

utilities used by the unit; the shelter rent factor accounts for the inflation in the rent of the residence but does not reflect any change in the cost of utilities. The gross rent inflation factor is designated as “Highest Cost Utility Included” and the shelter rent inflation factor is designated as “Highest Cost Utility Excluded.” In the past, HUD has calculated AAFs based on the shelter and gross rent inflation factors used in FMR calculations. The source data for AAFs therefore came from the 23 local and 4 regional CPI components (rent of primary residence and household fuels and utilities) depending on the location of the AAF area. HUD maintains the practice of updating the AAF methodology in line with the FMR methodology changes that HUD adopted for FY 2024. For FY 2024, HUD augmented the CPI data described above by including available private data sources along with the CPI data in calculating a weighted average shelter and gross rent inflation factor. The private measures of rent used by HUD are the RealPage average effective rent per unit, Moody’s Analytics REIS average market rent, CoStar Group average effective rent, CoreLogic, Inc. single-family combined 3-bedroom median rent, Apartment List Rent Estimate, and Zillow Observed Rent Index.

In calculating the AAF from these data, HUD first takes the annual average of each statistic, then its year-to-year change. HUD then takes the mean of changes from all available sources for each area. Next, HUD takes an average of this private-sector measure of rent inflation with rent inflation as captured by the CPI for the area, where the private-sector measure is weighted at approximately 55.8 percent and the CPI rent inflation measure is weighted at approximately 44.2 percent. HUD has determined these weights by comparing the national average of the private rent changes and changes in CPI rent of primary residence to changes in the national average of recent mover rents from the ACS from 2017 through 2021. HUD weights the private data averages and overall CPI rent of primary residence in such a way as to minimize the root mean squared error between the resulting average and the ACS recent mover rents. For future AAFs, HUD will update the weights by adding the most recent years of ACS recent mover rents, private rent data, and CPI rent of primary residence to the analysis.

HUD uses a local measure of private rent inflation for markets that are covered by at least three of the six available sources of private rent data. HUD combines this local measure of

rent inflation with either the local metropolitan area CPI rent of primary residence for the 23 areas where such data exist, or the regional CPI rent in areas without a local index. For areas without at least three of the six private rent data sources available, HUD uses a regional average of private rent inflation factors alongside the regional CPI rent of primary residence. HUD constructs the regional average by taking the rental unit weighted average of the change in rents of each area in a region that does have private rent data coverage. This ensures that smaller areas that are not covered by the private sources directly still have current rental market conditions taken into account in the calculation of the rent inflation factor for such areas.

The results of the above calculation are the “utility excluded” AAF. For the “utility included” AAF, HUD averages the result of this step with the year-to-year change in the CPI housing fuels and utilities index for the area in order to make the resulting inflation measure reflective of gross rents.

VI. Area Definitions

To make certain that they are using the correct AAFs, users should refer to the Area Definitions Table section at <http://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/aaf.html>. Furthermore, users can also search for AAF area definitions using an online lookup tool available on HUD User at <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/aaf.html>. AAFs are based on the updated metropolitan area definitions published by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on September 14, 2018, and first incorporated by the Census Bureau into the 2019 American Community Survey (ACS) data and the corresponding FY 2022 FMRs. On July 21, 2023, OMB published Bulletin No. 23–01, which contains revisions to metropolitan area definitions. However, the Census Bureau has not yet incorporated these revisions into the data available to HUD, and therefore HUD is not using these new definitions for FY 2024.

Solomon Greene,

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research.

[FR Doc. 2024–06798 Filed 3–29–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210–67–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS–R2–ES–2024–N020;
FXES11130200000–245–FF02ENEH00]

Endangered Wildlife; 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, invite the public to comment on the following applications for a permit to conduct activities intended to recover and enhance endangered species survival. With some exceptions, the Endangered Species Act (ESA) prohibits certain activities that may impact endangered species, unless a Federal permit allows such activity. The ESA also requires that we invite public comment before issuing these permits.

DATES: To ensure consideration, please submit your written comments by May 1, 2024.

ADDRESSES:

Document availability: Request documents from the contact in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section.

