

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

[FWS-R4-ES-2022-N017;
FXES11140400000-223-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, permit renewals, and/or permit amendments 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 May 25, 2022.

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 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: We invite review and comment from the public and local, State, Tribal, and Federal agencies 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 take of listed species unless a Federal permit is issued that authorizes such take. 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 take

endangered or threatened species while engaging in activities that are conducted for scientific purposes that promote recovery of species or for enhancement of propagation or survival of species. These activities often include the capture and collection of species, which would result in prohibited take if a permit were not issued. 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 054973-6	Nicholas Haddad, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI.	Mitchell's satyr butterfly (<i>Neonympha mitchellii mitchellii</i>) and Saint Francis' satyr butterfly (<i>Neonympha mitchellii francisci</i>),	Alabama, Michigan, Mississippi, and North Carolina.	Population monitoring, scientific research, captive propagation, and release into suitable habitat.	Capture, mark, transport, release, recapture, and salvage.	Renewal/Amendment.
TE 822525-7	Joseph McGlincy, Wiregrass Ecological Services, Bainbridge, GA.	Red-cockaded woodpecker (<i>Picoides borealis</i>)	Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee.	Population management and monitoring.	Capture, band, monitor for nest cavities, construct and monitor artificial nest cavities and restrictors, recapture, and translocate.	Renewal.
PER 0020528	Kyle Edmonds, USDA Forest Service, Daniel Boone National Forest, London, KY.	Gray bat (<i>Myotis grisescens</i>), Indiana bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>), northern long-eared bat (<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>), Ozark big-eared bat (<i>Corynorhinus</i> (= <i>Plecotus</i>) <i>townsendii ingens</i>), and Virginia big-eared bat (<i>Corynorhinus</i> (= <i>Plecotus</i>) <i>townsendii virginianus</i>).	Kentucky	Presence/probable absence surveys, studies to document habitat use, and population monitoring.	Enter hibernacula or maternity roost caves, capture with mist nets or harp traps, handle, identify, band, and radio tag.	New.
TE 206777-4	Ralph Costa, Ralph Costa's Woodpecker Outfit, LLC, Mountain Rest, SC.	Red-cockaded woodpecker (<i>Picoides borealis</i>)	Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas, and Virginia.	Population management and monitoring.	Capture, band, monitor for nest cavities, construct and monitor artificial nest cavities and restrictors, recapture, collect buccal swabs, and translocate.	Renewal/Amendment.

