

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service**

[FWS-R8-ES-2017-N046;
FXES11130800000-178-FF08EVEN00]

**Receipt of Application for Incidental
Take Permit; Low-Effect Habitat
Conservation Plan for the Curletti Farm
Employee Housing Project, Santa
Barbara County, California**

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service,
Interior.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of permit
application; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and
Wildlife Service, have received an
application from Betteravia Farms, LLC,
for an incidental take permit under the
Endangered Species Act of 1973, as
amended. The permit would authorize
take of the federally endangered
California tiger salamander (Santa
Barbara distinct population segment)
incidental to otherwise lawful activities
associated with the Curletti Farm
Employee Housing Project Habitat
Conservation Plan. We invite public
comment.

DATES: Written comments should be
received on or before July 31, 2017.

ADDRESSES: You may download a copy
of the draft habitat conservation plan
and draft low-effect screening form and
environmental action statement on the
internet at <http://www.fws.gov/ventura/>,
or you may request copies of the
documents by U.S. mail to our Ventura
office, or by phone (see **FOR FURTHER
INFORMATION CONTACT**). Please address
written comments to Stephen P. Henry,
Field Supervisor, Ventura Fish and
Wildlife Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Service, 2493 Portola Road, Suite B,
Ventura, CA 93003. You may
alternatively send comments by
facsimile to (805) 644-3958.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Rachel Henry, Fish and Wildlife
Biologist, at the above address or by
calling (805) 644-1766.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: We, the
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service),
have received an application from
Betteravia Farms, LLC (applicant), for an
incidental take permit under the
Endangered Species Act of 1973, as
amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*; Act).
The applicant has agreed to follow all of
the conditions in the habitat
conservation plan for the project. The
permit would authorize take of the
Santa Barbara distinct population
segment of the federally endangered
California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma
californiense*) incidental to otherwise

lawful activities associated with the
Curletti Farm Employee Housing Project
Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). We
invite public comment on the
application, the draft habitat
conservation plan, draft low-effect
screening form, and environmental
action statement.

Background

The Santa Barbara distinct population
segment of the California tiger
salamander was listed by the Service as
endangered on January 19, 2000 (65 FR
3096). Section 9 of the Act (16 U.S.C.
1531 *et seq.*) and its implementing
regulations prohibit the “take” of fish or
wildlife species listed as endangered or
threatened. “Take” is defined under the
Act to include the following activities:
“[T]o harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot,
wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or
to attempt to engage in any such
conduct” (16 U.S.C. 1532); however,
under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Act, we
may issue permits to authorize
incidental take of listed species.
“Incidental take” is defined by the Act
as take that is incidental to, and not the
purpose of, carrying out of an otherwise
lawful activity. Regulations governing
incidental take permits for threatened
and endangered species are in the Code
of Federal Regulations at 50 CFR 17.32
and 17.22, respectively. Under the Act,
protections for federally listed plants
differ from the protections afforded to
federally listed animals. Issuance of an
incidental take permit also must not
jeopardize the existence of federally
listed fish, wildlife, or plant species. All
species included in the incidental take
permit would receive assurances under
our “No Surprises” regulations (50 CFR
17.22(b)(5) and 17.32(b)(5)).

The applicants have applied for a
permit for incidental take of the
California tiger salamander. The
potential taking would occur as a result
of activities associated with the
construction of the farm labor camp in
suitable habitat for the covered species.

Our Preliminary Determination

The Service has made a preliminary
determination that issuance of the
permit is neither a major Federal action
that will significantly affect the quality
of the human environment within the
meaning of section 102(2)(C) of the
National Environmental Policy Act (42
U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*; NEPA), nor will it
individually or cumulatively have more
than a negligible effect on the species
covered in the HCP. Therefore, the
permit qualifies for a categorical
exclusion under NEPA.

Public Comments

If you wish to comment on the permit
application, plan, and associated
documents, you may submit comments
by any one of the methods in
ADDRESSES.

Public Availability of Comments

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 view, 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.*)
and NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

Dated: June 26, 2017.

Stephen P. Henry,
*Field Supervisor, Ventura Fish and Wildlife
Office, Ventura, California.*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service**

[FWS-R4-ES-2017-N024;
FXES11130900000C2-178-FF09E32000]

**Endangered and Threatened Wildlife
and Plants; 5-Year Status Reviews of
23 Southeastern Species**

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service,
Interior.

ACTION: Notice of initiation of reviews;
request for information.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and
Wildlife Service (Service), are initiating
5-year status reviews of 23 species
under the Endangered Species Act of
1973, as amended (Act). We conduct
these reviews to ensure that the
classification of species as threatened or
endangered on the Lists of Endangered
and Threatened Wildlife and Plants is
accurate. A 5-year review is an
assessment of the best scientific and
commercial data available at the time of
the review. Therefore, we are requesting
submission of information that has
become available since the last review
of each of these species.

DATES: To allow us adequate time to
conduct these reviews, we must receive
your comments or information on or
before August 29, 2017. However, we