



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R4-ES-2023-N070; FXES11140400000-234-FF04E00000]

### Endangered Species; 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 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 written data or comments on the applications by [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*].

**ADDRESSES:** *Reviewing Documents:* Submit requests for copies of applications and other information submitted with the applications to Karen Marlowe (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**). All requests and comments should specify the applicant name and application number (e.g., Mary Smith, ESPER0001234).

*Submitting Comments:* If you wish to comment, you may submit comments by one of the following methods:

- *Email (preferred method):* [permitsR4ES@fws.gov](mailto:permitsR4ES@fws.gov). Please include your name and return address in your email message. If you do not receive a confirmation from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that we have received your email message, contact us directly at the telephone number listed in **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

- *U.S. mail:* U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Office, Ecological Services, 1875 Century Boulevard, Atlanta, GA 30345 (Attn: Karen Marlowe, Permit Coordinator).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Karen Marlowe, Permit Coordinator, 404-679-7097 (telephone) or *karen\_marlowe@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 review and comment from the public and local, State, Tribal, and Federal agencies on applications we have received for permits to conduct certain activities with endangered and threatened species under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and our regulations in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 50 CFR part 17. Documents and other information submitted with the applications are available for review, subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended (5 U.S.C. 552a), and the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552).

## **Background**

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

A recovery permit issued by us under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA authorizes the permittee to take endangered or threatened species while engaging in activities that are conducted for scientific purposes that promote recovery of species or for enhancement of propagation or survival of species. These activities often include the

capture and collection of species, which would result in prohibited take if a permit were not issued. 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**

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. Proposed activities in the following permit requests are for the recovery and enhancement of propagation or survival of the species in the wild.

| Permit Application Number | Applicant                      | Species  | Location  | Activity  | Type of Take   | Permit Action |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|--|---|---|--|---------------|
| PER4098933-0              | Robert Stinson; Knoxville, TN  | Gray bat ( <i>Myotis grisescens</i> ), Indiana bat ( <i>Myotis sodalis</i> ), northern long-eared bat ( <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> ), tricolored bat ( <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i> ), and Virginia big-eared bat ( <i>Corynorhinus townsendii virginianus</i> ) | Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia  | Presence/probable absence surveys, studies to document habitat use, population monitoring, and studies to evaluate potential impacts of white-nose syndrome and other threats | Enter hibernacula or maternity roost caves, capture with mist nets or harp traps, handle, identify, band, radio tag, and release       | New           |
| PER3404461-0              | Megan Wallrichs; Knoxville, TN | Florida bonneted bat ( <i>Eumops floridanus</i> ), gray bat ( <i>Myotis grisescens</i> ), Indiana bat ( <i>Myotis sodalis</i> ), northern long-eared bat ( <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> ), and tricolored bat ( <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i> )                     | Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New | Presence/probable absence surveys, studies to document habitat use, population monitoring, and studies to evaluate potential impacts of white-nose syndrome and other threats | Enter hibernacula or maternity roost caves, capture with mist nets or harp traps, handle, identify, band, radio tag, swab, and release | New           |

|             |                                 |  |  |  |  |                       |
|-------------|---------------------------------|--|--|--|--|-----------------------|
|             |                                 |  | Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming |  |  |                       |
| ES81430B-2  | Heather Wallace;<br>Raleigh, NC | Tricolored bat ( <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i> )   | Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee  | Presence/probable absence surveys, population monitoring, genetic analyses, and studies to evaluate potential impacts of white-nose syndrome and other threats | Enter hibernacula, capture with mist nets or harp traps, handle, identify, band, radio tag, and release          | Amendment             |
| ES102292-14 | Jeremy Jackson;<br>Richmond, KY | Gray bat ( <i>Myotis grisescens</i> ), Indiana bat ( <i>Myotis sodalis</i> ), northern long-eared bat ( <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> ), tricolored bat ( <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i> ), and Virginia big-eared bat ( <i>Corynorhinus townsendii virginianus</i> ) | Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky,   | Presence/probable absence surveys, studies to document habitat use, and  | Enter hibernacula or maternity roost caves, capture with mist nets or harp traps, handle, identify, collect hair | Renewal and amendment |

