

Common name	Scientific name
Panamanian golden frog	<i>Atelopus varius zeteki</i> .
Fiji banded iguana	<i>Brachylophus fasciatus</i> .
False gharial (Tomistoma)	<i>Tomistoma schlegelii</i> .
Komodo dragon	<i>Varanus komodoensis</i> .
Amur leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i> .
African wild dog	<i>Lycaon pictus</i> .
Sumatran orangutan	<i>Pongo abelii</i> .
Asian elephant	<i>Elephas maximus</i> .
North Sulawesi babirusa	<i>Babyrousa celebensis</i> .
Swamp deer (barasingha)	<i>Cervus duvauceli</i> .
Bali myna (Rothschild's [myna] starling)	<i>Leucopsar rothschildi</i> .
Blue-throated macaw	<i>Ara glaucogularis</i> .
Mandrill	<i>Mandrillus (=Papio) sphinx</i> .

Applicant: Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA; Permit No. PER6612201

The applicant requests the renewal of their permit to export and re-import non-living museum/herbarium specimens of endangered and threatened species (excluding animals) 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.

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.

Brenda Tapia,

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

[FR Doc. 2024-02668 Filed 2-8-24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[Docket No. FWS-R6-ES-2014-0048; [FXES11140600000-245-FF06E22000]

R-Project Transmission Line, Nebraska; Revised Proposed Habitat Conservation Plan for the American Burying Beetle and Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce the availability of documents related to an application for an incidental take permit (ITP) under the Endangered Species Act. The Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) is applying for a permit associated with incidental take of the American burying beetle (*Nicrophorus americanus*; ABB) during construction, operation, and maintenance of a new transmission line in central Nebraska (known as the R-Project). NPPD has submitted a new application for a 50-year ITP, including a revised proposed habitat conservation plan (revised HCP) and associated documents. We previously issued an ITP for the R-Project and the applicant's earlier HCP to NPPD in 2019. However, that ITP was remanded by a Court. In response to the Court remand, NPPD has prepared the revised HCP as part of the new ITP application. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, we now announce the availability of the draft supplemental EIS (draft SEIS) associated with the revised HCP. We invite comment from the public and local, State, Tribal, and Federal agencies.

DATES: *Submitting Comments:* We must receive your written comments on or before April 9, 2024. Comments submitted online at <https://www.regulations.gov/> must be received

by 11:59 p.m. eastern time on April 9, 2024.

Public Meetings: During the public comment period, the Service will hold two in-person public meetings in Nebraska, weather permitting, and one virtual public meeting.

- *In-person meetings:*
 - Tuesday, February 27, 2024, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. CST; North Platte, Nebraska, The Prairie Arts Center.
 - Thursday, February 29, 2024, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. CST; Broken Bow, Nebraska, Mid Plains Community College.

- *Virtual meeting:* Thursday, March 7, 2024, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. CST.

Additional information on the public meetings will be posted at least one week prior on our website, at <https://fws.gov/office/nebraska-ecological-services>. Following the virtual public meeting, an on demand recording of the virtual public meeting will be available for viewing by the public online, at <https://fws.gov/office/nebraska-ecological-services>, and at the following locations:

- North Platte Public Library, 120 W 4th St., North Platte, NE 69101.
- Thomas County Library, 501 Main St., Thedford, NE 69166.
- Taylor Public Library, 106 William St., Taylor, NE 68879.

ADDRESSES: *Obtaining Documents:* The draft SEIS and revised HCP, as well as any comments and other materials that we receive, will be available for public inspection online in Docket No. FWS-R6-ES-2014-0048 at <https://www.regulations.gov>. Copies of the documents will be available for viewing at the three libraries with the recording of the virtual public meeting (see **DATES**).

Submitting Comments: You may submit comments by one of the following methods:

- *Online:* <https://www.regulations.gov/> Follow the instructions for submitting comments to Docket No. FWS-R6-ES-2014-0048.

- *U.S. Mail*: Public Comments Processing, Attn: Docket No. FWS–R6–ES–2014–0048; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Headquarters, MS: PRB/3W; 5275 Leesburg Pike; Falls Church, VA 22041–3803.

- *Public Meetings*: Comments will also be accepted at the in-person and virtual public meetings (see **DATES**).

