

this process, the party's representative may request and be granted conditional access to the SSI at issue in the case. TSA may grant court reporters and experts access to the SSI under similar terms and conditions.

Under 49 CFR 1520.11 and 1520.15, TSA may also consider individuals who are (1) prospective bidders to a Request for Proposal; (2) involved in the performance of non-traditional contractual agreements (e.g., bailments) or other transaction agreements; or (3) receiving access to SSI as a conditional disclosure under 49 CFR 1520.15(e) in this process.

Under 49 CFR 1520.11(c), TSA may make an individual's access to SSI contingent upon satisfactory completion of a security threat assessment (STA), including evaluation of a fingerprint-based criminal history records check (CHRC); and/or a name-based check against federal law enforcement, terrorism, and immigration databases; and/or other procedures and requirements for safeguarding SSI that are satisfactory to TSA. *See also* 49 U.S.C. 114(f)(4). To conduct this STA, TSA collects identifying information, an explanation supporting the individuals' need for the information, and other information related to safeguarding SSI to conduct the STAs. For individuals who have received a comparable STA from TSA (such as being a member of the TSA PreCheck® Application Program), TSA may also use the known traveler number issued by TSA to inform an individual's eligibility to access SSI, or otherwise honor the comparable STA. TSA uses the results of the STA to make a final determination on whether the individual may be granted access to SSI. TSA also uses the information as part of

hardship to obtain the substantial equivalent of the information by other means, the party or party's counsel shall be designated as a covered person under 49 CFR part 1520.7 in order to have access to the SSI at issue in the case, provided that the overseeing judge enters an order that protects the SSI from unauthorized or unnecessary disclosure and specifies the terms and conditions of access, unless upon completion of a criminal history check and terrorist assessment like that done for aviation workers on the persons seeking access to SSI, or based on the sensitivity of the information, the Transportation Security Administration or DHS demonstrates that such access to the information for the proceeding presents a risk of harm to the nation: Provided, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, an order granting access to SSI under this section shall be immediately appealable to the United States Courts of Appeals, which shall have plenary review over both the evidentiary finding and the sufficiency of the order specifying the terms and conditions of access to the SSI in question: Provided further, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may assess a civil penalty of up to \$50,000 for each violation of 49 CFR part 1520 by persons provided access to SSI under this provision.

its determination as to whether provision of access to specific SSI would present a risk of harm to the nation.

In addition, TSA uses the information from individuals who have recently (i.e., within 2 years or as determined appropriate by the program office) successfully undergone a federal background investigation (i.e., Tier 1) or hold an active security clearance granting access to classified national security information to facilitate the STA. TSA will use this information as part of its determination as to whether provision of access to specific SSI would be detrimental to transportation security.

Applicants seeking access to SSI in federal district court litigation must complete TSA Form 2817A, *SSI Access Threat Assessment Questionnaire—Litigation*. Bidders and certain other applicants are required to complete TSA Form 2817B, *SSI Access Threat Assessment Questionnaire—Standard* in order to have a STA completed before they can receive the requested SSI. The data points consist of identifying information, including, but not limited to, full name (including any aliases), date of birth, place of birth, gender, Social Security number (optional), employer name (optional); country of citizenship, Known Traveler Number (if using TSA PreCheck as a comparable STA), level and date of security clearance (if available), and information regarding the need for the information (litigant, bidder, etc.).

In addition to the information required for conducting STAs, TSA requires contract bidders to provide a certification from each company/entity that its employees/personnel who are provided access to SSI are properly trained; a Non-Disclosure Agreement for each individual who is granted access to SSI; and an affirmation that each company/entity will designate a senior official who can certify that all appropriate protections will be followed, only authorized individuals will have access to the sensitive information, and that those individuals adequately understand their responsibilities to protect the information. TSA may also require these items for other contractual agreements (e.g., bailments), other transaction agreements, or conditional SSI disclosures, on a case-by-case basis.

