

If you submit a comment via <http://www.regulations.gov>, your entire comment—including any personal identifying information—will be posted on the Web site. We will post all hardcopy comments on <http://www.regulations.gov> as well. If you submit a hardcopy comment that includes personal identifying information, 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.

Comments and materials we receive, as well as documents associated with the notice, will be available for public inspection on <http://www.regulations.gov> at Docket No. FWS-R3-ES-2015-0033, or by appointment, during normal business hours, at the Service's Midwest Regional Office in Bloomington, Minnesota. You may obtain copies of the documents on the Internet at: <http://www.midwestwindenergyhpcpeis.org>, or from the Midwest Regional Office.

#### Authority

We provide this notice under section 10(c) of the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 17.22), and NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4371 *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations (40 CFR 1506.6; 43 CFR part 46).

Dated: March 16, 2016.

Lynn M. Lewis,

Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, Midwest Region.

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R1-ES-2016-N064;  
FXES1113010000-167-FF01E00000]

#### Endangered Species; 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 for recovery permits to conduct activities with the purpose of enhancing the survival of endangered species. The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act), prohibits certain activities with endangered species unless a Federal permit allows such activity. The Act also requires that we

invite public comment before issuing such permits.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, please send your written comments by May 16, 2016.

**ADDRESSES:** Program Manager, Restoration and Endangered Species Classification, Ecological Services, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pacific Regional Office, 911 NE 11th Avenue, Portland, OR 97232-4181. Please refer to the permit number for the application when submitting comments.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Colleen Henson, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, at the above address, or by telephone (503-231-6131) or fax (503-231-6243).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

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

A permit granted by us under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Act authorizes the permittee to conduct activities (including take or interstate commerce) with respect to U.S. endangered or threatened species for scientific purposes or enhancement of propagation or survival. Our regulations implementing section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Act 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. Please refer to the permit number for the application when submitting comments.

Documents and other information submitted with these applications are available for review by request from the Program Manager for Restoration and Endangered Species Classification at the address listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice, subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a) and the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552).

##### Permit Number: TE-041672

*Applicant:* U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Eugene, Oregon.

The applicant requests a permit amendment to take (survey, capture, and release) the Fender's blue butterfly (*Icaricia icarioides fenderi*) in conjunction with monitoring and habitat restoration activities, and to remove/reduce to possession *Erigeron decumbens* (Willamette daisy) and *Lomatium bradshawii* (Bradshaw's desert parsley) in conjunction with population augmentation in Lane County, Oregon, for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

##### Permit Number: TE-66384A

*Applicant:* Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

The applicant requests a permit renewal with changes to take (capture, collect eggs, sample fin rays, tag, sacrifice, cull, and release) the Kootenai River white sturgeon (*Acipenser transmontanus*) in conjunction with spawning, recruitment, monitoring, and population studies in Idaho and Montana, for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

##### Permit Number: TE-84876A

*Applicant:* Andersen Air Force Base, Yigo, Guam.

The applicant requests a permit amendment to take (survey, capture, monitor nests, collect tissue samples, tag, and release) green sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) and hawksbill sea turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) in conjunction with scientific research, and to remove/reduce to possession the following plants: *Eugenia bryanii* (no common name), *Heritiera longipetiolata* (Ufa halumtanu, Ufa halom tano), *Psychotria malaspiniae* (Aplokating palaoan), *Serianthes nelsonii* (Hayun lagu), *Solanum guamense* (Biringenas halumtanu, Biringenas halom tano), and *Tinospora homosepala* (no common name), in conjunction with captive propagation and outplanting on the island of Guam for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

##### Permit Number: TE-91851B

*Applicant:* Washington State University, Pullman, Washington.

The applicant requests a permit to take (capture, radio-collar, release, and monitor) gray wolves (*Canis lupus*) in conjunction with scientific research in Okanogan and Kittitas Counties, Washington, for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

##### Permit Number: TE-210255

*Applicant:* Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Libby, Montana.

