



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[Docket No. FWS-HQ-IA-2024-0208; 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 [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*].

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-2024-0208.

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-2024-0208.
- *U.S. mail:* Public Comments Processing, Attn: Docket No. FWS-HQ-IA-2024-0208; 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: Timothy MacDonald, 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.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Michigan Field Office, East Lansing, MI; Permit No. PER14365331

The applicant requests authorization to import up to 20 viable eggs salvaged from wild piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*) nests from Toronto, Canada, annually for the purpose of enhancing the propagation or survival of the species. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

Phoenix Herpetological Sanctuary, Scottsdale, AZ; Permit No. PER13968163

The applicant requests a permit to import five live Siamese crocodile (*Crocodylus siamensis*) from Seocheon-gun, Republic of Korea, for the purpose of enhancing the propagation or survival of the species. This notification is for a single import.

Metro Richmond Zoo, Moseley, VA; Permit No. PER14728175

The applicant requests a permit to import five live, captive-born mandrill (*Mandrillus sphinx*) from Berlin, Germany, for the purpose of enhancing the propagation or survival of the species. This notification is for a single import.

RH Ranch, Junction, TX; Permit No. PER11861494

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

John Seymour, Hunt, TX; Permit No. PER14456509

The applicant requests a captive-bred wildlife registration under 50 CFR 17.21(g) for Arabian oryx (*Oryx leucoryx*) and swamp deer (*Rucervus duvaucelii*), to enhance the propagation or survival of the species. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

HPCP Investments LLC, West Columbia, TX; Permit No. PER14465364

The applicant requests a captive-bred wildlife registration under 50 CFR 17.21(g) for swamp deer (*Rucervus duvaucelii*), to enhance the propagation or survival of the

species. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, Los Angeles, CA; Permit No.

PER14490624

The applicant requests the renewal of their permit to export and re-import non-living museum specimens of endangered and threatened species 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.

RH Ranch, Junction, TX; Permit No. PER11861493

The applicant requests a permit authorizing the culling of excess Arabian oryx (*Oryx leucoryx*) from the captive herd maintained at their facility, to enhance the species' propagation and survival. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

John Seymour, Hunt, TX; Permit No. PER14455200

The applicant requests a permit authorizing the culling of excess Arabian oryx (*Oryx leucoryx*) and swamp deer (*Rucervus duvaucelii*) from the captive herd maintained at their facility, to enhance the species' propagation and survival. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

HPCP Investments LLC, West Columbia, TX; Permit No. PER14466891

The applicant requests a permit authorizing the culling of excess swamp deer (*Rucervus duvaucelii*) from the captive herd maintained at their facility, to enhance the species' propagation and survival. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

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.

- Jesse D. Palmer, Spring Branch, TX; Permit No. PER13800404
- Todd Harmon, O'Fallon, MO; Permit No. PER13372478
- James Hall, Troy, PA; Permit No. PER13373724
- Jason Soulliere, Romeo, MI; Permit No. PER13374211
- Christopher E. O'Connor, Dumfries, VA; Permit No. PER13406047
- James Phillip Bryant, Austin, TX; Permit No. PER13408401
- Guy Gelakoski, Andover, MN; Permit No. PER13774784
- Kerry Wade Jones, Bowling Green, KY; Permit No. PER13774849
- Michael Anderson, San Antonio, TX; Permit No. PER13784424
- Alton J. Hall, Jr., Covington, LA; Permit No. PER12714679
- Rody Best, Paige, TX; Permit No. PER14686956
- Eric Vaillancourt, Iron Station, NC; Permit No. PER14688086
- Robert Harry Wallace, Cypress, TX; Permit No. PER14703291
- Curtis Richardson, Laramie, WY; Permit No. PER14727438

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.

Timothy MacDonald,

Government Information Specialist,

Branch of Permits, Division of Management Authority.

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