



**Billing Code: 4333–15**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Fish and Wildlife Service**

**[FWS–R3–ES–2020–N061; FXES1113030000–201–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 **[INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*]**.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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:

<b>Application Number</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Type of Take</b>	<b>Permit Action</b>
TE53616C	University of Illinois/Illinois Natural History Survey	Rusty patched bumble bee ( <i>Bombus affinis</i> )	IL	Conduct presence/absence surveys, document habitat use, conduct population monitoring, evaluate impacts	Add new activity—collect DNA, fecal, and pollen samples, temporary hold—to existing authorized activities: capture, handle, release	Amend
TE43541A	Francesca J. Cuthbert, Saint Paul, MN	Piping plover ( <i>Charadrius melodus</i> )	Add new locations—PA and NY—to existing authorized locations: IL, MI, WI	Conduct presence/absence surveys, document habitat use, conduct population monitoring, evaluate impacts	Add new activity—collect DNA, geolocator tag—to existing authorized activities: capture, handle, band, feather sample, blood sample, erect exclosures, salvage eggs and chicks, release	Amend
TE70877D	Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation, Elizabeth, IL	Rusty patched bumble bee ( <i>Bombus affinis</i> )	IL	Conduct presence/absence surveys, document habitat use, conduct population monitoring, evaluate impacts	Capture, handle, release	New
TE74312D	Boone County Conservation District, Belvidere, IL	Rusty patched bumble bee ( <i>Bombus affinis</i> )	IL	Conduct presence/absence surveys, document habitat use, conduct population monitoring, evaluate impacts	Capture, handle, release	New
TE62311A	Mary Gilmore, Stow, OH	Add gray bat ( <i>Myotis</i> )	AL, AR, FL, GA, IL, IN, IA,	Conduct presence/absence	Capture, handle, mist-net, harp trap, band, radio-tag,	Amend

		<i>grisescens</i> ) to existing permitted species: Indiana bat ( <i>M. sodalis</i> ), northern long-eared bat ( <i>M. septentrionalis</i> )	KS, KY, MD, MI, MN, MS, MO, MT, NE, NJ, NY, NC, ND, OH, OK, PA, SD, TN, VT, VA, WV, WI, WY	surveys, document habitat use, conduct population monitoring, evaluate impacts	collect hair, fungal lift tap, wing biopsy, and swab samples, release	
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## **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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