 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.*).

**Katherine Norman,**

*Assistant Regional Director—Ecological Services, Pacific Region.*

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#### DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

##### Fish and Wildlife Service

[Docket No. FWS–R8–ES–2021–0169; FXES11140800000–223–FF08ECAR00]

#### Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Incidental Take Permit Application; Proposed Low-Effect Habitat Conservation Plan and Associated Documents; County of San Diego, California

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), have received an application from the Ramona Municipal Water District (applicant) for a 4-year incidental take permit for the endangered Stephens' kangaroo rat and arroyo toad pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). We are requesting comments on the permit application and on the preliminary determination that the

proposed habitat conservation plan (HCP) qualifies as a “low-effect” HCP, eligible for a categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. The basis for this determination is discussed in the environmental action statement and the associated low-effect screening form, which are also available for public review.

**DATES:** We will accept comments received or postmarked on or before February 14, 2022.

**ADDRESSES:** *Obtaining Documents:* Electronic copies of the documents this notice announces, along with public comments received, will be available online in Docket No. FWS–R8–ES–2021–0169 at <https://www.regulations.gov>.

*Submitting Comments:* You may submit comments by one of the following methods:

- *Online:* <https://www.regulations.gov>. Search for and submit comments on Docket No. FWS–R8–ES–2021–0169.

- *By hard copy:* Submit comments by U.S. mail to Public Comments Processing, Attn: Docket No. FWS–R8–ES–2021–0169; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; 5275 Leesburg Pike, MS: PRB/3W; Falls Church, VA 22041–3803.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Jonathan Snyder, Assistant Field Supervisor, Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office (see **ADDRESSES**); telephone: 760–