Reasonable Accommodations

Persons needing reasonable accommodations to attend and participate in the public meetings should contact the Service's Nebraska Ecological Services Field Office (see **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 and documents are available in alternative formats upon request.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeff Runge, by phone at (308) 382–6468 or by email at jeff_runge@fws.gov. Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TTD, 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), announce the availability of documents related to an application for an incidental take permit (ITP) under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). The Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) is applying for a 50-year permit associated with incidental take of the American burying beetle (*Nicrophorus americanus*; ABB) during construction, operation, and maintenance of a new transmission line in central Nebraska (known as the R-Project). NPPD submitted an application for an ITP covering the take of ABB to the Service. If granted, the ITP would authorize incidental take of ABB resulting from the revised HCP's covered activities, as well as incidental take resulting from activities carried out as part of the revised HCP's conservation strategy. We invite comment on the documents from the public and local, State, Tribal, and Federal agencies.

Background

Section 9 of the ESA and Federal regulations prohibit the taking of a species listed as endangered or

threatened. The ESA defines “take” to mean to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. We may issue permits, under limited circumstances, to take listed species incidental to, and not the purpose of, otherwise lawful activities. Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 17.22(b) and 17.32(b)) provide for authorizing incidental take of listed species. Issuance of an ITP also must not jeopardize the existence of federally listed fish, wildlife, or plant species, pursuant to section 7 of the ESA and 50 CFR 402.02. The permittee would receive assurances under our “No Surprises” regulations (50 CFR 17.22(b)(5) and 17.32(b)(5)).

The Service issued a **Federal Register** notice of availability for the original ITP application, final habitat conservation plan (final HCP), and final environmental impact statement (final EIS) for the R-Project on February 8, 2019 (84 FR 2900) and issued the ITP on June 12, 2019. However, on June 17, 2020, the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado issued a decision on a lawsuit challenging the Service's decision to issue this ITP under the ESA, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), and the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470) (*Oregon-California Trails Association v. Walsh*, 1:19 cv 01945–WJM, D. Colo 2020). In its ruling, the Court vacated and remanded the ITP to the Service for further proceedings consistent with the Court's order. In response to the Court vacating the ITP, NPPD prepared the R-Project Transmission Line Revised Habitat Conservation Plan (revised HCP) and submitted the ITP application. We published a **Federal Register** notice of intent to prepare a SEIS for the R-Project revised HCP on November 18, 2022 (87 FR 69294).

The Service has prepared a draft SEIS to address the issues identified by the Court and to address new information and changed circumstances, as relevant, to the R-Project revised HCP and ITP application proposed by NPPD. The ITP application submitted by NPPD addresses the potential take of ABB associated with the revised HCP's covered activities associated with the R-Project.

Project Information

The R-Project is a proposed 226-mile transmission line that would start at NPPD's Gerald Gentleman Substation near Sutherland, Nebraska; go north to a 345-kV substation located in Thomas County near Thedford; and then extend

eastward to another 345-kV substation sited in Holt County, and interconnect with Western Area Power Administration's existing Fort Thompson-to-Grand Island 345-kV line that is located on the eastern border of Holt County, Nebraska.

The ITP, if issued, would authorize take of the ABB that may occur incidental to the covered activities, which include components of the construction, operation, and maintenance of the R-Project and implementation of the revised HCP's conservation strategy. The revised HCP describes the covered activities, the anticipated impacts to ABB from the covered activities, and the measures that NPPD will implement to minimize and mitigate such impacts. The revised HCP also includes avoidance and minimization measures for ESA-listed species that are not covered species but may be present in the revised HCP Study Area (*i.e.*, ESA-listed species for which incidental take is not being requested because take will be avoided). The revised HCP also describes the environmental setting and biological resources present in the study area, the biological goals and objectives of the revised HCP, monitoring, adaptive management, and funding assurances.

National Environmental Policy Act Background

The potential issuance of the ITP is considered a Federal action under NEPA, and we determined that preparation of a supplemental EIS to analyze the potential impacts on the human (biological, physical, social, and economic) environment caused by the R-Project and implementation of the revised HCP was appropriate. The Draft SEIS also addresses the issues identified in the court remand issued on June 17, 2020. We prepared the Draft SEIS in accordance with the requirements of NEPA, with input from cooperating organizations and agencies, including History Nebraska, the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, the National Park Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. We analyzed four alternatives in the draft SEIS, including the issuance of the ITP and implementation of the revised HCP (proposed action), a no action alternative, and two action alternatives. The action alternatives include construction of the R-Project and implementation of the HCP, with the following modifications: Alternative A reflects the proposed action from the final HCP and FEIS, and Alternative B reflects the use of steel monopole construction only.