TE 130300-6	Paul Johnson, Alabama Aquatic Biodiversity Center, Marion, AL	<i>Fish</i>: Alabama sturgeon (<i>Scaphirhynchus suttkus</i>), boulder darter (<i>Etheostoma wapiti</i>), Cahaba shiner (<i>Notropis cahabae</i>), chunky madtom (<i>Noturus crypticus</i>), palezone shiner (<i>Notropis albizonatus</i>), rush darter (<i>Etheostoma phytophilum</i>), vermilion darter (<i>Etheostoma chermocki</i>), watercress darter (<i>Etheostoma nuchale</i>); <i>Mussels</i>: Alabama lampmussel (<i>Lampsilis virescens</i>), Alabama pearlshell (<i>Margaritifera marrianae</i>), Appalachian monkeyface (pearlymussel) (<i>Quadrula sparsa</i>), bridging pearlymussel (<i>Lemiox rimosus</i>), black clubshell (<i>Pleurobema curtum</i>), Canoe Creek clubshell (<i>Pleurobema althearni</i>), Choctaw bean (<i>Villosa choctawensis</i>), clubshell (<i>Pleurobema clava</i>), Coosa moccasinshell (<i>Medionidus parvulus</i>), cracking pearlymussel (<i>Hemistena lata</i>), Cumberland bean (pearlymussel) (<i>Villosa trabalis</i>), Cumberland elktoe (<i>Alasmidonta atropurpurea</i>), Cumberland monkeyface (pearlymussel) (<i>Quadrula intermedia</i>), Cumberlandian combshell (<i>Epioblasma brevidens</i>), dark pigtoe (<i>Pleurobema turvum</i>), dromedary pearlymussel (<i>Dromus dromas</i>), fanshell (<i>Cyprogenia stegaria</i>), fat threeridge (mussel) (<i>Amblema neisleri</i>), finrayed pigtoe (<i>Fusconalia cuneolus</i>), flat pigtoe (<i>Pleurobema marshali</i>), Georgia pigtoe (<i>Pleurobema hanleyianum</i>), Gulf moccasinshell (<i>Medionidus penicillatus</i>), heavy pigtoe (<i>Pleurobema taitianum</i>), littletwing pearlymussel (<i>Pegias fabula</i>), Ochlockonee moccasinshell (<i>Medionidus simpsonianus</i>), orangefoot pimpleback (pearlymussel) (<i>Plethobasus cooperianus</i>), Quachita rock pocketbook (<i>Arkansia wheeleri</i>), oval pigtoe (<i>Pleurobema pyriforme</i>), ovate clubshell (<i>Pleurobema perovatum</i>), oyster mussel (<i>Epioblasma capsaeformis</i>), pale lilliput (pearlymussel) (<i>Toxolasma cylindrellus</i>), pink mucket (pearlymussel) (<i>Lampsilis abrupta</i>), purple bean (<i>Villosa perpurpurea</i>), purple cat's paw (=purple cat's paw pearlymussel) (<i>Epioblasma obliquata obliquata</i>), ring pink (mussel) (<i>Obovaria retusa</i>), rough pigtoe (<i>Pleurobema plenum</i>), round ebonyshell (<i>Fusconalia rotulata</i>), scaleshell mussel (<i>Leptodea leptodon</i>), sheepsnose mussel (<i>Plethobasus cyphus</i>), shiny pigtoe (<i>Fusconalia cori</i>), shinyrayed pocketbook (<i>Lampsilis subangulata</i>), slabside pearlymussel (<i>Pleurobema dolabelloides</i>), snuffbox mussel (<i>Epioblasma triquetra</i>), southern acomshell (<i>Epioblasma othecoidensis</i>), southern clubshell (<i>Pleurobema decisum</i>), southern kidneyshell (<i>Pychobranchus jonesi</i>), southern pigtoe (<i>Pleurobema georgianum</i>), southern sandshell (<i>Hamiota australis</i>), spectaclecase (mussel) (<i>Cumberlandia monodonta</i>), stirrupshell (<i>Quadrula stapes</i>), tan ruffleshell (<i>Epioblasma florentina walkeri</i> (=E. walkeri)), triangular kidneyshell (<i>Pychobranchus greenii</i>), tubercled blossom (pearlymussel) (<i>Epioblasma torulosa torulosa</i>), upland combshell (<i>Epioblasma metastriata</i>), white wartyback (pearlymussel) (<i>Plethobasus cicatricosus</i>), winged mapleleaf (<i>Quadrula fragosa</i>); <i>Snails</i>: Anthony's riversnail (<i>Athearnia anthonyi</i>), armored snail (<i>Pyrgulopsis</i> (=Marstonia) pachyta), cylindrical lioplax (snail) (<i>Lioplax cyclostomaformis</i>), flat pebblesnail (<i>Lepyrium showalteri</i>), interrupted (=Georgia) rocksnail (<i>Leptoxis foremani</i>), plicate rocksnail (<i>Leptoxis plicata</i>), rough hornsnail (<i>Pleurocera foremani</i>), royal marstonia (snail) (<i>Pyrgulopsis ogmorhiaphe</i>), and slender campeloma (<i>Campeloma decampi</i>). Anthony's riversnail (<i>Athearnia anthonyi</i>) and Nashville crayfish (<i>Orconectes shoupi</i>)	Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and Tennessee.	Scientific research, captive propagation, relocation, and reintroduction.	Collect, transport, hold in captivity for longer than 45 days, release, translocate, and euthanize.	Renewal/Amendment.
TE 084054-4	James Orr, AECOM, Franklin, TN.	Audubon's crested caracara (<i>Polyborus plancus audubonii</i>) and Everglade snail kite (<i>Rostrhamus sociabilis plumbeus</i>).	Alabama and Tennessee.	Presence/probable absence surveys, population monitoring, and distribution studies. Examine core foraging areas, roosts, nest sites, timing of destinations of long-distance movements throughout the year, habitat loss and degradation effects, methyl mercury levels, and genetic sex determination.	Capture, identify, measure, and release.	Renewal.
TE 38642A-3	Kenneth Meyer, Avian Research and Conservation Institute, Gainesville, FL.	Gray bat (<i>Myotis grisescens</i>), Indiana bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>), and northern long-eared bat (<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>).	Florida	Examine core foraging areas, roosts, nest sites, timing of destinations of long-distance movements throughout the year, habitat loss and degradation effects, methyl mercury levels, and genetic sex determination.	Capture, weigh, measure, band, collect body coverts, blood, and egg albumen, attach solar-powered transmitters, and release.	Amendment.
TE 62026D-2	Catherine Haase, Austin Peay State University, Clarks-ville, TN.	Gray bat (<i>Myotis grisescens</i>), Indiana bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>), and northern long-eared bat (<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>).	Kentucky and Tennessee.	Assess bat community structure and habitat use.	Capture with mist nets, handle, identify, band, and radio tag.	Amendment.

