

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

[Docket No. FWS-HQ-IA-2024-0019;
FXIA16710900000-245-FF09A30000]

Foreign Endangered Species; Receipt of 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, invite the public to comment on applications to conduct certain activities with foreign species that are listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). With some exceptions, the ESA prohibits activities with listed species unless Federal authorization is issued that allows such activities. The ESA also requires that we invite public comment before issuing permits for any activity otherwise prohibited by the ESA with respect to any endangered species.

DATES: We must receive comments by March 11, 2024.

ADDRESSES:

Obtaining Documents: The applications, 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-HQ-IA-2024-0019.

Submitting Comments: When submitting comments, please specify the name of the applicant and the permit number at the beginning of your comment. You may submit comments by one of the following methods:

- *Internet:* <https://www.regulations.gov>. Search for and submit comments on Docket No. FWS-HQ-IA-2024-0019.

- *U.S. mail:* Public Comments Processing, Attn: Docket No. FWS-HQ-IA-2024-0019; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Headquarters, MS: PRB/3W; 5275 Leesburg Pike; Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.

For more information, see Public Comment Procedures under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Brenda Tapia, by phone at 703-358-2185 or via email at DMAFR@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:**I. Public Comment Procedures***A. How do I comment on submitted applications?*

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.

You may submit your comments and materials by one of the methods in **ADDRESSES.** We will not consider comments sent by email or to an address not in **ADDRESSES.** We will not consider or include in our administrative record comments we receive after the close of the comment period (see **DATES**).

When submitting comments, please specify the name of the applicant and the permit number at the beginning of your comment. Provide sufficient information to allow us to authenticate any scientific or commercial data you include. The comments and recommendations that will be most useful and likely to influence agency decisions are: (1) Those supported by quantitative information or studies; and (2) those that include citations to, and analyses of, the applicable laws and regulations.

B. May I review comments submitted by others?

You may view and comment on others' public comments at <https://www.regulations.gov> unless our allowing so would violate the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a) or Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552).

C. Who will see my comments?

If you submit a comment at <https://www.regulations.gov>, your entire comment, including any personal identifying information, will be posted on the website. If you submit a hardcopy comment that includes personal identifying information, such as your address, phone number, or email address, you may request at the top of your document that we withhold this information from public review. However, 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.

II. Background

To help us carry out our conservation responsibilities for affected species, and in consideration of section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), we invite public comments on permit applications before final action is taken. With some exceptions, the ESA prohibits certain activities with listed species unless Federal authorization is issued that allows such activities. Permits issued under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA allow otherwise prohibited activities for scientific purposes or to enhance the propagation or survival of the affected species. Service regulations regarding prohibited activities with endangered species, captive-bred wildlife registrations, and permits for any activity otherwise prohibited by the ESA with respect to any endangered species are available in title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations in part 17.

III. Permit Applications

We invite comments on the following applications.

Applicant: Milwaukee County Zoo, Milwaukee, WI; Permit No. PER1012710

The applicant requests a permit to import one wild jaguar (*Panthera onca*) from Belize Zoo, Belize, for the purpose of enhancing the propagation or survival of the species. This notification is for a single import.

Applicant: University of New Orleans, New Orleans, LA; Permit No. PER5817086

The applicant requests a permit to import hair and blood samples collected from wild lowland tapir (*Tapirus terrestris*) for the purpose of scientific research. This notification is for a single import.

Applicant: Memphis Zoo, Memphis, TN; Permit No. PER3939197

The applicant requests a permit to import two captive-bred Sumatran tigers (*Panthera tigris sumatrae*) from Taronga Conservation Society Australia in Mosman, Australia, for the purpose of enhancing the propagation or survival of the species. This notification is for a single import.

