

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 January 16, 2015.

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*), sheepsnose 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.

[FR Doc. 2014-29490 Filed 12-16-14; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLNMA00000 L12200000.DF0000 15X L1010BP]

Notice of Public Meeting, Albuquerque District Resource Advisory Council Meeting, New Mexico

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Public Meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Albuquerque District Resource Advisory Council (RAC) will meet as indicated below.

DATES: The RAC will meet on Friday, January 16, 2015, at the Albuquerque District Office, 435 Montano Rd., Albuquerque, NM, 87107, from 9 a.m.–4 p.m.. The public may send written

comments to the RAC at the BLM Albuquerque District Office, 435 Montano Rd., Albuquerque, NM, 87107.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Martín Visarraga, BLM Albuquerque District Office, 435 Montano Rd., Albuquerque, NM 87107, 505-761-8902. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8229 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The 10-member Albuquerque District RAC advises the Secretary of the Interior, through the BLM, on a variety of planning and management issues associated with public land management in New Mexico's Albuquerque District.

Planned agenda items include a welcoming and introduction of new Council members; election of chair and vice chair; an update on the Rio Puerco Management Plan, Sun Zia Southwest Transmission Project, Kinder Morgan Lobos CO₂ Pipeline Project, Mobile Workforce, Force Account Crew, law enforcement, Rio Puerco Management Committee, and a discussion on stray horses.

A half-hour comment period during which the public may address the RAC will begin at 11 a.m. All RAC meetings are open to the public. Depending on the number of individuals wishing to comment and time available, the time for individual oral comments may be limited.

Michael H. Tupper,

Deputy State Director, Lands and Resources.

[FR Doc. 2014-29523 Filed 12-16-14; 8:45 a.m.]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

[OMB Number 1010-0048]

Information Collection: Geological and Geophysical Explorations of the Outer Continental Shelf; Submitted for OMB Review; Comment Request MMAA104000

ACTION: 30-day notice.

SUMMARY: To comply with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is notifying the public that we have submitted an

information collection request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval. The ICR concerns the paperwork requirements in the regulations under 30 CFR 551, Geological and Geophysical (G&G) Explorations of the Outer Continental Shelf. This notice provides the public a second opportunity to comment on the paperwork burden of this collection.

DATES: Submit written comments by January 16, 2015.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments on this ICR to the Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior at OMB-OIRA at (202) 395-5806 (fax) or *OIRA_submission@omb.eop.gov* (email). Please provide a copy of your comments to the BOEM Information Collection Clearance Officer, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, 381 Elden Street, HM-3127, Herndon, Virginia 20170 (mail) or *boemcmts@gmail.com* (email). Please reference ICR 1010-0048 in your comment and include your name and return address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Office of Policy, Regulations, and Analysis at *boemcmts@gmail.com* (email) or (202) 513-7672. You may review the ICR and form online at <http://www.reginfo.gov>. Follow the instructions to review Department of the Interior collections under review by OMB.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

OMB Control Number: 1010-0048.

Title: 30 CFR 551, Geological and Geophysical (G&G) Explorations of the Outer Continental Shelf.

Form: BOEM-0327, Requirements for G&G Explorations or Scientific Research on the Outer Continental Shelf.

Abstract: The Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Lands Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. 1331 *et seq.* and 43 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to prescribe rules and regulations to administer leasing of mineral resources on the OCS. The OCS Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1340) states that "any person authorized by the Secretary may conduct geological and geophysical explorations in the outer Continental Shelf, which do not interfere with or endanger actual operations under any lease maintained or granted pursuant to this subchapter, and which are not unduly harmful to aquatic life in such area." The section further requires that permits to conduct such activities may only be issued if it is determined that the applicant is qualified; the activities do not result in pollution or create hazardous or unsafe conditions; the activities do not unreasonably interfere with other uses of the area or disturb any site, structure, or object of historical

or archaeological significance.

Applicants for permits are required to submit form BOEM-0327 to provide the information necessary to evaluate their qualifications, and upon approval, respondents are issued a permit.

Also, as a Federal agency, we have a continuing affirmative duty to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Endangered Species Act (ESA), and Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). This includes a substantive duty not to take agency actions that are likely to jeopardize protected species as well as a procedural duty to consult with the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries (NOAA Fisheries) before engaging in a discretionary action that may affect a protected species.

The Independent Offices Appropriations Act (31 U.S.C. 9701), the Omnibus Appropriations Bill (Pub. L. 104-133, 110 Stat. 1321, April 26, 1996), and the OMB Circular A-25 authorize Federal agencies to recover the full cost of services that confer special benefits. All G&G permits are subject to cost recovery, and BOEM regulations specify service fees for these requests.

Regulations to carry out these responsibilities are contained in 30 CFR 551 and are the subject of this information collection renewal. BOEM uses the information to ensure there is no environmental degradation, personal harm or unsafe operations and conditions, damage to historical or archaeological sites, or interference with other uses; to analyze and evaluate preliminary or planned drilling activities; to monitor progress and activities in the OCS; to acquire G&G data and information collected under a Federal permit offshore; and to determine eligibility for reimbursement from the government for certain costs. Information on the G&G characteristics of oil- and gas-bearing physiographic regions aids the Secretary in obtaining a proper balance among the potentials for environmental damage, the discovery of oil and gas, and associated impacts on affected coastal States.

In this renewal, we are including the estimated G&G permit applications and information that will be submitted for the Atlantic OCS. As a result of the BOEM Record of Decision regarding G&G survey activities on the Mid- and South Atlantic OCS Planning Areas (issued on July 23, 2014 (79 FR 42815)), BOEM will now consider G&G permit applications for this area.

Also in this renewal, BOEM is updating form BOEM-0327 to clarify