

LETTERS OF AUTHORIZATION ISSUED FOR OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES IN THE BEAUFORT SEA, ALASKA, IN 2022

Company	Project	LOA No.
ASRC Consulting and Environmental Services.	Well drilling for a methane hydrate project on the Kuparuk State 7–11–12 gravel pad within the Prudhoe Bay Unit on the North Slope of Alaska.	22–01.
Conoco Phillips Alaska Inc	Incidental take of polar bears that may occur during ConocoPhillips Alaska Inc.'s 3D seismic acquisition at and surrounding the Alpine CD1 Pad.	22–02.
Eni U.S. Operating Company Inc	Oil and gas drilling and production within the Nikaitchuq and Oooguruk Units on Alaska's North Slope.	22–03.
Oil Search Alaska, LLC	Oil and gas exploration and development within and adjacent to the Pikka Unit area and oil and gas exploration on Oil Search Alaska operated leaseholds on Alaska's North Slope.	22–04.
Alyeska Pipeline Service Company	Operation and maintenance of the Trans Alaska Pipeline System, which extends from Pump Station 1 in the Prudhoe Bay Oilfield to the Valdez Marine Terminal.	22–05.
ASRC Consulting and Environmental Services.	Well drilling and production test facility construction and operation for a methane hydrate project on the Kuparuk State 7–11–12 gravel pad within the Prudhoe Bay Unit on the North Slope of Alaska.	22–06.
Glacier Oil and Gas	Incidental harassment of polar bears and Pacific walrus that may occur during Glacier Oil and Gas Corporation's oil production, facilities and pipeline maintenance, workovers of existing wells, and construction and maintenance of ice roads associated with the Badami oilfield near Mikkelsen Bay in the North Slope.	22–07.
Hilcorp Alaska, LLC	Year-round oil and gas exploration, production, development, and support activities in the Milne Point, Duck Island (Endicott), Northstar Island, Prudhoe Bay, and Point Thomson operation areas located in the Beaufort Sea Incidental Take Regulations area of the North Slope of Alaska.	22–08.
Conoco Phillips Alaska Inc	Incidental take of polar bears and Pacific walrus that may occur during ConocoPhillips Alaska Inc.'s field-wide operations in the Kuparuk River, Western North Slope, Colville River, Greater Moose's Tooth, and Bear Tooth Units on the North Slope of Alaska.	22–09.
Conoco Phillips Alaska, Inc	The incidental take of polar bears that may occur during ConocoPhillips Alaska Inc.'s year 1 construction activities and geotechnical investigations for the Willow Development Project located in the Bear Tooth, Greater Mooses Tooth, Colville River, Pikka, Southern Miluveach, and Kuparuk River Units of the North Slope of Alaska, as well as non-unitized lands east of the Colville River.	22–10.
Hilcorp Alaska, LLC	An amendment dated March 9, 2022, to the letter of authorization (LOA) for the alteration of a previously covered tundra travel route extending from Deadhorse to Point Thomson and the addition of a secondary tundra travel route extending from the western portion of the Point Thomson Unit coastal route to the Bullen Point Staging Pad. The requested LOA is for the incidental take of polar bears and Pacific walrus that may occur during operational and tundra travel activities in support of the Point Thomson Production Facility on the North Slope of Alaska.	21–01 [Amended in 2022 from 2021].
Oil Search Alaska, LLC	An amendment dated January 26, 2022, to the LOA 21–03 [corrected] issued on October 15, 2021, for the incidental take of small numbers of polar bears. The amended LOA is for the incidental take of small numbers of polar bears that may occur during Oil Search (Alaska) (OSA), LLC's activities associated with oil and gas exploration and development within and adjacent to the Pikka Unit area and oil and gas exploration on OSA-operated leaseholds on Alaska's North Slope. Planned activities occurred from January 28, 2022, to August 6, 2022.	21–03 [Amended in 2022 from 2021].
Hilcorp Alaska, LLC	An amendment dated January 3, 2022, to the LOA issued on August 5, 2021, for the incidental take of polar bears and Pacific walrus. The Service considered additional information provided by Hilcorp Alaska, LLC, in the Milne Point, Duck Island (Endicott), Northstar Island, and Prudhoe Bay operation areas located in the Beaufort Sea Incidental Take Regulations Area of the North Slope of Alaska. Planned activities occurred from January 3, 2022, to August 5, 2022.	21–05 [Amended in 2022 from 2021].

Authority: We issue this notice under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*).

Peter Fasbender,
Assistant Regional Director, Fisheries and Ecological Services, Alaska Region.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS–R4–ES–2023–N058;
 FXES11140400000–234–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. 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 9, 2023.