|              |                                |   |   |                                      |  |     |
|--------------|--------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------------------|--|-----|
|              |                                |   | Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming | population monitoring                | samples, band, radio tag, and release  |     |
| PER3535456-0 | Mirabeau Dudley; Pittsview, AL | Red-cockaded woodpecker ( <i>Picoides borealis</i> )  | Alabama   | Population management and monitoring | Capture, band, construct and monitor artificial nest cavities and restrictors, translocate, recapture, and release | New |
| PER3726625-0 | Kelly Stewart; La Jolla, CA    | Green sea turtle ( <i>Chelonia mydas</i> ), hawksbill sea turtle ( <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> ), leatherback sea turtle ( <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> ), and | U.S. Virgin Islands   | Nest monitoring and protection,      | Capture; handle; measure; collect tissue and   | New |

|            |   |  |  |   |  |           |
|------------|---|--|--|---|--|-----------|
|            |   | loggerhead sea turtle ( <i>Caretta caretta</i> ) |  | and habitat use, demographic, and genetic studies | blood; flipper, satellite, and PIT tag; salvage dead hatchlings and nonviable eggs; and examine and relocate nests |           |
| ES57873C-1 | Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission; Little Rock, AR | Yellowcheek darter ( <i>Etheostoma moorei</i> )  | Arkansas   | Presence/probable absence surveys                 | Capture, identify, and release   | Renewal   |
| ES62778B-3 | Chanston Osborne; Aberdeen, NC                        | Tricolored bat ( <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i> )   | Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, | Presence/probable absence surveys                 | Capture with mist nets and harp traps, handle, identify, band, radio tag, and release                              | Amendment |

|            |   |   |  |  |  |                          |
|------------|---|---|--|--|--|--------------------------|
|            |   |   | Oklahoma,<br>Pennsylvania,<br>Rhode Island,<br>South Carolina,<br>South Dakota,<br>Tennessee,<br>Texas, Vermont,<br>Virginia, West<br>Virginia,<br>Wisconsin, and<br>Wyoming   |  |  |                          |
| ES022468-6 | Endangered<br>Species Branch,<br>Department of<br>Defense; Ft.<br>Bragg, NC | Red-cockaded woodpecker<br>( <i>Picoides borealis</i> ) | North Carolina   | Population<br>management<br>and<br>monitoring.   | Capture, band,<br>construct, and<br>monitor<br>artificial nest<br>cavities and<br>restrictors, and<br>translocate  | Renewal                  |
| ES02167C-1 | James Gore;<br>Columbia, SC   | Tricolored bat ( <i>Perimyotis<br/>subflavus</i> )      | Alabama,<br>Arkansas,<br>Colorado,<br>Connecticut,<br>Delaware,<br>District of<br>Columbia,<br>Florida, Georgia,<br>Illinois, Indiana,<br>Iowa, Kansas,<br>Kentucky,<br>Louisiana,<br>Maine,<br>Maryland,<br>Massachusetts,<br>Michigan,<br>Minnesota,<br>Mississippi,<br>Missouri,<br>Nebraska, New | Presence/prob<br>able absence<br>surveys,<br>population<br>monitoring,<br>and stable<br>isotope<br>analyses. | Enter<br>hibernacula and<br>maternity roost<br>caves, capture<br>with mist nets<br>or harp traps,<br>handle, identify,<br>band, radio tag,<br>and collect hair<br>samples. | Renewal and<br>amendment |

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|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  | Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

## **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 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. 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 a permit to an applicant 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.*).

**Lourdes Mena,**  
*Acting Deputy Assistant Regional Director,*  
*Ecological Services,*  
*Southeast Region.*

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