Comment submission: Submit comments by email to fw2_te_permits@fws.gov. Please specify the permit application you are interested in by number (e.g., Permit Record No. PER1234567).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Marty Tuegel, Supervisor, Environmental Review Division, by phone at 505–248–6651, or via email at marty_tuegel@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:

Background

With some exceptions, the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), prohibits activities that constitute take of listed species unless a Federal permit is issued that allows such activity. The ESA’s definition of “take” includes hunting, shooting, harming, wounding, or killing, and also such activities as

pursuing, harassing, trapping, capturing, or collecting.

The ESA and our implementing regulations in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at title 50, part 17, provide for issuing such permits and require that we invite public comment before issuing permits for activities involving listed species.

A recovery permit we issue under the ESA, section 10(a)(1)(A), authorizes the permittee to conduct activities with endangered or threatened species for scientific purposes that promote recovery or enhance the species' propagation or survival. These activities often include such prohibited actions as

capture and collection. Our regulations implementing section 10(a)(1)(A) 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

Documents and other information submitted with these applications are available for review by any party who submits a request as specified in **ADDRESSES**. Our release of documents is subject to Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a)

and Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) requirements.

Proposed activities in the following permit requests are for the recovery and enhancement of propagation or survival of the species in the wild. 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. Please refer to the permit record number when submitting comments.

| Permit record No. | Applicant | Species | Location | Activity | Type of take | Permit action |
|-------------------|--|---|---------------------------------------|---|------------------------|---------------|
| PER6195945 | Wildlife World Zoo, Inc.; Litchfield Park, Arizona. | Kemp's ridley sea turtle (<i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>). | Arizona | Educational display. | Harass, harm ... | New. |
| PER5348794 | Vaughn, Caryn; Norman, Oklahoma. | Ouachita rock pocketbook (<i>Arcidens wheeleri</i>), scaleshell mussel (<i>Leptodea leptodon</i>), winged mapleleaf (<i>Quadrula fragosa</i>). | Arkansas, Missouri, Oklahoma ... | Presence/absence surveys. | Harass, harm ... | New. |
| PER5348793 | Cantu, Eric; Edinburg, Texas. | Texas hornshell (<i>Popenaias popeii</i>). | Texas | Presence/absence surveys. | Harass, harm ... | New. |
| PER5530131 | Martin, Keith; Claremore, Oklahoma. | Indiana bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>), gray bat (<i>Myotis grisescens</i>), Ozark big-eared bat (<i>Corynorhinus (=Plecotus) townsendii ingens</i>), northern long-eared bat (<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>). | Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma. | Presence/absence surveys. | Harass, harm ... | Renew. |
| PER5699079 | McLean, Jesse; Dallas, Texas. | Golden-cheeked warbler (<i>Setophaga chrysoparia</i>). | Texas | Presence/absence surveys. | Harass, harm ... | Renew. |
| PER6816223 | Gonzales, Kelly; Houston, Texas. | Gulf coast jaguarundi (<i>Puma yagouaroundi cacomitli</i>), ocelot (<i>Leopardus (=Felis) pardalis</i>), northern aplomado falcon (<i>Falco femoralis septentrionalis</i>). | Arizona, New Mexico, Texas | Presence/absence surveys. | Harass, harm ... | Renew/amend. |
| PER7135821 | Tulsa District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Tulsa, Oklahoma. | Indiana bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>), gray bat (<i>Myotis grisescens</i>), Ozark big-eared bat (<i>Corynorhinus (=Plecotus) townsendii ingens</i>) Ouachita rock pocketbook (<i>Arcidens wheeleri</i>), winged mapleleaf (<i>Quadrula fragosa</i>). | Kansas, Oklahoma | Presence/absence surveys, handle, tag, salvage, bio-sample, band. | Capture, harass, harm. | Renew. |
| PER8668105 | Center of Excellence for Hazardous Materials Management; Carlsbad, New Mexico. | Lesser prairie-chicken (<i>Tympanuchus pallidicinctus</i>). | New Mexico | Presence/absence surveys, lek tours. | Harass, harm ... | New. |
| PER6353114 | Solari, Whitney; Bryan, Texas. | Golden-cheeked warbler (<i>Setophaga chrysoparia</i>). | Texas | Presence/absence surveys. | Harass, harm ... | New. |
| PER7248560 | Raven Environmental Services, Inc.; Huntsville, Texas. | Red-cockaded woodpecker (<i>Picoides borealis</i>). | Louisiana, Texas | Presence/absence surveys, nest monitoring, band, sexing, translocation, artificial cavity installation. | Capture, harass, harm. | Renew/amend. |
| PER7365932 | Kutz, Julie; Albuquerque, New Mexico. | Southwestern willow flycatcher (<i>Empidonax trillii extimus</i>). | New Mexico | Presence/absence surveys. | Harass, harm ... | Renew. |

