

variation by using the relationship estimated in the linear regression and applies this adjustment factor to the earnings performance measure for each PHA, resulting in an adjusted Earnings Performance Measure that is used to determine the PHA's score for the earnings component of the FAM Score. Going forward, to improve year-to-year stability of scores, HUD will implement this adjustment to ensure the average of the adjusted earnings measure is the same as the average of the unadjusted measure.

D. HUD adjusted and clarified how joint FSS grantees are counted across years. For each of the three years included in the measures, calculations are made at the joint applicant level so that each PHA in a joint funding group has the same measure for the year. Because the component calculations are made during each of the three years, joint funding recipients are only included in a group for the time period associated with the measure in the year(s) when they are part of the joint funding group. As a result, PHAs in joint FSS programs without stable agency membership will have members with different measures and scores when averaging across all three years of calculation to produce composite measures, scores, and components.

E. Using the revised year-year average score methodology for the baseline year ending December 31, 2019 (reflecting the average of scores for 2019, 2018, and 2017), HUD has recalibrated the thresholds for converting the Earnings and Graduation measures into scores and specified the updated thresholds below. Going forward, these thresholds will be fixed to allow HUD and PHAs to gauge the extent to which individual PHAs and the entire FSS program as a whole are making progress toward higher performance levels. The only exceptions are the thresholds for determining Earnings Performance Scores, which shall be adjusted annually. This annual adjustment will account for changes in the average earnings using a custom inflation index based on the weighted hourly series for the first (lowest) quartile of wage earners within the wage growth data from the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. This will help ensure that the thresholds for determining Earnings Performance Scores keep pace with wage inflation over time.

III. Revised Thresholds

The following are the updated thresholds HUD will use to compute a FAM Score for each PHA.

1. Step One: Assigning Scores to Each of the Three Measures

In Step One, HUD will assign a score of 0 to 10 to each PHA's FSS program for each of the three measures. Scores will be assigned using the thresholds and procedures described below. The ranges for awarding points between two values include those values as well as all intermediary values.

a. Earnings Performance Measure (50% of final score):

- **10 points:** three-year average Earnings Performance Measure of \$6,315 or higher.
- **7.5 points:** three-year average Earnings Performance Measure between \$4,795 and \$6,314.99.
- **0 points:** three-year average Earnings Performance Measure below \$2,283 and a p-value of <.10 on a statistical test measuring the likelihood that a PHA's three-year average Earnings Performance Measure is significantly lower than the median measure of \$4,247 (see December 12, 2017 **Federal Register** Notice at page 82 FR 58437 for an explanation of this statistical test).

- **5 points:** All PHAs that do not qualify for a 10, 7.5, or a 0.
- These thresholds will apply to Earnings Performance Measures for the 2019 audit year, which reflect an average of Earnings Performance Measures for the 2017, 2018 and 2019 calendar years. As described above, to keep pace with inflation, HUD will adjust the thresholds used to compute Earnings Performance Scores annually to reflect changes in the weighted hourly series for the first (lowest) quartile of wage earners in the wage growth data from the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta.

b. FSS Graduation Rate (30% of final score):

- **10 points:** three-year average FSS Graduation Rate of 42% or higher.
- **7.5 points:** three-year average FSS Graduation Rate between 32% and 41.99%.
- **0 points:** FSS Graduation Rate below 15%.
- **5 points:** All PHAs that do not qualify for a 10, 7.5, or a 0.

c. Participation Rate (20% of final score):

- **10 points:** participation rate of 2.20 or higher.
- **9 points:** participation rate between 1.95 and 2.19.
- **8 points:** participation rate between 1.70 and 1.94.
- **7 points:** participation rate between 1.45 and 1.69.
- **6 points:** participation rate between 1.2 and 1.44.
- **5 points:** participation rate between .95 and 1.19.

- **0 points:** participation rate of lower than .95.

2. Step Two: Developing the Final FAM Score and Ranking

In Step Two, after computing individual scores for each of the three measures, HUD will aggregate each PHA's scores using the weights noted above to develop a final FAM Score from 0 to 10. Based on this score, HUD will assign the following ranking to the PHA's FAM Score:

- **Category 1:** FAM Score of 7.9 or higher.
- **Category 2:** FAM Score between 4.0 and 7.89.
- **Category 3:** FAM Score between 3.5 and 3.99.
- **Category 4:** FAM Score of less than 3.5.

IV. Environmental Impact

This notice does not direct, provide for assistance or loan and mortgage insurance for, or otherwise govern or regulate, real property acquisition, disposition, leasing, rehabilitation, alteration, demolition, or new construction, or establish, revise or provide for standards for construction or construction materials, manufactured housing, or occupancy. Accordingly, under 24 CFR 50.19(c)(1), this notice is categorically excluded from environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321).

