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## **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

### **Fish and Wildlife Service**

**[FWS-R6-ES-2014-N222]**

**[FXES11130600000-156-FF06E00000]**

### **Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Recovery Permit Applications**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, invite the public to comment on the following applications to conduct certain activities with endangered or threatened species. With some exceptions, the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act), prohibits activities with endangered and threatened species unless a Federal permit allows such activity. The Act requires that we invite public comment before issuing these permits.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, please send your written comments by [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments or requests for copies or more information by any of the following methods. Alternatively, you may use one of the following methods to request hard copies or a CD-ROM of the documents. Please specify the permit you are interested in by number (e.g., **Permit No. TE-XXXXXX**).

- *Email:* permitsR6ES@fws.gov. Please refer to the respective permit number (e.g., **Permit No. TE-XXXXXX**) in the subject line of the message.

- *U.S. Mail:* Ecological Services, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 25486–DFC, Denver, CO 80225.

- *In-Person Drop-off, Viewing, or Pickup:* Call (303) 236–4212 to make an appointment during regular business hours at 134 Union Blvd., Suite 645, Lakewood, CO 80228.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kathy Konishi, Permit Coordinator, Ecological Services, (307) 772–2374 x 248 (phone); permitsR6ES@fws.gov (email).

## **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

### **Background**

The Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) prohibits activities with endangered and threatened species unless a Federal permit allows such activity. Along with our implementing regulations at 50 CFR 17, the Act provides for permits and requires that we invite public comment before issuing these permits.

A permit granted by us under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Act authorizes the permittees to conduct activities with U.S. endangered or threatened species for scientific purposes, enhancement of propagation or survival, or interstate commerce (the latter only in the event that it facilitates scientific purposes or enhancement of propagation or survival). 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.

### **Applications Available for Review and Comment**

We invite local, State, and Federal agencies and the public to comment on the following applications. Documents and other information the applicants have submitted with their applications are available for review, subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a) and Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552).

**Permit Application Number TE49168B**

*Applicant:* Catherine Ortega, Durango, CO.

The applicant requests a permit to conduct presence/absence surveys for the southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) in Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, and Colorado for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

**Permit Application Number TE50643B**

*Applicant:* Vaughn Weaver, Wichita, KS.

The applicant requests a permit to conduct presence/absence surveys for the American burying beetle (*Nicrophorus americanus*), Hine's emerald dragonfly (*Somatochlora hineana*), Ozark hellbender (*Cryptobranchus allenganiensis bishopi*), Higgins eye pearl mussel (*Lampsilis higginsii*), winged mapleleaf mussel (*Quadrula fragosa*), Neosho mucket (*Lampsilis rafinesquenana*), pink mucket pearl mussel (*Lampsilis abrupta*), scaleshell mussel (*Leptodea leptodon*), sheepnose mussel (*Plethobasus cyphus*), snuffbox mussel (*Epioblasma triquetra*), Curtis' pearl mussel (*Epioblasma florentina curtisii*), fat pocketbook (*Potamilus capax*), Topeka shiner (*Notropis Topeka*), spectaclecase mussel (*Cumberlandia monodonta*), pallid sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*), Quachita rock pocketbook (*Arkansia wheeleri*) in Kansas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Missouri, and Iowa for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

**Permit Application Number TE00670B**

*Applicant:* South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Foss Building, 523 East Capitol,

Pierre, SD.

The applicant requests a permit to conduct presence/absence surveys for the Topeka shiner (*Notropis topeka*) in South Dakota for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

### **National Environmental Policy Act**

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), we have made an initial determination that the proposed activities in these permits are categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement (516 DM 6 Appendix 1, 1.4C(1)).

### **Public Availability of Comments**

All comments and materials we receive in response to these requests will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the address listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice.

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.

**Authority**

We provide this notice under section 10 of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

**Michael G. Thabault,**

**Assistant Regional Director, Mountain-Prairie Region.**

**Billing Code 4310–55**

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