

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 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

Applicant: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Forensics Laboratory, Ashland, OR; Permit No. PER8152300

The applicant requests a permit to import a specimen derived from a rhinoceros species (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) from Canada for law enforcement purposes. This notification is for a single import.

Applicant: Saint Louis Zoo, St. Louis, MO; Permit No. PER8298704

The applicant requests a permit to re-export two live, captive-born horned guans (*Oreophaps derbianus*) from Saint Louis Zoo, Missouri, to African Safari, Mexico, for the purpose of enhancing the propagation or survival of the species. This notification is for a single re-export.

Applicant: The Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois DBA Sponsored Programs Administration, Champaign, IL; Permit No. PER7081584

The applicant requests authorization to import biological samples from wild or captive-born populations of cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*), northern white rhinoceros (*Ceratotherium simum cottoni*), Sumatran rhinoceros (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*), black rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis*), Asian elephant (*Elephas maximus*), Pakistan sand cat (*Felis margarita scheffeli*), black-footed cat (*Felis nigripes*), large-eared hutia (*Capromys auritus*), Cabrera's hutia (*Capromys angelcabrerai*), dwarf hutia (*Capromys nana*), little earth hutia (*Capromys sanfelipensis*), lion (*Panthera leo leo*), jaguar (*Panthera onca*), leopard

(*Panthera pardus*), tiger (*Panthera tigris*), Javan rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros sondaicus*), great Indian rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*), Cuban solenodon (*Solenodon cubanus*), Haitian solenodon (*Solenodon paradoxus*), Central American tapir (*Tapirus bairdii*), and Asian tapir (*Tapirus indicus*) for the purpose of 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.

Timothy MacDonald,

Government Information Specialist, Branch of Permits, Division of Management Authority.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Geological Survey

[GX24AC0000EXP00]

Advisory Committee for Science Quality and Integrity Establishment; Request for Nominations

AGENCY: U.S. Geological Survey, Department of the Interior

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) of 1972, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is establishing and seeking nominations for the Advisory Committee for Science Quality and Integrity (Committee). The Committee will advise the Secretary of the Interior and the Director of the USGS on matters related to the responsibilities of the USGS Office of Science Quality and Integrity (OSQI) including monitoring and enhancing the integrity, quality, and health of all USGS science through

executive oversight and development of strong practices, policy, and supporting programs. Functional areas in the OSQI include Scientific Integrity; Science Quality; Fundamental Science Practices; Office of Tribal Relations; Youth and Education in Science (YES); Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM); Laboratories; Postdoctoral Research; and Research and Equipment Development Grade Evaluations of USGS scientists.

DATES: Comments regarding the establishment of this Committee must be submitted no later than March 12, 2024. Nominations for the Committee must be submitted by April 11, 2024.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments and/or nominations by any of the following methods: Mail comments and/or nominations to Joanne C. Taylor, U.S. Geological Survey, Office of Science Quality and Integrity, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Mailstop 911, Reston, VA 20192; or email comments and/or nominations to jctaylor@usgs.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joanne C. Taylor, Designated Federal Officer (DFO), by U.S. mail at the U.S. Geological Survey, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Mailstop 911, Reston, VA 20192; by telephone at 703-648-6837; or by email at jctaylor@usgs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Committee is established under the authority of the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) and regulated by the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. ch. 10). The Committee's duties are strictly advisory and will include advising on: (a) Identification of key scientific quality and integrity processes to advance the USGS mission. (b) Effective mechanisms for engaging the next-generation USGS workforce and others through the YES program and with other Federal agencies in STEM and underserved communities. (c) The nature and effectiveness of mechanisms to provide oversight of science quality within USGS laboratories. (d) Mechanisms that may be employed by the USGS to ensure high standards of science quality and integrity in its programs and products.

The Committee will meet approximately one to two times per year. The Committee will consist of no more than 15 members appointed by the Secretary who represent the diversity of this nation's constituencies, and include the following interests:

- Local and State governments;
- Non-governmental organizations;
- Native American, Native Alaskan, and Native Hawaiian organizations, including representatives from Tribal governments and Tribal colleges;

- Academia; and
- Other stakeholders and sectors, including private industry, that make use of USGS science including, but not limited to, areas including laboratory sciences, natural resource managers, natural hazards protections, and wildlife organizations.

The Committee may include scientific experts and will include rotating representation from one or more local, Tribal, State, regional, and/or national organizations.

Nominations should include a resume providing an adequate description of the nominee's qualifications, including information that would enable the Department of the Interior (DOI) to make an informed decision regarding meeting the membership requirements of the Committee and to permit a potential member to be contacted.

Members of the Committee serve without compensation. However, while away from their homes or regular places of business, Committee and subcommittee members engaged in Committee or subcommittee business that the DFO approves may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5703, in the same manner as persons employed intermittently in Federal Government service.

Public Disclosure of Comments: Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personally identifiable information (PII) in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your PII—may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your PII from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Certification Statement: I hereby certify that the Advisory Committee for Science Quality and Integrity is necessary, in the public interest, and is in connection to the responsibilities of the DOI, USGS, under the President's Memorandum on Restoring Trust in Government Through Scientific Integrity and Evidence-Based Policymaking, January 27, 2021; the DOI policy on Integrity of Scientific and Scholarly Activities (305 DM 3); and the USGS policy on Scientific Integrity (SM 500.25).

Authority: 5 U.S.C. ch. 10.

Deb Haaland,

Secretary of the Interior.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of the Secretary

[BLM_HQ_FRN_MO4500176277]

National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures for the Bureau of Land Management (516 DM 11)

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of proposed policy revisions.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the intent to revise the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) policies and procedures for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as amended, various Executive Orders, and the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA Implementing Regulations by proposing to remove four administratively established categorical exclusions (CXs) and to incorporate two CXs established by Congress.

DATES: Comments must be postmarked no later than March 27, 2024.

ADDRESSES: The public can review the proposed changes to the Departmental Manual (DM) online BLM's ePlanning site: <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/home>. Comments can be submitted:

Through the BLM National NEPA Register: <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/home>. Follow the instruction at this website.

By mail: Director (210), Attention: Senior NEPA Lead, P.O. Box 261117, Lakewood, CO 80226.

By personal or messenger delivery: Director (210), Attention: Senior NEPA Lead, Denver Federal Center, Building 40 (Door W-4), Lakewood, CO 80215 DC 20003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Heather Bernier, Division Chief, Decision Support, Planning, and NEPA, at (303) 239-3635, or hbernier@blm.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 for contacting Heather Bernier. 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: The BLM is proposing to revise its NEPA procedures. Specifically, BLM is proposing to revise the list of BLM actions that are normally categorically excluded from the requirement to