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TE 084047-5	St. John's River Water Management District, Mount Dora, FL.	Florida scrub-jay (<i>Aphelocoma coerulescens</i>) and red-cockaded woodpecker (<i>Picoides borealis</i>).	Florida	Population management and monitoring.	<i>Florida scrub-jay</i> : Capture, band, and release; <i>red-cockaded woodpecker</i> : capture, band, monitor nest cavities, construct and monitor artificial nest cavities and restrictors, recapture, and translocate.	Renewal/Amendment.
TE 810274-14	IOF Jones and Stokes, Inc., Fisherville, KY.	Bats: Gray bat (<i>Myotis grisescens</i>), Indiana bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>), northern long-eared bat (<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>), Ozark big-eared bat (<i>Corynorhinus</i> (= <i>Plecotus</i>) <i>townsendii ingens</i>), and Virginia big-eared bat (<i>Corynorhinus</i> (= <i>Plecotus</i>) <i>townsendii virginianus</i>); Fish: Blackside dace (<i>Phoxinus cumberlandensis</i>), Cumberland darter (<i>Etheostoma susanae</i>), diamond darter (<i>Crystallaria cincotta</i>), duskytail darter (<i>Etheostoma percnurum</i>), Kentucky arrow darter (<i>Etheostoma spilotum</i>), palezone shiner (<i>Notropis albizonatus</i>), relict darter (<i>Etheostoma chienense</i>), and snail darter (<i>Percina tanasi</i>); Mussels: Alabama lampmussel (<i>Lampsilis virescens</i>), Appalachian elktoe (<i>Alasmidonta raveneliana</i>), Appalachian monkeyface (pearlymussel) (<i>Quadrula sparsa</i>), birdwing pearlymussel (<i>Lemiox rimosus</i>), black clubshell (<i>Pleurobema curtum</i>), clubshell (<i>Pleurobema clava</i>), cracking pearlymussel (<i>Hemistena lata</i>), Cumberland bean (pearlymussel) (<i>Villosa trabalis</i>), Cumberland elktoe (<i>Alasmidonta atropurpurea</i>), Cumberland monkeyface (pearlymussel) (<i>Quadrula intermedia</i>), Cumberland pigtoe (<i>Pleurobema gibberum</i>), Cumberlandian combshell (<i>Epioblasma brevidens</i>), dark pigtoe (<i>Pleurobema furvum</i>), dromedary pearlymussel (<i>Dromus dromas</i>), fawnshell (<i>Cyprogenia stegaria</i>), fat pocketbook (<i>Potamilus capax</i>), finelined pocketbook (<i>Lampsilis ailiis</i>), finerayed pigtoe (<i>Fusconala cuneolus</i>), flat pigtoe (<i>Pleurobema marshali</i>), fluted kidneyshell (<i>Ptychobranchus subtentus</i>), green blossom (pearlymussel) (<i>Epioblasma torulosa gubernaculum</i>), heavy pigtoe (<i>Pleurobema tailanum</i>), Higgins eye (pearlymussel) (<i>Lampsilis higginsii</i>), inflated heelsplitter (<i>Potamilus inflatus</i>), littlewing pearlymussel (<i>Pegias fabula</i>), northern riffleshell (<i>Epioblasma torulosa rangiana</i>), orangefoot pimbleback (pearlymussel) (<i>Plethobasus cooperianus</i>), orangenacre mucket (<i>Lampsilis perovallis</i>), oyster mussel (<i>Epioblasma capsaeformis</i>), pale lilliput (pearlymussel) (<i>Toxolasma cylindrellus</i>), pink mucket (pearlymussel) (<i>Lampsilis abrupta</i>), purple bean (<i>Villosa perpurpurea</i>), purple cat's paw (=purple cat's paw pearlymussel) (<i>Epioblasma obliquata obliquata</i>), rabbitstoot (<i>Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica</i>), rayed bean (<i>Villosa fabalis</i>), ring pink (mussel) (<i>Obovaria retusa</i>), rough pigtoe (<i>Pleurobema plenum</i>), rough rabbitstoot (<i>Quadrula cylindrica strigilata</i>), scaleshell mussel (<i>Leptodea leptodon</i>), sheepnose mussel (<i>Plethobasus cyphus</i>), shiny pigtoe (<i>Fusconala cor</i>), slabside pearlymussel (<i>Pleuonala dolabelloides</i>), snuffbox mussel (<i>Epioblasma triquetra</i>), southern combshell (<i>Epioblasma penita</i>), spectaclecase (mussel) (Cumberlandia monodonta), stirrupshell (<i>Quadrula stapes</i>), tan riffleshell (<i>Epioblasma florentina walkeri</i> (= <i>E. walkeri</i>)), tubercled blossom (pearlymussel) (<i>Epioblasma turgidula</i>), white catspaw (pearlymussel) (<i>Epioblasma obliquata perobliqua</i>), white wartback (pearlymussel) (<i>Plethobasus cicatricosus</i>), winged mapleleaf (<i>Quadrula fragosa</i>), and yellow blossom (pearlymussel) (<i>Epioblasma florentina florentina</i>); and Crustaceans: Big Sandy crayfish (<i>Cambarus callainus</i>).	Bats: Presence/probable absence surveys, studies to document habitat use, and population monitoring; Fish, Mussels, and Crustaceans: Presence/probable absence surveys.	Bats: Enter hibernacula or maternity roost caves, capture with mist nets or harp traps, handle, identify, band, and radio tag; Fish: Capture, identify, and release; Mussels: Capture, identify, mark, release, collect relic shells; Crustaceans: Capture via seining, handle, identify, and release.	Renewal.	
TE 43264B-1	Nicole Riddle, Columbia, SC.	Carolina heelsplitter (<i>Lasmigona decorata</i>)	South Carolina	Presence/probable absence surveys.	Remove from substrate, handle, identify, release, and salvage shells.	Renewal/Amendment.