Applicant: Audubon Nature Institute, New Orleans, LA; Permit No. PER0054404

The applicant requests a captive-bred wildlife registration under 50 CFR 17.21(g) for the following species, to enhance the propagation or survival of the species. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

Common name	Scientific name
Panamanian golden frog	<i>Atelopus varius zeteki</i> .
Fiji banded iguana	<i>Brachylophus fasciatus</i> .
False gharial (Tomistoma)	<i>Tomistoma schlegelii</i> .
Komodo dragon	<i>Varanus komodoensis</i> .
Amur leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i> .
African wild dog	<i>Lycaon pictus</i> .
Sumatran orangutan	<i>Pongo abelii</i> .
Asian elephant	<i>Elephas maximus</i> .
North Sulawesi babirusa	<i>Babyrousa celebensis</i> .
Swamp deer (barasingha)	<i>Cervus duvauceli</i> .
Bali myna (Rothschild's [myna] starling)	<i>Leucopsar rothschildi</i> .
Blue-throated macaw	<i>Ara glaucogularis</i> .
Mandrill	<i>Mandrillus (=Papio) sphinx</i> .

Applicant: Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA; Permit No. PER6612201

The applicant requests the renewal of their permit to export and re-import non-living museum/herbarium specimens of endangered and threatened species (excluding animals) previously legally accessioned into the permittee's collection for scientific research. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

IV. Next Steps

After the comment period closes, we will make decisions regarding permit issuance. If we issue permits to any of the applicants listed in this notice, we will publish a notice in the **Federal Register**. You may locate the notice announcing the permit issuance by searching <https://www.regulations.gov> for the permit number listed above in this document. For example, to find information about the potential issuance of Permit No. 12345A, you would go to [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) and search for "12345A".

V. Authority

We issue this notice under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and its implementing regulations.

Brenda Tapia,

Supervisory Program Analyst/Data Administrator, Branch of Permits, Division of Management Authority.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[Docket No. FWS-R6-ES-2014-0048; [FXES11140600000-245-FF06E22000]

R-Project Transmission Line, Nebraska; Revised Proposed Habitat Conservation Plan for the American Burying Beetle and Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce the availability of documents related to an application for an incidental take permit (ITP) under the Endangered Species Act. The Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) is applying for a permit associated with incidental take of the American burying beetle (*Nicrophorus americanus*; ABB) during construction, operation, and maintenance of a new transmission line in central Nebraska (known as the R-Project). NPPD has submitted a new application for a 50-year ITP, including a revised proposed habitat conservation plan (revised HCP) and associated documents. We previously issued an ITP for the R-Project and the applicant's earlier HCP to NPPD in 2019. However, that ITP was remanded by a Court. In response to the Court remand, NPPD has prepared the revised HCP as part of the new ITP application. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, we now announce the availability of the draft supplemental EIS (draft SEIS) associated with the revised HCP. We invite comment from the public and local, State, Tribal, and Federal agencies.

DATES: *Submitting Comments:* We must receive your written comments on or before April 9, 2024. Comments submitted online at <https://www.regulations.gov/> must be received

by 11:59 p.m. eastern time on April 9, 2024.

Public Meetings: During the public comment period, the Service will hold two in-person public meetings in Nebraska, weather permitting, and one virtual public meeting.

- *In-person meetings:*
 - Tuesday, February 27, 2024, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. CST; North Platte, Nebraska, The Prairie Arts Center.
 - Thursday, February 29, 2024, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. CST; Broken Bow, Nebraska, Mid Plains Community College.

- *Virtual meeting:* Thursday, March 7, 2024, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. CST.

Additional information on the public meetings will be posted at least one week prior on our website, at <https://fws.gov/office/nebraska-ecological-services>. Following the virtual public meeting, an on demand recording of the virtual public meeting will be available for viewing by the public online, at <https://fws.gov/office/nebraska-ecological-services>, and at the following locations:

- North Platte Public Library, 120 W 4th St., North Platte, NE 69101.
- Thomas County Library, 501 Main St., Thedford, NE 69166.
- Taylor Public Library, 106 William St., Taylor, NE 68879.

ADDRESSES: *Obtaining Documents:* The draft SEIS and revised HCP, as well as any comments and other materials that we receive, will be available for public inspection online in Docket No. FWS-R6-ES-2014-0048 at <https://www.regulations.gov>. Copies of the documents will be available for viewing at the three libraries with the recording of the virtual public meeting (see **DATES**).

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

- *Online:* <https://www.regulations.gov/>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments to Docket No. FWS-R6-ES-2014-0048.