ADDRESSES:

Reviewing Documents: Submit requests for copies of applications and other information submitted with the applications to Karen Marlowe (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**). All requests and comments should specify the applicant name and application number (e.g., Mary Smith, ESPER0001234).

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

- *Email (preferred method):* 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**.

- *U.S. mail:* U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Office, Ecological Services, 1875 Century Boulevard, Atlanta, GA 30345 (Attn: Karen Marlowe, Permit Coordinator).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karen Marlowe, Permit Coordinator, 404-679-7097 (telephone) or karen_marlowe@fws.gov (email). 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, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 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. Documents and other information submitted with the applications are available for review, subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended (5 U.S.C. 552a), and the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552).

Background

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

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. Proposed activities in the following permit requests are for the recovery and enhancement of propagation or survival of the species in the wild.

Permit application No.	Applicant	Species	Location	Activity	Type of take	Permit action
ES35594A-5	Alabama Power Company; Birmingham, AL.	Canoe Creek clubshell (<i>Pleurobema atearni</i>), Coosa moccasinshell (<i>Medionidus parvulus</i>), ovate clubshell (<i>Pleurobema perovatum</i>), southern acornshell (<i>Epioblasma othcaloogensis</i>), triangular kidneyshell (<i>Ptychobranthus greenii</i>), and upland combshell (<i>Epioblasma metastrata</i>).	Alabama	Presence/probable absence surveys and population monitoring.	Capture, handle, identify, tag, release, and collect relic shells.	Renewal and amendment.
ES237549-3	Cory Holliday; Gainesboro, TN.	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, studies to document habitat use, population monitoring, and white-nose syndrome surveillance.	Enter hibernacula or maternity roosts, capture with mist nets or harp traps, handle, identify, band, radio tag, light tag, swab, collect hair samples, wing punch, and release.	Renewal.
ES80381A-3	Department of Defense (Army); Fort Campbell, KY.	Gray bat (<i>Myotis grisescens</i>), Indiana bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>), northern long-eared bat (<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>), and tricolored bat (<i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>).	Kentucky and Tennessee	Presence/probable absence surveys, studies to document habitat use, and population monitoring.	Enter hibernacula or maternity roosts, capture with mist nets, handle, identify, band, radio tag, and release.	Renewal and amendment.
PER2789344-0	Glenn M. Rohrbach; Nashville, TN.	Nashville crayfish (<i>Orconectes shoupi</i>).	Tennessee	Presence/probable absence surveys.	Capture, handle, identify, and release.	New.

Permit application No.	Applicant	Species	Location	Activity	Type of take	Permit action
ES14105A-3	Breedlove, Dennis, and Associates, Inc.; Winter Park, FL.	Red-cockaded woodpecker (<i>Picoides borealis</i>).	Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, and South Carolina.	Population monitoring and management.	Capture, handle, band, and monitor nest and artificial nest cavities.	Renewal.
ES37490B-2	Melissa Littrell; Lexington, 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 townsendii virginianus</i>).	Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.	Presence/probable absence surveys and white-nose syndrome surveillance.	Capture with mist nets or harp traps, handle, identify, band, radio tag, swab, collect hair samples, wing punch, and release.	Renewal.
ES088889-4	The Nature Conservancy; Kissimmee, FL.	Florida scrub-jay (<i>Aphelocoma coerulescens</i>) and red-cockaded woodpecker (<i>Picoides borealis</i>).	Florida	Population monitoring and management.	Florida scrub-jay: bait with unsalted peanuts, trap, handle, band, and release; red-cockaded woodpecker: capture, handle, band, construct and monitor artificial nest cavities and restrictors, release, and translocate.	Renewal.
ES27608B-2	McGehee Engineering Corporation; Jasper, AL.	Gray bat (<i>Myotis grisescens</i>), Indiana bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>), and northern long-eared bat (<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>).	Alabama	Presence/probable absence surveys and population monitoring.	Enter hibernacula or maternity roost caves, capture with mist nets or harp traps, handle, identify, band, radio tag, and release.	Renewal.
ES48579B-5	Ecological Solutions, Inc.; Roswell, GA.	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, 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 white-nose syndrome surveillance.	Enter hibernacula or maternity roost caves, capture with mist nets or harp traps, handle, identify, collect hair samples, band, radio tag, light tag, swab, wing punch, and release.	Renewal.
ES54578B-3	Mary Frazer; Raleigh, NC.	Gray bat (<i>Myotis grisescens</i>), Indiana bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>), northern long-eared bat (<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>), tricolored bat (<i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>), and Virginia big-eared bat (<i>Corynorhinus townsendii virginianus</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, studies to document habitat use, population monitoring, and white-nose syndrome surveillance.	Enter hibernacula or maternity roost caves, capture with mist nets or harp traps, handle, identify, collect hair samples, band, radio tag, light tag, wing punch, and release.	Renewal and amendment.