TE 089075-5	Donna Oddy, Rockledge, FL.	Alabama beach mouse (<i>Peromyscus polionotus ammobates</i>), Anastasia Island beach mouse (<i>Peromyscus polionotus phasma</i>), Choctawhatchee beach mouse (<i>Peromyscus polionotus allophrys</i>), Perdido Key beach mouse (<i>Peromyscus polionotus peninsularis</i>), and southeastern beach mouse (<i>Peromyscus polionotus niveiventris</i>).	Alabama and Florida	Long-term monitoring, presence/probable absence surveys, mark-recapture studies, and genetic analyses.	Capture, tag, ear snip, collect hair, radio collar, release, and translocate.	Renewal/ Amendment.
TE 009638-12	Appalachian Technical Services, Inc., Wise, VA.	Bats: Indiana bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>), gray bat (<i>Myotis grisescens</i>), northern long-eared bat (<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>), Virginia big-eared bat (<i>Corynorhinus (=Plecotus) townsendii virginianus</i>); Fish: Blackside dace (<i>Proximus cumberlandensis</i>), Cumberland darter (<i>Etheostoma susanae</i>), duskytail darter (<i>Etheostoma percnurum</i>), Kentucky arrow darter (<i>Etheostoma spilotum</i>); Mussels: Appalachian monkeyface (pearlymussel) (<i>Quadrula sparsa</i>), birdwing pearlymussel (<i>Lemiox rimosus</i>), clubshell (<i>Pleurobema clava</i>), cracking pearlymussel (<i>Hemistena lata</i>), Cumberland bean (pearlymussel) (<i>Villosa fabalis</i>), Cumberland elktoe (<i>Alasmidonta atropurpurea</i>), Cumberland monkeyface (pearlymussel) (<i>Quadrula intermedia</i>), Cumberlandian combshell (<i>Epioblasma brevidens</i>), dromedary pearlymussel (<i>Dromus dromas</i>), fanshell (<i>Cyprogenia siegalia</i>), fat pocketbook (<i>Potamilus capax</i>), tinerayed pigtoe (<i>Fusconia cuneolus</i>), fluted kidneyshell (<i>Ptychobranhus sublentus</i>), littlewing pearlymussel (<i>Pegias fabula</i>), northern rifleshell (<i>Epioblasma torulosa rangiana</i>), orangefoot pimpleback (pearlymussel) (<i>Plethobasus cooperianus</i>), oyster mussel (<i>Epioblasma capsaeformis</i>), pink mucket (pearlymussel) (<i>Lampsilis abrupta</i>), purple bean (<i>Villosa perpurpurea</i>), purple cat's paw (=purple cat's paw pearlymussel) (<i>Epioblasma obliquata</i>), rabbitfoot (<i>Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica</i>), ring pink (mussel) (<i>Obovaria retusa</i>), rough pigtoe (<i>Pleurobema plenum</i>), rough rabbitfoot (<i>Quadrula cylindrica strigilata</i>), sheepnose mussel (<i>Plethobasus cyphus</i>), shiny pigtoe (<i>Fusconia cor</i>), slabside pearlymussel (<i>Pleurobema dolabelloides</i>), snuffbox mussel (<i>Epioblasma triquetra</i>); Crustaceans: Guyandotte River crayfish (<i>Cambarus veteranus</i>) and Big Sandy crayfish (<i>Cambarus callanisi</i>).	Alabama, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.	Presence/probable absence surveys, mark-recapture studies, and genetic analyses.	Bats: Enter hibernacula, capture with mist nets or harp traps, handle, band, radio tag, and release; <i>Mus-fish</i> : Capture via seining, netting, trapping, or electroshocking, handle, identify, and release; <i>Mussels</i> : Remove from substrate, handle, identify, data collection, tagging, and release; <i>Crustaceans</i> : Capture via seining, handle, identify, and release.	Renewal.
TE 81492B-1	Dylan Brooks, Sylva, NC.	Indiana bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>) and northern long-eared bat (<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>)	Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.	Presence/probable absence surveys, habitat use and assessment research, population monitoring, and studies to evaluate potential impacts of White-nose Syndrome or other potential threats.	Capture with mist nets, handle, identify, band, and radio tag.	Renewal/ Amendment.
TE 03305C-1	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District, Memphis, TN.	Curtis pearlymussel (<i>Epioblasma florentina curtisi</i>), fanshell (<i>Cyprogenia stegaria</i>), fat pocketbook (<i>Potamilus capax</i>), fat threeridge (mussel) (<i>Amblema neisleri</i>), Higgins eye (pearlymussel) (<i>Lampsilis higginsii</i>), inflated heelsplitter (<i>Potamilus inflatus</i>), orangefoot pimpleback (pearlymussel) (<i>Plethobasus cooperianus</i>), Quachita rock pocketbook (<i>Arkansas wheeleri</i>), pink mucket (pearlymussel) (<i>Lampsilis abrupta</i>), rabbitfoot (<i>Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica</i>), rayed bean (<i>Villosa fabalis</i>), ring pink (mussel) (<i>Obovaria retusa</i>), scaleshell mussel (<i>Leptodea leptodon</i>), sheepnose mussel (<i>Plethobasus cyphus</i>), snuffbox mussel (<i>Epioblasma triquetra</i>), southern clubshell (<i>Pleurobema decisum</i>), spectaclecase (mussel) (<i>Cumberlandia monodonta</i>), turgid blossom (pearlymussel) (<i>Epioblasma turgidula</i>), and winged mapleleaf (<i>Quadrula fragosa</i>).	Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee, Wisconsin.	Presence/probable absence surveys.	Capture, identify, and release.	Renewal/ Amendment.
TE 81430B-1	Heather Wallace, Raleigh, NC.	Gray bat (<i>Myotis grisescens</i>), Indiana bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>), northern long-eared bat (<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>), and Virginia big-eared bat (<i>Corynorhinus (=Plecotus) townsendii virginianus</i>).	Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee.	Presence/probable absence surveys, population monitoring, genetic analyses, and drome sampling.	Enter hibernacula, capture with mist nets or harp traps, handle, identify, band, radio tag, collect hair samples, wing punch, and swab.	Renewal/ Amendment.