| Permit record No. | Applicant | Species | Location | Activity | Type of take | Permit action |
|-------------------|---|---|---|---|------------------------------|---------------|
| PER7032540 | Blankenship, Ryan; Duncanville, Texas. | Gray bat (<i>Myotis grisescens</i>), Ozark big-eared bat (<i>Corynorhinus (=Plecotus) townsendii ingens</i>), northern long-eared bat (<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>), Indiana bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>), lesser prairie-chicken (<i>Tympanuchus pallidicinctus</i>), fountain darter (<i>Etheostoma fonticola</i>), Neosho mucket (<i>Lampsilis rafinesqueana</i>), Ouachita rock pocketbook (<i>Arcidens wheeleri</i>), scaleshell mussel (<i>Leptodea leptodon</i>), winged mapleleaf (<i>Quadrula fragosa</i>). | Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, Vermont, Wisconsin, Wyoming. | Presence/absence surveys, handle, tag, salvage, bio-sample, band. | Capture, harass, harm. | New. |
| PER8778179 | Baer Engineering and Environmental Consulting, Inc.; Austin, Texas. | Golden-cheeked warbler (<i>Setophaga chrysoparia</i>). | Texas | Presence/absence surveys. | Harass, harm ... | Amend. |
| PER9199896 | Bey, Trinity; Boerne, Texas. | Golden-cheeked warbler (<i>Setophaga chrysoparia</i>). | Texas | Presence/absence surveys. | Harass, harm ... | Renew. |
| PER8778158 | Blackland Environmental, LLC.; Garden Ridge, Texas. | Golden-cheeked warbler (<i>Setophaga chrysoparia</i>), red-cockaded woodpecker (<i>Picoides borealis</i>), Houston toad (<i>Bufo houstonensis</i>). | Louisiana, Texas | Presence/absence surveys. | Harass, harm ... | New. |
| PER8668106 | Hall, Ellen; Fort Worth, Texas. | Gray bat (<i>Myotis grisescens</i>), Ozark big-eared bat (<i>Corynorhinus (=Plecotus) townsendii ingens</i>), northern long-eared bat (<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>), Indiana bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>). | Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming. | Presence/absence surveys, handle, tag, salvage, bio-sample, band. | Capture, harass, harm. | New. |
| PER9200393 | SeaWorld of Texas; San Antonio, Texas. | Kemp's ridley sea turtle (<i>Lepidochelys kempi</i>), hawksbill sea turtle (<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>). | Texas | Rehabilitate, educational display. | Capture, harass, harm. | Renew. |
| PER8748209 | University of Texas Austin; Austin, Texas. | Big Bend gambusia (<i>Gambusia gaigei</i>). | Texas | Presence/absence surveys, trap, anesthetize. | Capture, harass, harm. | New. |
| PER9229906 | Gluesenkamp, Andrew; Driftwood, Texas. | Barton Springs salamander (<i>Eurycea sosorum</i>), Austin blind salamander (<i>Eurycea waterlooensis</i>), Peck's Cave amphipod (<i>Stygobromus (=Stygonectes) pecki</i>), Comal Springs riffle beetle (<i>Heterelmis comalensis</i>), Comal Springs dryopid beetle (<i>Stygoparnus comalensis</i>), Texas blind salamander (<i>Eurycea rathbuni</i>), Mexican blindcat (<i>Prietella phreatophila</i>). | Texas | Presence/absence surveys, collect, voucher specimen. | Capture, harass, harm, kill. | New. |
| PER9229948 | Bureau of Reclamation—Boulder City; Boulder City, Nevada. | Southwestern willow flycatcher (<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>), Yuma Ridgway's rail (<i>Rallus obsoletus yumanensis</i>). | Arizona, California | Presence/absence surveys, band, tag. | Capture, harass, harm. | Amend. |
| PER9229950 | Burns, Jodie; Bentonville, Arkansas. | Red-cockaded woodpecker (<i>Picoides borealis</i>). | Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Oklahoma, Texas, Virginia. | Presence/absence surveys. | Harass, harm ... | Amend. |

Public Availability of Comments

All comments we receive become part of the public record associated with this action. Requests for copies of comments will be handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and Service and Department of the Interior policies and procedures. 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 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.