We are seeking public input on the NEPA analysis in the Draft SEIS, including the associated impacts of the alternatives, as well as comments on the draft revised HCP submitted with the ITP application. We will respond to all substantive comments received during the comment period in the Final Supplemental EIS. No sooner than 30 days after the Final SEIS publication, we will issue a NEPA Record of Decision (ROD).

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, as well as supporting documentation we use in preparing the DEIS, will be available for public inspection online in Docket No. FWS-R6-ES-2014-0048, at <https://www.regulations.gov/>

Next Steps and Decision To Be Made

We will make a permit decision based on the statutory and regulatory criteria of the ESA. This decision will also be informed by the data, analyses, and findings in the EIS and public comments received on the Draft SEIS and HCP. We will document our determinations in an ESA section 10 findings document, ESA section 7 biological opinion, and NEPA ROD developed at the conclusion of the ESA and NEPA compliance processes. If we find that all requirements for issuance of the ITP are met, we will issue the requested permit, subject to terms and conditions deemed necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of ESA Section 10.

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 17.32) and NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and its

implementing regulations (40 CFR 1506.6 and 43 CFR 46.305).

Marjorie Nelson,

Acting Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, Mountain-Prairie Region.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

[245A2100DD/AAKC001030/
A0A51010.999900]

Notice of Deadline for Submitting Completed Applications To Begin Participation in the Tribal Self-Governance Program in Fiscal Year 2025 or Calendar Year 2025

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of application deadline.

SUMMARY: In this notice, the Office of Self-Governance (OSG) establishes a deadline for Indian tribes/consortia to submit completed applications to begin participation in the tribal self-governance program in fiscal year 2025 or calendar year 2025.

DATES: Completed application packages must be received by the Director, Office of Self-Governance, by March 1, 2024.

ADDRESSES: Application packages for inclusion in the applicant pool should be sent to Sharee M. Freeman, Director, Office of Self-Governance, Department of the Interior, Mail Stop 3624-MIB, 1849 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20240.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Vickie Hanvey, Office of Self-Governance, Vickie.Hanvey@bia.gov; Telephone (918) 931-0745. 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.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the Tribal Self-Governance Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-413), as amended by the Practical Reforms and Other Goals to Reinforce the Effectiveness of Self-Governance and Self-Determination Act of 2019-2020 and section 402(b)(1)(A) of the Practical Reforms and Other Goals To Reinforce the Effectiveness of Self-Governance and Self-Determination (PROGRESS Act), the Secretary, acting through the Director of the Office of Self-Governance, may select not more than 50 new Indian Tribes per year from those eligible tribes. The application deadline listed in the **DATES** section is predicated upon providing the parties

enough time to complete funding agreement negotiations in advance of the FY or CY start date of the 2025 funding agreement. The Act mandates that copies of the funding agreements be sent at least 90 days before the proposed effective date to each Tribe that is served by the Bureau of Indian Affairs' agency that is serving the Tribe that is a party to the funding agreement. Initial negotiations with a Tribe/consortium located in a region and/or agency which has not previously been involved with self-governance negotiations will take approximately 2 months from start to finish. Agreements for an October 1 to September 30 funding year need to be signed and submitted by July 1. Agreements for a January 1 to December 31 need to be signed and submitted by October 1.

Purpose of Notice

The regulations at 25 CFR 1000.10 through 1000.31 have been modified by section 201 of the newly enacted PROGRESS Act as follows:

Section 201. Definitions; reporting and audit requirements; application of programs.

To be eligible to participate in self-governance, an Indian Tribe shall:

(1) successfully complete the planning phase described in subsection (d);

(2) request participation in self-governance by resolution or other official

action by the Tribal governing body; and

(3) demonstrate for the 3 fiscal years preceding the date on which the Tribe requests participation, fiscal stability and financial management capability as evidenced by the Indian Tribe having no uncorrected significant and internal audit exceptions in the required annual audit of its self-determination or self-governance agreements with any Federal agency.

An Indian Tribe seeking to begin participation in self-governance shall complete the planning phase. The planning phase shall:

(A) be conducted to the satisfaction of the Indian Tribe; and

(B) include:

(i) legal and budgetary research; and

(ii) internal Tribal governing planning, training, and organizational preparation.

Applicants should be guided by the referenced requirements in preparing their applications to begin participation in the tribal self-governance program in fiscal year 2025 and calendar year 2025. Copies of these requirements may be obtained from the information contact person identified in this notice.