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TE 81500B-1	Sara Samoray, Nashville, TN.	Gray bat (<i>Myotis grisescens</i>), Indiana bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>), northern long-eared bat (<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>), and Virginia big-eared bat (<i>Corynorhinus (=Plecotus) townsendii virginianus</i>).	Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.	Presence/probable absence surveys, studies to document habitat use, population monitoring, and to evaluate potential impacts of White-nose Syndrome or other threats.	Capture with mist nets or harp traps, handle, identify, band, and radio tag.	Renewal.
TE 178643-3	Jeffrey West, Columbia, SC.	Carolina heelsplitter (<i>Lasmsgona decorata</i>)	North Carolina and South Carolina.	Presence/probable absence surveys.	Capture, handle, identify, and release.	Renewal.
TE 81353B-1	Stephanie Penk, Sylva, NC.	Indiana bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>) and northern long-eared bat (<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>)	Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.	Presence/probable absence surveys, habitat use and assessment research, population dynamics evaluation, and migration research.	Capture with mist nets, handle, identify, band, and radio tag.	Renewal.
TE 88796C-2	Geological Survey of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL.	<i>Fish</i> : Blue shiner (<i>Cyprinella caerulea</i>), Cahaba shiner (<i>Notropis cahabae</i>), goldline darter (<i>Percina aurolineata</i>), rush darter (<i>Etheostoma phytophilum</i>), vermilion darter (<i>Etheostoma chermocki</i>), Mussels: Alabama moccasinshell (<i>Medionidus acutissimus</i>), Coosa moccasinshell (<i>Medionidus parvulus</i>), dark pigtoe (<i>Pleurobema turvum</i>), finelined pocketbook (<i>Lampsilis atilis</i>), Georgia pigtoe (<i>Pleurobema hanleyianum</i>), heavy pigtoe (<i>Pleurobema tallianum</i>), inflated heelsplitter (<i>Potamilus inflatus</i>), orangenacre mucket (<i>Lampsilis perovalis</i>), ovate clubshell (<i>Pleurobema perovatum</i>), southern acornshell (<i>Epioblasma offtallogensis</i>), southern clubshell (<i>Pleurobema decisum</i>), southern combshell (<i>Epioblasma penita</i>), southern pigtoe (<i>Pleurobema georgianum</i>), triangular kidneyshell (<i>Ptychobranthus greenii</i>), upland combshell (<i>Epioblasma metatriata</i>).	Alabama	Population surveys ..	Capture, handle, identify, and release.	Amendment.

PER 0036267	Shane Kelley, Louisville, KY.	Gray bat (<i>Myotis grisescens</i>), Indiana bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>), northern long-eared bat (<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>), and Virginia big-eared bat (<i>Corynorhinus (Plecatus) townsendii virginianus</i>).	Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.	Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.	Presence/probable absence surveys.	Capture with mist nets or harp traps, handle, identify, band, and radio tag.	New.
PER 0036268	KFS LLC, Huntsville, AL.	Alabama beach mouse (<i>Peromyscus polionotus ammobates</i>)	Alabama	Alabama	Population monitoring, mark-recapture studies.	Capture, tag, and release.	New.
TE 42183A-2	Eglin Air Force Base, Niceville, FL.	Red-cockaded woodpecker (<i>Picoides borealis</i>)	Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas, and Virginia.	Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas, and Virginia.	Population management and monitoring.	Capture, band, monitor for nest cavities, construct and monitor artificial nest cavities and restrictors, recapture, and translocate.	Renewal/Amendment.
TE 087194-5	Florida Forest Service, Goethe State Forest, Dunnellon, FL.	Red-cockaded woodpecker (<i>Picoides borealis</i>)	Goethe State Forest, Levy County, Florida.	Goethe State Forest, Levy County, Florida.	Population management and monitoring.	Capture, band, construct and install artificial nest cavities and restrictors, monitor nest cavities, recapture, and translocate.	Renewal/Amendment.
PER 0037085	Mississippi Aquarium, Gulfport, MS.	Green sea turtle (<i>Chelonia mydas</i>), hawksbill sea turtle (<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>), Kemp's ridley sea turtle (<i>Lepidochelys kempi</i>), leatherback sea turtle (<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>), and loggerhead sea turtle (<i>Caretta caretta</i>).	Mississippi	Mississippi	Population monitoring should they be re-encountered and physiological research during rehabilitation.	Insert PIT tag, attach flipper tag, and collect blood samples.	New.
PER 0037218	Alabama Department of Environmental Management, Decatur, AL.	Alabama sturgeon (<i>Scaphirhynchus suttkus</i>), blue shiner (<i>Cyprinella caerulea</i>), boulder darter (<i>Etheostoma wapiti</i>), Cahaba shiner (<i>Notropis cahabae</i>), goldline darter (<i>Percina aurolineata</i>), palezone shiner (<i>Notropis albizonatus</i>), rush darter (<i>Etheostoma phytophilum</i>), spring pygmy sunfish (<i>Elassoma alabamae</i>), trispot darter (<i>Etheostoma trisella</i>), vermilion darter (<i>Etheostoma chermocki</i>), watercress darter (<i>Etheostoma nuchala</i>).	Alabama	Alabama	Presence/probable absence surveys and population monitoring.	Capture, handle, identify, and release.	New.

