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of Permits, Division of Management
Authority.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R4-ES-2024-N002;
FXES11140400000-245-FF04E00000]

**Endangered Species; Recovery 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, have received
applications for permits to conduct
activities intended to enhance the
propagation or survival of endangered
species under the Endangered Species
Act. 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.

DATES: We must receive written data or
comments on the applications by April
17, 2024.

ADDRESSES:

Reviewing Documents: Submit
requests for copies of applications and
other information submitted with the
applications to Karen Marlowe (see **FOR
FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**). All
requests and comments should specify
the applicant name and application
number (e.g., Mary Smith,
ESPER0001234).

Submitting Comments: If you wish to
comment, you may submit comments by
one of the following methods:

- *Email (preferred method):*

permitsR4ES@fws.gov. Please include
your name and return address in your
email message. If you do not receive a
confirmation from the U.S. Fish and
Wildlife Service that we have received
your email message, contact us directly
at the telephone number listed in **FOR
FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

- *U.S. Mail:* U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Service Regional Office, Ecological
Services, 1875 Century Boulevard,
Atlanta, GA 30345 (Attn: Karen
Marlowe, Permit Coordinator).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Karen Marlowe, Permit Coordinator, via
telephone at 404-679-7097 or via email
at *karen_marlowe@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, invite
review and comment from the public
and local, State, Tribal, and Federal
agencies on applications we have
received for permits to conduct certain
activities with endangered and
threatened species under section
10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species
Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16
U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and our regulations
in the Code of Federal Regulations
(CFR) at 50 CFR part 17. Documents and
other information submitted with the
applications are available for review,
subject to the requirements of the
Privacy Act of 1974, as amended (5

U.S.C. 552a), and the Freedom of
Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552).

Background

With some exceptions, the ESA
prohibits take of listed species unless a
Federal permit is issued that authorizes
such take. The definition of “take” in
the ESA includes hunting, shooting,
harming, wounding, or killing, and also
such activities as pursuing, harassing,
trapping, capturing, or collecting.

A recovery permit issued by us under
section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA
authorizes the permittee to take
endangered or threatened species while
engaging in activities that are conducted
for scientific purposes that promote
recovery of species or for enhancement
of propagation or survival of species.
These activities often include the
capture and collection of species, which
would result in prohibited take if a
permit were not issued. Our regulations
implementing section 10(a)(1)(A) of the
ESA 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.

**Permit Applications Available for
Review and Comment**

The ESA requires that we invite
public comment before issuing these
permits. Accordingly, we invite local,
State, Tribal, and Federal agencies, and
the public to submit written data, views,
or arguments with respect to these
applications. The comments and
recommendations that will be most
useful and likely to influence agency
decisions are those supported by
quantitative information or studies.
Proposed activities in the following
permit requests are for the recovery and
enhancement of propagation or survival
of the species in the wild.

Permit application No.	Applicant	Species	Location	Activity	Type of take	Permit action
ES065972-4	U.S. Forest Service; Russellville, AR.	Tricolored bat (<i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>)	Ozark-St. Francis National Forests, Arkansas.	Presence/probable absence surveys.	Enter hibernacula and maternity roost caves; capture, handle, identify, band, radio-tag, and release.	Amendment.
PER5292605-0	Amanda Miller; Winchester, TN.	Gray bat (<i>Myotis grisescens</i>), Indiana bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>), northern long-eared bat (<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>), and tricolored bat (<i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>).	Alabama and Tennessee.	Presence/probable absence surveys.	Capture, handle, identify, band, radio-tag, and release.	New.
PER5294766-0	Braci Gatlin; Moundville, AL.	Gray bat (<i>Myotis grisescens</i>), Indiana bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>), northern long-eared bat (<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>), and tricolored bat (<i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>).	Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and Tennessee.	Presence/probable absence surveys.	Capture, handle, identify, band, radio-tag, and release.	New.

