

virtual. See **DATES** and **ADDRESSES** for the dates and times of the public scoping meetings. The public scoping meetings will provide the Service an opportunity to present information pertinent to the GCP and for the public to ask questions on the scope of issues and alternatives we should consider when preparing the draft EIS and to discuss ideas with Service staff. We will not record comments at the public meetings; we will accept scoping comments only in writing, by the methods listed in **ADDRESSES**.

#### *Reasonable Accommodations*

Persons needing reasonable accommodations to attend and participate in the public scoping meetings should contact the Service's Palm Springs Fish and Wildlife Office, using one of the methods listed in **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** as soon as possible. To allow sufficient time to process requests, please make contact no later than 1 week before the desired public meeting. Information regarding this proposed action is available in alternative formats upon request.

#### *Request for Identification of Potential Alternatives, Information, and Analyses Relevant to the Proposed Actions*

We request data, comments, views, arguments, new information, analysis, new alternatives, or suggestions on the proposed action from the public; affected Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments, agencies, and offices; the scientific community; industry; or any other interested party. We will consider these comments in developing the draft EIS. Specifically, we seek:

1. Biological information, analysis and relevant data concerning the desert tortoise and other wildlife;
2. Potential effects that the GCP could have on the desert tortoise and its associated ecological communities or habitats;
3. Potential effects that the GCP could have on other aspects of the human environment, including ecological, aesthetic, historic, cultural, economic, social, environmental justice, or health effects;
4. Other possible reasonable alternatives to the proposed action that the Service should consider, including additional or alternative avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures;
5. The presence of historic properties—including archaeological sites, buildings and structures, historic events, sacred and traditional areas, and other historic preservation concerns—in the proposed permit area, which are required to be considered in project

planning by the National Historic Preservation Act;

6. Information on other current or planned activities in, or in the vicinity of, the plan area and their possible impacts on the desert tortoise, including any connected actions that are closely related and should be discussed in the same draft EIS; and

7. Other information relevant to the GCP and its impacts on the human environment.

Once the Service has prepared the draft EIS, we will provide further opportunity for comment on the GCP through an additional public comment period.

#### **Public Availability of Comments**

You may submit your comments and materials by one of the methods listed in **ADDRESSES**. Before including your address, phone number, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, might 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.

Comments and materials we receive and supporting documentation we use in preparing the draft EIS will be available for public inspection online in Docket No. FWS-R8-ES-2023-0084 at <https://www.regulations.gov> (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

#### **Decision Maker and Nature of Decision To Be Made**

The decision maker is the Assistant Regional Director for Ecological Services (ARD) of the Pacific Southwest Region of the Service. If, after publication of the record of decision, we determine that all requirements are met for approval of incidental take permits under the GCP, the ARD will issue a decision on whether to approve the GCP.

#### **Authority**

We provide this notice in accordance with the requirements of section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1539(c)) and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 17.22) and National Environmental Policy Act regulations pertaining to the publication of a notice

of intent to issue an environmental impact statement (40 CFR 1501.9(d)).

**Michael J. Senn,**

*Assistant Regional Director—Ecological Services, Pacific Southwest Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento, California.*

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## **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

### **Fish and Wildlife Service**

[Docket No. FWS-HQ-IA-2023-0011; FXIA1671090000-234-FF09A30000]

#### **Endangered Species; Issuance of Permits**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of issuance of permits.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), have issued the following permits to conduct certain activities with endangered species. We issue these permits under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

**ADDRESSES:** Information about the applications for the permits listed in this notice is available online at <https://www.regulations.gov>. See

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for details.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Brenda Tapia, by phone at 703-358-2185, or via email at [DMAFR@fws.gov](mailto: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:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), have issued permits to conduct certain activities with endangered and threatened species in response to permit applications that we received under the authority of section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*)

After considering the information submitted with each permit application and the public comments received, we issued the requested permits subject to certain conditions set forth in each permit. For each application for an endangered species, we found that (1) the application was filed in good faith, (2) the granted permit would not operate to the disadvantage of the endangered species, and (3) the granted permit would be consistent with the purposes

and policy set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

**Availability of Documents**

The permittees' original permit application materials, along with public

comments we received during public comment periods for the applications, are available for review. To locate the application materials and received comments, go to <https://>