Permit application No.	Applicant	Species	Location	Activity	Type of take	Permit action
PER 0037593	Donald Hubbs, Camden, TN.	Alabama lampmussel (<i>Lampsilis virescens</i>), Alabama moccasinshell (<i>Medionidus acutissimus</i>), Appalachian ektoe (<i>Alasmodonta raveneliana</i>), Appalachian monkeyface (pearlymussel) (<i>Quadrula sparsa</i>), birdwing pearlymussel (<i>Lemiox rimosus</i>), clubshell (<i>Pleurobema clava</i>), Coosa moccasinshell (<i>Medionidus parvulus</i>), cracking pearlymussel (<i>Hemistena lata</i>), Cumberland bean (pearlymussel) (<i>Villosa fabalis</i>), Cumberland ektoe (<i>Alasmodonta atropurpurea</i>), Cumberland monkeyface (pearlymussel) (<i>Quadrula intermedia</i>), Cumberland pigtoe (<i>Pleurobema gibberum</i>), Cumberlandian combshell (<i>Epioblasma brevidens</i>), dromedary pearlymussel (<i>Dromius dromas</i>), fanshell (<i>Cyprogenia stegaria</i>), fat pocketbook (<i>Potamilus capax</i>), finlined pocketbook (<i>Lampsilis alilis</i>), finrayed pigtoe (<i>Fusconaia cuneolus</i>), fluted kidneyshell (<i>Pygobrachius suberitius</i>), Georgia pigtoe (<i>Pleurobema hanleyanum</i>), green blossom (pearlymussel) (<i>Epioblasma torulosa gubernaculum</i>), inflated heelsplitter (<i>Potamilus inflatus</i>), littlewing pearlymussel (<i>Pegias tabula</i>), orangefoot pimpleback (pearlymussel) (<i>Plethobasus cooperianus</i>), oyster mussel (<i>Epioblasma capsaeformis</i>), pale liliiput (pearlymussel) (<i>Toxolasma cylindrellus</i>), pink mucket (pearlymussel) (<i>Lampsilis abrupta</i>), purple bean (<i>Villosa perpurpurea</i>), purple cat's paw (purple cat's paw pearlymussel) (<i>Epioblasma obliquata obliquata</i>), rabbitsfoot (<i>Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica</i>), rayed bean (<i>Villosa fabalis</i>), ring pink (mussel) (<i>Obovaria retusa</i>), rough pigtoe (<i>Pleurobema plenum</i>), rough rabbitsfoot (<i>Quadrula cylindrica strigilata</i>), scaleshell mussel (<i>Leptodea leptodon</i>), sheepnose mussel (<i>Plethobasus cyphus</i>), shiny pigtoe (<i>Fusconaia cor</i>), slabside pearlymussel (<i>Pleurobema dolabeloides</i>), snuffbox mussel (<i>Epioblasma triquetra</i>), southern acornshell (<i>Epioblasma oricalogensis</i>), southern clubshell (<i>Pleurobema decisum</i>), southern pigtoe (<i>Pleurobema georgianum</i>), spectaclecase (mussel) (<i>Cumberlandia monodonta</i>), tan ruffleshell (<i>Epioblasma florentina walkei</i> (<i>E. walkei</i>)), triangular kidneyshell (<i>Pygobrachius greenii</i>), tubercled blossom (pearlymussel) (<i>Epioblasma torulosa torulosa</i>), turgid blossom (pearlymussel) (<i>Epioblasma turgidula</i>), upland combshell (<i>Epioblasma metastriata</i>), white wartyback (pearlymussel) (<i>Plethobasus cicatricosus</i>), winged mapleleaf (<i>Quadrula fragosa</i>), and yellow blossom (pearlymussel) (<i>Epioblasma florentina florentina</i>).	Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee.	Presence/probable absence surveys, scientific research, and collect for captive propagation and reintroduction.	Remove from substrate, handle, identify, collect tissue, mark, release, collect for propagation at permitted Tennessee facility, transport, and release.	New.
TE 88797B-2	Amber Nolder, Harrisburg, PA.	Gray bat (<i>Myotis grisescens</i>), Indiana bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>), and northern long-eared bat (<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>).	Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.	Presence/probable absence surveys, habitat assessments, and habitat-use studies.	Capture with mist nets and harp traps, handle, identify, band, mark with non-toxic paint, and radio tag.	Renewal.
TE 142806-3	James Cox, Tallahassee, FL.	Red-cockaded woodpecker (<i>Picoides borealis</i>)	Florida and Georgia	Cross-fostering nestlings.	Monitor, capture, weigh, band, release, translocate, and collect cloacal swabs.	Amendment.
PER 0037739	Arkansas State University, State University, AR.	<i>Lindera melissifolia</i> (pondberry)	Arkansas	Scientific research and propagation.	Collect root/rhizome tissue, and stem pieces.	New.

PER 0037719	Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park, Okeechobee, FL.	Florida grasshopper sparrow (<i>Ammodramus savanarum floridanus</i>)	Florida	Presence/probable absence surveys, population management and monitoring, and collection of eggs, nestlings, and adults for captive breeding.	Nest searching, deploy nest cameras, install predator fences, nest lifting, fire ant treatment, capture with mist nets and audio lures, handle, band, monitor nest cavities, install predator barriers, collect blood, feces, and buccal swabs, collect and transport eggs, nestlings, and adults for captive breeding at permitted White Oak Conservation Foundation facility.	New.
PER 0037812	Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, ON.	Gray bat (<i>Myotis grisescens</i>), Indiana bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>), and northern long-eared bat (<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>).	Tennessee	Presence/probable absence surveys.	Capture via mist nets and harp traps, handle, identify, and release.	New.
PER 0037836	Christopher Sheats, New Hill, NC.	Amphibians: Neuse River waterdog (<i>Necturus lewisii</i>); Fish: Cape Fear shiner (<i>Notropis mekistocholas</i>), Carolina madtom (<i>Noturus furiosus</i>), Roanoke logperch (<i>Percina rex</i>), Waccamaw silverside (<i>Menidia extensa</i>); Mussels: Appalachian elktoe (<i>Alasmidonta raveneliana</i>), Atlantic pigtoe (<i>Fusconia masoni</i>), Carolina heelsplitter (<i>Lasmigona decorata</i>), dwarf wedgemussel (<i>Alasmidonta heterodon</i>), James spinymussel (<i>Pleurobema collina</i>), littlewing pearlymussel (<i>Pegias fabula</i>), Tar River spinymussel (<i>Elliptio steinstansana</i>), and yellow lance (<i>Elliptio lanceolata</i>).	North Carolina and South Carolina.	Presence/probable absence surveys.	Amphibians: Capture via trap and baiting, handle, identify, and release; Fish: Capture via seining, or netting, handle, identify, and release; Mussels: Remove from substrate, handle, identify, mark, and release.	New.
PER 0037837	Justin Bagley, Jacksonville State University, Jacksonville, AL.	Blue shiner (<i>Cyprinella caerulea</i>) and Cahaba shiner (<i>Notropis cahabae</i>)	Alabama	Presence/Probable absence surveys, genomic analyses, and increase museum collection.	Capture via seining or netting, handle, identify, photograph, collect non-lethal fin clips, release, collect voucher specimens.	New.