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing, Richard J. Monocchio, having reviewed and approved this document, is delegating the authority to electronically sign this document to submitter, Aaron Santa Anna, who is the Federal Register Liaison for HUD, for purposes of publication in the **Federal Register**.

Aaron Santa Anna,

Federal Register Liaison for the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

[FR Doc. 2023-25231 Filed 11-14-23; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[Docket No. FWS-HQ-IA-2023-0223; FXIA1671090000-234-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 December 15, 2023.

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-2023-0223.

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-2023-0223.

- *U.S. Mail:* Public Comments Processing, Attn: Docket No. FWS-HQ-IA-2023-0223; 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: Miami-Dade Zoological Park and Gardens, Miami, FL; Permit No. PER5156259

The applicant requests a permit to import from Canada one greater one-horned rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*), for the purpose of enhancing the propagation or survival of the species. This notification is for a single import.

Applicant: Midwestern University, Glendale, AZ; Permit No. PER5156944

The applicant requests authorization to import scientific samples collected from wild salvaged mantled howler monkey (*Alouatta palliata*), black-handed spider monkey (*Ateles geoffroyi*), red-backed squirrel monkey (*Saimiri oerstedii*), and ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis*), all of which are found in Costa Rica, for the purpose of scientific research. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

Applicant: Tulane University, New Orleans, LA; Permit No. PER5230668

The applicant requests a permit to import biological samples collected from wild live or salvaged South American tapir (*Tapirus terrestris*) from Brazil for the purpose of enhancing the survival of the species through scientific research. This notification is for a single import.

Applicant: Ryder Scientific, R.L.L.L.P., dba Ryder Scientific, Putnam Valley, NY; Permit No. PER5322138

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
Nile crocodile	<i>Crocodylus niloticus</i> .
Cuban crocodile	<i>Crocodylus rhombifer</i> .
Siamese crocodile	<i>Crocodylus siamensis</i> .
West African dwarf crocodile	<i>Osteolaemus tetraspis</i> .
Saltwater crocodile	<i>Crocodylus porosus</i> .
Galapagos tortoise	<i>Chelonoidis niger</i> .
Military macaw	<i>Ara militaris</i> .

Multiple Trophy Applicants

The following applicants request permits to import sport-hunted trophies of male bontebok (*Damaliscus pygargus pygargus*) culled from a captive herd maintained under the management program of the Republic of South Africa, for the purpose of enhancing the propagation or survival of the species.

- Jeffrey Becker, Forsyth, IL; Permit No. PER5225366
- John Bethany, Arlington Heights, IL; Permit No. PER5225407

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

[FWS-R1-ES-2023-N081;
FXES1113010000-234-FF01E00000]

Endangered 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 and 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 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 December 15, 2023.

ADDRESSES:

Document availability and comment submission: Submit a request for a copy of the application and related documents and submit any comments by one of the following methods. All requests and comments should specify the applicant name and application number (e.g., Dana Ross, ES001705):

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karen Colson, Regional Recovery Permit Coordinator, Ecological Services, (503) 231-6283 (telephone); permitsR1ES@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 the public to comment on applications for permits under section 10(a)(1)(A) of

the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). The requested permits would allow the applicants to conduct activities intended to promote recovery of species that are listed as endangered under the ESA.

Background

With some exceptions, the ESA prohibits activities that constitute take of listed species unless a Federal permit is issued that allows such activity. The ESA's definition of "take" includes such activities as pursuing, harassing, trapping, capturing, or collecting, in addition to hunting, shooting, harming, wounding, or killing.

A recovery permit issued by us under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA authorizes the permittee to conduct activities with endangered or threatened species for scientific purposes that promote recovery or for enhancement of propagation or survival of the species. These activities often include such prohibited actions as capture and collection. Our regulations implementing section 10(a)(1)(A) for these permits are found in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 50 CFR 17.22 for endangered wildlife species, 50 CFR 17.32 for threatened wildlife species, 50 CFR 17.62 for endangered plant species, and 50 CFR 17.72 for threatened plant species.

Permit Applications Available for Review and Comment

Proposed activities in the following permit requests are for the recovery and enhancement of propagation or survival of the species in the wild. The ESA requires that we invite public comment before issuing these permits.

Accordingly, we invite local, State, Tribal, and Federal agencies and the public to submit written data, views, or arguments with respect to these applications. The comments and recommendations that will be most useful and likely to influence agency decisions are those supported by quantitative information or studies.