[www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) and search for the appropriate permit number (e.g., 12345C) provided in the following table:

ePermit No.	Applicant	Permit issuance date
86992C	Mike Cunningham	March 29, 2022.
70061C	Brian Spicer	March 17, 2022.
40226D	James Lines	March 11, 2022.
PER0017129	Smithsonian National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute	March 23, 2022.
77784D	Honolulu Zoo	May 9, 2022.
PER0028414	Smithsonian National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute	May 9, 2022.
54247C	Edward Aston	May 18, 2022.
PER0024280	Toledo Zoological Society	March 23, 2022.
85481D	Oklahoma City Zoological Park, dba Oklahoma City Zoo	June 14, 2022.
PER0026582	Eastern Connecticut State University	June 23, 2022.
PER0025129	Friends of the Topeka Zoo, Inc	July 12, 2022.
PER0014869	Virginia Safari Park and Preservation Center, Inc., dba Virginia Safari Park	August 12, 2022.
73080C	Stewart Schanzenbach	August 17, 2022.
72865D	Richard Roark	August 19, 2022.
PER0042600	Jeremy Hammond	August 19, 2022.
42192D	Robert Wier	August 19, 2022.
32317D	Arnold Beck	August 19, 2022.
37469D	Ronnie Williams	August 19, 2022.
08288D	Hugh Richardson	August 23, 2022.
46595D	Bernard McMasters	August 19, 2022.
PER0043133	California Academy of Sciences	August 24, 2022.
73030C	Edwin Hartman	September 1, 2022.
PER0045505	American Museum of Natural History	September 1, 2022.
28644D	Philip Geisse	September 20, 2022.
24612D	Jeff Demaske	September 19, 2022.
03114D	Mathew Bell	September 15, 2022.
PER0036283	Miami-Dade Zoological Park and Gardens	September 21, 2022.
PER0042461	Indianapolis Zoological Society, Inc., dba Indianapolis Zoo	October 11, 2022.
PER0050556	Florida State University Robert K. Godfrey Herbarium	October 19, 2022.
PER0050974	Harvard University Museum of Comparative Zoology	October 20, 2022.
PER0046199	Cheyenne Mountain Zoo	October 25, 2022.
PER0044674	Mark D. Simpson	October 31, 2022.
PER0043459	Kevin L. Emrath	October 31, 2022.
17070D	Donald Youngblood	October 31, 2022.
52689C	Terry L. Anderson	October 28, 2022.
PER0043674	Clinton A. Bissett	October 31, 2022.
51278D	Tanner Glidden	October 31, 2022.
97878C	Rich J. Cabela	October 31, 2022.
54295C	Christian M. Rothermel	October 31, 2022.
62557C	Earnest Joseph Dosio	October 31, 2022.
PER0052084	Yale University Peabody Museum of Natural History	November 2, 2022.
76772C	Mark Wayne Pirkle	November 4, 2022.
62051D	William B. Stroud	November 14, 2022.
76127C	Phillip D. Landry	November 14, 2022.
PER0050971	Duke University	November 17, 2022.
837068	Emory National Primate Research Center	November 21, 2022.
74969C	Rudy Nix	November 28, 2022.
59526D	Abraham Garza	November 28, 2022.
PER0047993	Miami-Dade Zoological Park and Gardens	November 29, 2022.
63058C	Thomas Sloan	December 01, 2022.
97800C	Michael Stein	December 02, 2022.
PER0049577	Michael W. Howard	December 06, 2022.
59012C	Michael Towbin	December 14, 2022.
PER0054866	Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum	January 4, 2023.

## Authorities

We issue this notice under the authority of the Endangered Species Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and its implementing regulations.

### Brenda Tapia,

Supervisory Program Analyst/Data Administrator, Branch of Permits, Division of Management Authority.

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

[Docket No. FWS-HQ-IA-2023-0108; FXIA16710900000-234-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 August 16, 2023.

#### 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-2023-0108.

*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-2023-0108.

- *U.S. Mail:* Public Comments Processing, Attn: Docket No. FWS-HQ-IA-2023-0108; 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:** Brenda Tapia, by phone at 703-358-2185 or via email at [DMAFR@fws.gov](mailto: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.

### Endangered Species

Applicant: Fort Worth Zoo, Fort Worth, TX; Permit No. PER3024895

The applicant requests a permit to import one female captive-bred black rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis*) from African SA, Puabla, Mexico, for the purpose of enhancing the propagation or survival of the species. This notification is for a single import.

Applicant: Obioma Ogbonna, Aledo, TX; Permit No. PER2584692

The applicant requests a permit to import from Munich, Germany, one life-size mount of a male captive-bred African lion (*Panthera leo*) for the purpose of enhancing the propagation or survival of the species. This notification is for a single import.

Applicant: Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden, Cincinnati, OH; Permit No. PER3108901

The applicant requests a permit to import four live captive-bred Asian