Permit application No.	Applicant	Species	Location	Activity	Type of take	Permit action
ES119937-5	Susan Loeb; Clemson, SC.	Gray bat (<i>Myotis grisescens</i>), Indiana bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>), northern long-eared bat (<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>), and tricolored bat (<i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>).	Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.	Presence/probable absence surveys, studies to document habitat use, population monitoring, and white-nose syndrome surveillance.	Enter hibernacula or maternity roost caves, capture with mist nets or harp traps, handle, identify, band, radio tag, collect hair samples, light tag, wing punch, and release.	Renewal and amendment.
ES37663B-2	Rebecca Ijames; Central City, KY.	Gray bat (<i>Myotis grisescens</i>), Indiana bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>), and northern long-eared bat (<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>).	Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri, Ohio, and Tennessee.	Presence/probable absence surveys, studies to document habitat use, and population monitoring.	Capture with mist nets, handle, identify, band, radio-tag, and release.	Renewal.
PER3128179-0	Justin Hoffman, McNeese State University; Lake Charles, LA.	Northern long-eared bat (<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>) and tricolored bat (<i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>).	Kisatchie National Forest, Louisiana.	Presence/probable absence surveys.	Capture with mist nets and hand-held mesh nets, handle, identify, and release.	New.
ES64393C-2 ...	Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.; 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 townsendii virginianus</i>).	Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, 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.	Capture with mist nets, handle, identify, band, radio tag, and release.	Renewal.
ES88778B-3	John Lamb; Decherd, TN.	Tricolored bat (<i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>).	Tennessee	Presence/probable absence surveys, studies to document habitat use, population monitoring, and white-nose syndrome surveillance.	Enter hibernacula or maternity roost caves, capture with mist nets or harp traps, handle, identify, band, collect hair samples, radio tag, and release.	Amendment.
ES81353B-2	Stephanie Penk; Sylva, NC.	Gray bat (<i>Myotis grisescens</i>), Indiana bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>), northern long-eared bat (<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>), and tricolored bat (<i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>).	Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.	Presence/probable absence surveys, habitat use and assessment research, population dynamics evaluations, and migration research.	Capture with mist nets and harp traps, handle, identify, band, radio tag, and release.	Amendment.

Permit application No.	Applicant	Species	Location	Activity	Type of take	Permit action
PER3315996-0	Dominique DiLandro; Holly Springs, NC.	Gray bat (<i>Myotis grisescens</i>), northern long-eared bat (<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>), and tricolored bat (<i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>).	Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.	Presence/probable absence surveys, habitat use and roost selection research, and population dynamics studies.	Enter roosts (bridges, culverts, and abandoned buildings), capture via mist nets and harp traps, handle, identify, band, radio tag, collect swabs and hair samples, and release.	New.
ES94704A-4	Dorothy Brown; Arden, NC.	Mammals: Carolina northern flying squirrel (<i>Glaucomys sabrinus coloratus</i>), gray bat (<i>Myotis grisescens</i>), Indiana bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>), northern long-eared bat (<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>), tricolored bat (<i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>), and Virginia big-eared bat (<i>Corynorhinus townsendii virginianus</i>); Reptile: Bog turtle (<i>Clemmys muhlenbergii</i>).	Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.	Presence/probable absence surveys, white-nose syndrome research, studies to document habitat use, population monitoring, and genetic sampling.	Carolina northern flying squirrel: capture, handle, ear-tag, pit-tag, radio-tag, collect fur and tissue samples, and conduct den surveys; Bats: enter hibernacula or maternity roost caves, capture with mist nets or harp traps, handle, identify, collect hair samples, band, pit-tag, radio-tag, light-tag, wing-punch, swab for white-nose syndrome testing, and release; Bog turtle: capture, mark, pit-tag, and radio-tag.	Renewal and amendment.

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 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. 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.*).

John Tirpak,

Deputy Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, Southeast Region.

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BILLING CODE 4333-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Geological Survey

[GX23MR00G6ZW800 OMB Control Number 1028-NEW]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Turtle Distribution Database

AGENCY: U.S. Geological Survey, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of information collection; request for comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, we, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) are proposing a new information collection.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before August 9, 2023.