Permit application No.	Applicant	Species	Location	Activity	Type of take	Permit action
ES62026D-3 ...	Catherine Haase, Austin Peay State University; Clarksville, TN.	Tricolored bat (<i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>)	Kentucky and Tennessee.	Assess bat community structure and habitat use.	Capture, handle, identify, band, radio-tag, and release.	Amendment.
ES02332D-4 ...	Michelle Gilley; Mars Hill, NC.	Gray bat (<i>Myotis grisescens</i>), Indiana bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>), northern long-eared bat (<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>), tricolored bat (<i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>), Virginia big-eared bat (<i>Corynorhinus (=Plecotus) townsendii virginianus</i>), and Carolina northern flying squirrel (<i>Glaucomys sabrinus coloratus</i>).	Bats: Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming; Carolina northern flying squirrel: North Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia.	Bats: Presence/probable absence surveys, studies to document habitat use, and population monitoring; Carolina northern flying squirrel: Presence/probable absence surveys and studies of home ranges, foraging behaviors, and roost tree preferences.	Bats: Capture, handle, identify, band, radio-tag, and release; Carolina northern flying squirrel: Capture, handle, identify, radio-tag, and release.	Renewal and amendment.
PER5521520-0	Sara Jeanine McLaughlin-Johnson; Kingsport, TN.	Gray bat (<i>Myotis grisescens</i>), Indiana bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>), northern long-eared bat (<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>), and tricolored bat (<i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>).	Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia.	Presence/probable absence surveys.	Enter hibernacula and maternity roost caves, capture, handle, identify, band, radio tag, and release.	New.
PER0037840-1	Cara Rogers; Ypsilanti, MI.	Gray bat (<i>Myotis grisescens</i>), Indiana bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>), and tricolored bat (<i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>).	Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Wisconsin, West Virginia, and Wyoming.	Presence/probable absence surveys.	Capture with mist nets, handle, identify, band, radio-tag, and release.	Amendment.
ES77472C-1 ...	Streamtechs, LLC; Athens, GA.	Amber darter (<i>Percina antesella</i>), blue shiner (<i>Cyprinella caerulea</i>), Cherokee darter (<i>Etheostoma scotti</i>), Conasauga logperch (<i>Percina jenkinsi</i>), Etowah darter (<i>Etheostoma etowahae</i>), and goldline darter (<i>Percina aurolineata</i>).	Georgia	Presence/probable absence surveys.	Capture, identify, and release.	Renewal.

Permit application No.	Applicant	Species	Location	Activity	Type of take	Permit action
PER5971699-0	Theresa Wetzel; Lexington, KY.	Gray bat (<i>Myotis grisescens</i>), Indiana bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>), northern long-eared bat (<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>), Ozark big-eared bat (<i>Corynorhinus (=Plecotus townsendii ingens)</i>), tricolored bat (<i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>), and Virginia big-eared bat (<i>Corynorhinus (=Plecotus townsendii virginianus)</i>).	Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Wisconsin, West Virginia, and Wyoming.	Presence/probable absence surveys.	Enter hibernacula and maternity roost caves; capture, handle, identify, band, radio-tag, collect tissue samples, and release.	New.
ES97308A-2 ...	John Harris; Scott, AR.	Arkansas fatmucket (<i>Lampsilis powellii</i>), Curtis pearlymussel (<i>Epioblasma florentina curtisii</i>), fanshell (<i>Cyprogenia stegaria</i>), fat pocketbook (<i>Potamilus capax</i>), Higgins eye (<i>Lampsilis higginsii</i>), Louisiana pearlshell (<i>Margaritifera hembeli</i>), Louisiana pigtoe (<i>Pleurobema riddellii</i>), Neosho mucket (<i>Lampsilis rafinesqueana</i>), Ouachita fanshell (<i>Cyprogenia sp. cf aberti</i>), Ouachita rock pocketbook (<i>Arcidens wheeleri</i>), pink mucket (<i>Lampsilis abrupta</i>), rabbitsfoot (<i>Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica</i>), ring pink (<i>Obovaria retusa</i>), rough pigtoe (<i>Pleurobema plenum</i>), salamander mussel (<i>Simpsonaias ambigua</i>), scaleshell (<i>Leptodea leptodon</i>), sheepnose (<i>Plethobasus cyphus</i>), snuffbox (<i>Epioblasma triquetra</i>), speckled pocketbook (<i>Lampsilis streckeri</i>), spectaclecase (<i>Cumberlandia monodonta</i>), western fanshell (<i>Cyprogenia aberti</i>), and winged mapleleaf (<i>Quadrula fragosa</i>).	Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin.	Presence/probable absence surveys, population estimate surveys, and DNA sampling.	Capture, collect tissue swabs, release, and salvage relic shells.	Renewal and amendment.
ES81202C-1 ...	Michael Maltba; Whitesburg, KY.	Gray bat (<i>Myotis grisescens</i>), Indiana bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>), northern long-eared bat (<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>), and tricolored bat (<i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>).	Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.	Enter hibernacula and maternity roost caves, capture, handle, band, radio tag, collect hair samples, wing punch, and light tag.	Presence/probable absence surveys and studies to document habitat use.	Renewal and amendment.