Permit application No.	Applicant	Species	Location	Activity	Type of take	Permit action
TE 079863-4	Michael Gangloff, Boone, NC.	Mussels: Alabama lampmussel (<i>Lampsilis virescens</i>), Alabama moccasinshell (<i>Medionidus acutissimus</i>), Alabama pearlshell (<i>Margaritifera marrianae</i>), Altamaha spiny mussel (<i>Elliptio spinosus</i>), Appalachian elktoe (<i>Alasmidonta raveneliana</i>), Appalachian monkeyface (pearly mussel) (<i>Quadrula sparsa</i>), birdwing pearly mussel (<i>Lemiox rimosus</i>), black clubshell (<i>Pleurobema curtum</i>), Carolina heelsplitter (<i>Lasmigona decorata</i>), Chipola slabshell (<i>Elliptio chipolaensis</i>), Choctaw bean (<i>Villosa choctawensis</i>), clubshell (<i>Pleurobema clava</i>), Coosa moccasinshell (<i>Medionidus parvulus</i>), cracking pearly mussel (<i>Hemistena lata</i>), Cumberland bean (pearly mussel) (<i>Villosa trabalis</i>), Cumberland elktoe (<i>Alasmidonta atropurpurea</i>), Cumberland monkeyface (pearly mussel) (<i>Quadrula intermedia</i>), Cumberland pigtoe (<i>Pleurobema gibberum</i>), Cumberlandian combshell (<i>Epioblasma brevidens</i>), dark pigtoe (<i>Pleurobema turvum</i>), dromedary pearly mussel (<i>Dromus dromas</i>), dwarf wedgemussel (<i>Alasmidonta heterodon</i>), fanshell (<i>Cyprogenia stegaria</i>), fat pocketbook (<i>Potamilus capax</i>), fat threeridge (mussel) (<i>Amblema neisleri</i>), finlined pocketbook (<i>Lampsilis alilis</i>), finrayed pigtoe (<i>Fusconaia cuneolus</i>), flat pigtoe (<i>Pleurobema marshali</i>), fuzzy pigtoe (<i>Pleurobema strodeanum</i>), green blossom (pearly mussel) (<i>Epioblasma torulosa gubernaculum</i>), Gulf moccasinshell (<i>Medionidus penicillatus</i>), heavy pigtoe (<i>Pleurobema italicum</i>), inflated heelsplitter (<i>Potamilus inflatus</i>), interrupted (=Georgia) rocksnail (<i>Leptoxis foremani</i>), James spiny mussel (<i>Pleurobema collina</i>), littlewing pearly mussel (<i>Pegias fabula</i>), narrow pigtoe (<i>Fusconaia escambia</i>), Ochlockonee moccasinshell (<i>Medionidus simpsonianus</i>), orangefoot pimpleback (pearly mussel) (<i>Pleurobasus cooperianus</i>), oval pigtoe (<i>Pleurobema pyriforme</i>), ovate clubshell (<i>Pleurobema perovatum</i>), oyster mussel (<i>Epioblasma capsaeformis</i>), pale liliput (pearly mussel) (<i>Toxolasma cylindrellus</i>), pink mucket (pearly mussel) (<i>Lampsilis abrupta</i>), purple banklimber (mussel) (<i>Elliptioideus sloatianus</i>), purple bean (<i>Villosa perpurpurea</i>), purple cat's paw (=purple cat's paw pearly mussel) (<i>Epioblasma obliquata obliquata</i>), ring pink (mussel) (<i>Obovaria retusa</i>), rough pigtoe (<i>Pleurobema plenum</i>), rough rabbitfoot (<i>Quadrula cylindrica strigillata</i>), round ebonyshell (<i>Fusconaia rotulata</i>), scaleshell mussel (<i>Leptodea leptodon</i>), sheepnose mussel (<i>Pleurobasus cyphus</i>), shiny pigtoe (<i>Fusconaia cor</i>), shinyrayed pocketbook (<i>Lampsilis subangulata</i>), slabside pearly mussel (<i>Pleurobema dolabelloides</i>), southern acornshell (<i>Epioblasma othelloensis</i>), southern clubshell (<i>Pleurobema decisum</i>), southern combshell (<i>Epioblasma perilla</i>), southern kidneyshell (<i>Ptychobranthus jonesi</i>), southern pigtoe (<i>Pleurobema georgianum</i>), southern sandshell (<i>Hamiota australis</i>), stirrupshell (<i>Quadrula stapes</i>), tan ruffleshell (<i>Epioblasma florentina walkeri</i> (=E. walkeri)), tapered pigtoe (<i>Fusconaia burkei</i>), Tar River spiny mussel (<i>Elliptio steinmansana</i>), triangular kidneyshell (<i>Ptychobranthus greenii</i>), tubercled blossom (pearly mussel) (<i>Epioblasma torulosa torulosa</i>), turrid blossom (pearly mussel) (<i>Epioblasma turgidula</i>), upland combshell (<i>Epioblasma metastriata</i>), white wartyback (pearly mussel) (<i>Pleurobasus cicatricosus</i>), winged mapleleaf (<i>Quadrula fragosa</i>), and yellow blossom (pearly mussel) (<i>Epioblasma florentina florentina</i>); Snails: Anthony's riversnail (<i>Atheamnia anthonyi</i>), armored snail (<i>Pyrgulopsis</i> (=Marstonia) pachyta), cylindrical lioplax (snail) (<i>Lioplax cyclostomatiformis</i>), flat pebblesnail (<i>Lepyrrium showalteri</i>), Lacy elimia (snail) (<i>Elimia crenatella</i>), painted rocksnail (<i>Leptoxis taeniata</i>), plicate rocksnail (<i>Leptoxis plicata</i>), rough hornsnail (<i>Pleurocera foremani</i>), round rocksnail (<i>Leptoxis ampla</i>), slender campeloma (<i>Campeloma decampfi</i>), and tulotoma snail (<i>Tulotoma magnifica</i>). Gray bat (<i>Myotis grisescens</i>), Indiana bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>), and northern long-eared bat (<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>).	Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia.	Presence/probable absence surveys.	Capture, identify, tag, collect buccal swabs, release, and salvage shells.	Renewal.
TE 50300D-1	Edward Wilson, Lexington, KY.	Red-cockaded woodpecker (<i>Picoides borealis</i>)	Kentucky, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.	Presence/probable absence surveys.	Capture via mist nets and harp traps, handle, identify, and release.	Amendment.
TE 087191-6	Sandhills Ecological Institute, Southern Pines, NC.	Red-cockaded woodpecker (<i>Picoides borealis</i>)	North Carolina and South Carolina.	Population management and monitoring and research on Avian Keratin Disorder.	Capture, recapture, band, construct artificial nest cavities and restrictors, monitor nest cavities, translocate, collect buccal and cloacal swabs, and capture and recapture birds that exhibit Avian Keratin Disorder to monitor their fate in the population.	Renewal/Amendment.

