

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.