Public Availability of Comments

Written comments we receive become part of the administrative record

associated with this action. 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. 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.

Next Steps

After the comment period closes, we will make decisions regarding permit issuance. If we issue permits to any of the applicants listed above in this notice, we will publish a subsequent notice in the **Federal Register**. You may locate the notice announcing the permit issuance by searching <https://www.regulations.gov> for the application number listed above in this document. Type in your search exactly as the application number appears above, with spaces and hyphens as necessary. For example, to find information about the potential issuance of Permit No. PER 1234567–0, you would go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and put “PER 1234567–0” in the Search field.

Authority

We publish this notice under section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Lawrence Williams,

Acting Deputy Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, Southeast Region.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[BLML_NV_FRN_MO4500177289]

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Spring Valley Mine Project, Pershing County, Nevada

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA), and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Humboldt River Field Office in Winnemucca, Nevada, intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

to consider the effects of Solidus LLC’s (Solidus) Spring Valley Mine Project (Project) in Pershing County, Nevada. By this notice, the BLM is announcing the beginning of the scoping process to solicit public comments and identify issues.

DATES: This notice initiates the public scoping process for the EIS. The BLM requests that the public submit comments concerning the scope of the analysis, potential alternatives, and identification of relevant information and studies no later than 30 days after the date of publication in the **Federal Register**. To afford the BLM the opportunity to consider comments in the Draft EIS, please ensure your comments are received prior to the close of the 30-day scoping period or 15 days after the last public meeting, whichever is later. Two in-person public scoping meetings will be held during the public scoping period, the dates of which are to be determined.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments related to the Spring Valley Mine Project by any of the following methods:

- **Website:** <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2030469/510>.
- **Email:** blm_nv_wdo_spring_valley_gold_mine@blm.gov.
- **Mail:** BLM Humboldt River Field Office, Attn: Spring Valley Mine Project, 5100 East Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, Nevada 89445.

Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined online at <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/home> and at the Humboldt River Field Office.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Robert Sevon, Project Manager, address: 5100 East Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, Nevada 89445; email: blm_nv_wdo_spring_valley_gold_mine@blm.gov. Contact Mr. Sevon to have your name added to our mailing list.

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 Mr. Robert Sevon, Project Manager. 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: Based on the submitted proposed plan of operations (Plan), Solidus is proposing to construct, operate, close, and reclaim a new surface mine within Buena Vista Valley along the eastern part of the Humboldt Range, approximately 20 miles northeast of Lovelock, Nevada, and 70 miles southwest of Winnemucca, Nevada.

The proposed Spring Valley Mine Plan boundary would encompass 14,623 acres. The total disturbance associated with the proposed action, including exploration and the new mine operation, would be 6,232 acres, with 4,123 acres on land administered by the BLM and 2,109 acres on private land. The proposed surface mining activities for the Spring Valley Mine would include:

- One open pit and associated haul roads;
- Three waste rock facilities;
- A heap leach facility including a lined pad, process solution ponds, and carbon processing and refining facilities;
- Ancillary facilities including pit dewatering facilities with a rapid infiltration basin system; crushing circuit and an ore stockpile; secondary roads; stormwater controls and diversions; a mine fleet shop; explosives storage; truck shop and refueling area; mine offices and parking areas; laydown yards and storage areas; an aggregate plant; power distribution; a used-materials pad; freshwater distribution; potable water, fire water, and sewage systems; communications facilities; fuel storage and distribution facilities; monitoring wells; water pipelines; wildlife and range fencing; growth media stockpiles; and livestock water developments.
- Exploration activities of up to 50 acres would occur anywhere within the proposed Plan boundary.

Two plans of development (PODs) have been submitted by NV Energy and the Pershing County Road Department (Pershing County) to support the Plan. The Pershing County POD proposes to modify the existing Spring Valley Road with removal of a portion of the road, realignment around the proposed mining operation, and improvement of portions of the existing road. The NV Energy POD proposes to realign portions of two 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission lines and to construct a new 120-kV transmission line. Combined, these two PODs would disturb an additional 164 acres, with 102 acres on land administered by the BLM and 62 acres on private land.

As proposed, the Project would employ a contractor workforce of approximately 130 employees during the initial two-year construction period and approximately 250 full-time employees for the operations period. The Project would operate 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. The total life of the Project would be 29 years, including 2 years of construction, 11 years of mining, 3 additional years of ore processing, and 13 years of reclamation and closure activities. Reclamation of