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. 2022-08689 Filed 4-22-22; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4333-15-P

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

[Docket No. FWS-R8-ES-2022-0034;
FXES11140800000-223-FF08ECAR00]

**Endangered and Threatened Species;
Incidental Take Permit Application for
the Desert Tortoise; Draft Habitat
Conservation Plan and Draft
Environmental Assessment; Bellefield
Solar Energy Project, Kern County, CA**

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service,
Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability; request
for public comments.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), have received an application from 8minute Solar Energy for an incidental take permit under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. The permit would authorize take of the federally threatened desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*) incidental to otherwise lawful activities associated with construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of the Bellefield Solar Energy Project. We invite comments on the draft habitat conservation plan and the draft environmental assessment, which we have prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. We will take comments into consideration before deciding whether to issue an incidental take permit.

DATES: To ensure consideration, please submit your written comments by May 25, 2022.

ADDRESSES:

Obtaining Documents: The application, 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-R8-ES-2022-0034.

Submitting Comments: If you wish to submit comments on any of the documents, you may do so in writing by any of the following methods:

- *Internet:* <https://www.regulations.gov>. Search for and

submit comments on Docket No. FWS-R8-ES-2022-0034.

- *U.S. mail:* Public Comments Processing, Attn: Docket No. FWS-R8-ES-2022-0034; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Headquarters, MS: PRB/3W; 5275 Leesburg Pike; Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.

We request that you send written comments by only one of the methods described above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ray Bransfield, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, by mail at the Palm Springs Fish and Wildlife Office, 777 East Tahquitz Canyon Way, Suite 208, Palm Springs, CA 92262; by phone at 805-677-3398; or via email at ray_bransfield@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: We have received an application from 8minute Solar Energy (applicant) for an incidental take permit under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). The application addresses the potential take of the federally threatened desert tortoise, incidental to otherwise lawful activities at the Bellefield Solar Energy Project (project), as described in the applicant's draft habitat conservation plan. The proposed project would be located east of the town of Mojave in Kern County, California.

Background

Section 9 of the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1538) and Federal regulations promulgated pursuant to section 4(d) of the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1533) prohibit the take of endangered and threatened animals without special exemption. Under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1539), we may issue permits to authorize take of listed fish and wildlife species that is incidental to, and not the purpose of, carrying out an otherwise lawful activity. Regulations governing permits for endangered and threatened species are set forth in title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at part 17, sections 17.22 and 17.32.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) requires Federal agencies to analyze their proposed actions to determine whether the actions may significantly affect the human environment. In the NEPA analysis, the Federal agency will

identify the effects, as well as possible mitigation for effects on environmental resources, that could occur with the implementation of the proposed action and alternatives. The Federal action in this case is the Service's proposed issuance of an incidental take permit for the federally threatened desert tortoise.

Permit Application

The applicant has submitted a draft habitat conservation plan that describes the activities covered by the permit, such as the construction of the solar field and generator tie-in line. To minimize the risk of incidental take, the applicant would employ qualified biologists to translocate desert tortoises to a safe location off site. The conservation plan also includes adaptive management to allow for maintaining the protection of desert tortoises if necessary. To mitigate the impact of the incidental take, the applicant proposes to fund the enhancement of desert tortoise habitat within a retired grazing allotment on lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

The draft conservation plan and the draft environmental assessment consider alternatives to the proposed action, including a no action alternative.

The Service prepared a draft environmental assessment to evaluate the impacts of issuing the proposed incidental take permit on the human environment, consistent with the purpose and goals of NEPA and pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's implementing NEPA regulations at 40 CFR parts 1500-1508. Additionally, the draft environmental assessment was prepared consistent with the Department of the Interior NEPA regulations (43 CFR part 46); longstanding Federal judicial and regulatory interpretations; and Administration priorities and policies, including Secretary's Order No. 3399, which requires bureaus and offices to use "the same application or level of NEPA that would have been applied to a proposed action before the 2020 Rule went into effect."

Public Comments

If you wish to comment on the draft conservation plan and draft environmental assessment, you may submit comments by one of the methods in **ADDRESSES**.

Public Availability of Comments

You may submit comments by one of the methods shown under **ADDRESSES**. All comments and materials we receive in response to this request will become part of the decision record associated