The applicant requests a permit renewal with changes to take (capture,

hold, mark, passive-integrated-transponder (PIT) and sonic tag, collect blood and biological samples, and release) the Kootenai River white sturgeon (*Acipenser transmontanus*) in conjunction with scientific research in the Kootenai River, Lincoln County, Montana, for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

**Permit Number: TE-22353B**

*Applicant:* Center for Natural Lands Management, Temecula, California.

The applicant requests a permit amendment to take (conduct habitat restoration activities, survey, and monitor) the Taylor's checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha taylori*) in Oregon and Washington for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

**Public Availability of Comments**

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

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.*).

Dated: April 5, 2016.

**Theresa E Rabot,**

*Regional Director, Pacific Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Office of the Secretary**

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DLSN00000.000000 DX61101]

**Draft 2016–2020 Environmental Justice Strategic Plan**

**AGENCY:** Office of the Secretary, Interior.

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

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the availability of the Department of the Interior's (Department) draft 2016–2020 Environmental Justice Strategic Plan

(Strategic Plan). This draft Strategic Plan builds on the Department's 2012–2017 Environmental Justice Strategic Plan and will guide the Department's actions regarding environmental justice for the upcoming years. Updates to Federal agencies' environmental justice strategic plans are conducted periodically to increase interagency cooperation and participation opportunities for minority, low-income, American Indian and Alaska Native Communities, and Tribal governments.

**DATES:** Consideration will be given to all comments received or postmarked by May 16, 2016.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit written comments by one of the following methods:

1. By email to: *Environmental\_Justice@ios.doi.gov*.

2. By hard-copy to: Environmental Justice, U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance (MS-2462), 1849 C Street NW., Washington, DC 20240

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Cheryl L. Kelly at the above street address (see **ADDRESSES**), phone 202–208–7565, or by email at *cheryl\_kelly@ios.doi.gov*.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Background**

In 1994, President Clinton signed Executive Order 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-income Populations*, which outlined a mandate for Federal agencies to “make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations in the United States and its territories and possessions, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the Commonwealth of the Mariana Islands.” Environmental justice is often defined as meeting the needs of underserved communities by reducing disparate environmental burdens, removing barriers to participation in decision making, and increasing access to environmental benefits that help make all communities safe, vibrant, and healthy places to live and work.

In August 2011, the Department joined with other Federal agencies in the signing of a *Memorandum of Understanding on Environmental Justice and Executive Order 12898* (MOU). This MOU reaffirmed the Federal government's commitment to

environmental justice. Provisions of the MOU call on each Federal agency to review and update existing environmental justice strategic plans where applicable and as appropriate. At that time, the Department published a 2012–2017 Environmental Strategic Plan to meet this provision to update Federal agency strategic plans.

The Department's 2012–2017 Environmental Justice Strategic Plan set forth five major goals that continue to guide the Department in its pursuit of environmental justice:

(1) Ensure responsible officials are aware of the provisions of EO 12898 and are able to identify and amend programs, policies, and activities under their purview that may have disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority, low-income, or tribal populations;

(2) Ensure minority, low-income, and tribal populations are provided with the opportunity to engage in meaningful involvement in the Department's decision making processes;

(3) The Department will, on its own or in collaboration with partners, identify and address environmental impacts that may result in disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority, low-income, or tribal populations;

(4) Use existing grant programs, training, and educational opportunities as available to aid and empower minority, low-income, and tribal populations in their efforts to build and sustain environmentally and economically sound communities; and

(5) Integrate the Department's environmental justice strategies with its Title VI of the Civil Rights Act enforcement responsibilities to improve efficiencies while preserving the integrity of Title VI and environmental justice activities.

In 2015, the Department began the process to update the Department's 2012–2017 Environmental Justice Strategic Plan by evaluating actions the Department could implement to meet the five goals. The update to the strategic plan is based on input and review by the Department's bureaus and offices and meets the goal of the 2011 MOU to periodically evaluate and update strategic plans.

**II. General Information**

You may access the Department's draft 2016–2020 Environmental Justice Strategic Plan at the Department's Environmental Justice Web site at: <https://www.doi.gov/oepec/resources/environmental-justice>. Please let us