Authority

We provide this notice under section 10 of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Amy Lueders,

Regional Director, Southwest Region.

[FR Doc. 2024-06830 Filed 3-29-24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4333-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R8-NWRS-2024-N009;
FXRS1261080000-245-FF08R04000]

Beneficial Reuse of Excavated Material in Tidal Marsh Restoration; Intent To Prepare Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority propose to act in partnership to prepare a joint draft environmental impact statement/environmental impact report to evaluate the impacts on the environment related to placing excavated or other fill material into several former salt production ponds on, and adjacent to, Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge to raise the pond bottoms for the purpose of accelerating the timeline for tidal marsh habitat restoration. The

Service is providing this notice to open a public scoping period in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act and its implementing regulations. We invite comment from the public and local, State, Tribal, and Federal agencies.

DATES: To ensure consideration in our reviews, we are requesting submission of new information no later than May 16, 2024.

ADDRESSES: You may submit written comments and materials by one of the following methods:

- *U.S. Mail:* San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex, Attn: Beneficial Reuse Project, 1 Marshlands Road, Fremont, CA 94555.
- *Email:* fw8plancomment@fws.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Matthew Brown, Complex Manager, San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex, via email at matthew_brown@fws.gov or via phone at 510-453-6695. 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: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, in cooperation with the Santa Clara Valley Water District, propose to prepare a joint draft environmental impact statement/environmental impact report to evaluate the effects of placing excavated or other fill material into several former salt production ponds around South San Francisco Bay to raise the pond bottoms for the purpose of accelerating the timeline for tidal marsh habitat restoration. The joint draft environmental impact statement/environmental impact report would analyze the Beneficial Reuse of Excavated Material in Tidal Marsh Restoration Project (Beneficial Reuse Project) at both a project level and a programmatic level.

The Beneficial Reuse Project would be analyzed at a project level by explicitly evaluating the potential transport and placement of up to 3.5 million cubic yards of excavated material from VTA's BART Silicon Valley-Phase II Extension Project (BSVII project) for the purpose of raising the deeply subsided pond bottoms. For the project-level analysis, the Beneficial Reuse Project would be implemented at the Pond A8 Complex (consisting of Ponds A5, A7, A8, and A8S), Pond A12, and Pond A13 within

the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. These ponds are owned by the USFWS and are part of the Alviso Pond Complex. The Beneficial Reuse Project would also be implemented at Pond A4, which is owned by Valley Water. These ponds were selected for analysis at the project level as they are relatively close to the BSVII Project site compared to other ponds in the South Bay.

The Beneficial Reuse Project would also be analyzed at a programmatic level by evaluating the transport and placement of excavated material from future projects yet to be identified. Placement of such material could occur in the Ravenswood Pond Complex (except Pond SF2), the Alviso Pond Complex (including the A8 Complex, A12, and A13, and excluding A22 and A23), and Pond A4. The programmatic analysis would allow other project proponents to use the joint draft environmental impact statement/environmental impact report as the basis for their future projects that would also transport and place excavated material into the ponds for the purpose of raising pond bottoms. These other project proponents would need to conduct additional environmental analysis at the project-level once their projects are sufficiently defined.

We are requesting comments concerning the scope of the analysis and identification of relevant information and studies.

Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

The purpose of the Beneficial Reuse Project is to:

- Transport BSVII Project tunnel excavation material and other excavated material to select former salt production ponds in South San Francisco Bay for beneficial reuse.
- Place excavated material within select ponds to raise the elevation of pond bottoms to accelerate the timeline for and increase the certainty of tidal marsh restoration.
- Place excavated material in the Pond A8 Complex and/or other select ponds with legacy mercury to cover and bury contaminated sediments to reduce the potential for mercury to bioaccumulate through the aquatic environment.

The need for the Beneficial Reuse Project is as follows:

- The BSVII Project will generate a considerable amount of excavated material on a daily basis during construction of the 5-mile-long tunnel and other facilities. The material must be hauled off site regularly to keep pace