In the case of a party seeking access to SSI in a civil proceeding in federal court, TSA will gather the information required for individual vetting, including fingerprinting to conduct a CHRC and also require these individuals to respond to questions to verify

individuals' history in safeguarding sensitive information, including good standing with bar membership or sanctions; and to agree to abide by TSA instructions concerning the handling of SSI in connection with the court proceeding.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 263.

Estimated Annual Burden Hours: 104.53.³

Dated: December 11, 2024.

Christina A. Walsh,

TSA Paperwork Reduction Act Officer,
Information Technology.

[FR Doc. 2024-29661 Filed 12-16-24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 9110-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R8-ES-2024-N064;
FXES1113080000-245-FF08E00000]

Endangered and Threatened Species; Receipt of 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 scientific research to promote conservation or other activities intended to enhance the propagation or survival of endangered or threatened 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 your written comments on or before January 16, 2025.

ADDRESSES: *Document availability and comment submission:* Submit requests for copies of the applications and related documents and submit any comments by one of the following methods. All requests and comments should specify the applicant name(s) and application number(s) (e.g., XXXXXX or PER0001234).

- *Email:* permitsR8ES@fws.gov.
- *U.S. Mail:* Tiffany Heitz, Regional Recovery Permit Coordinator, U.S. Fish

³ Since the publication of the 60-day notice, TSA has adjusted the hour burden from 275 hours to 104.53 hours.

and Wildlife Service, 2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2606, Sacramento, CA 95825.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Tiffany Heitz, via phone at 916-414-6489, or via email at permitsR8ES@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 the public to comment on applications for permits under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). The requested permits would allow the applicants to conduct activities intended to promote recovery of species

that are listed as endangered or threatened under the ESA.

Background

With some exceptions, the ESA 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 such activities as pursuing, harassing, trapping, capturing, or collecting, in addition to hunting, shooting, harming, wounding, or killing.

A recovery permit issued by us under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA authorizes the permittee to conduct activities with endangered or threatened species for scientific purposes that promote recovery or for enhancement of propagation or survival of the species. These activities often include such prohibited actions as capture and collection. Our regulations implementing section 10(a)(1)(A) for these permits are found in the Code of

Federal Regulations 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

Proposed activities in the permit requests in table 1 are for the recovery and enhancement of propagation or survival of the species in the wild. 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.

TABLE 1—PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

Application No.	Applicant, city, state	Species	Location	Take activity	Permit action
PER10235675	Alex Hirth, Berkeley, California.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> California tiger salamander (<i>Ambystoma californiense</i>) Santa Barbara County and Sonoma County distinct population segments. 	CA	Survey, capture, handle, swab, and release.	New.
843381	Sonoma-Mendocino Coast District State Park, Mendocino, California.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Myrtle’s silverspot butterfly (<i>Speyeria zerene myrtleae</i>). 	CA	Pursue and conduct habitat restoration	Amend.
PER11848759	Kelsea Loescher, San Marcos, California.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservancy fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta conservatio</i>). Longhorn fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta longiantenna</i>). Vernal pool tadpole shrimp (<i>Lepidurus packardii</i>). Riverside fairy shrimp (<i>Streptocephalus woottoni</i>). San Diego fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta sandiegonensis</i>). 	CA	Survey, capture, handle, release, collect adult vouchers, and collect resting eggs.	New.
205609	Lawrence Kobernus, San Francisco, California.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> California tiger salamander (<i>Ambystoma californiense</i>) Sonoma County distinct population segment. San Francisco garter snake (<i>Thamnophis sirtalis tetrataenia</i>). 	CA	Survey, capture, handle, swab, and release.	Renew.
094318	Jessica Vinje, Escondido, California.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orcutt’s spineflower (<i>Chorizanthe orcuttiana</i>). Salt marsh bird’s-beak (<i>Cordylanthus maritimus maritimus</i>).. Willow monardella (<i>Monardella viminea</i>). 	CA	Collect	Renew.
027422	Brian T. Pittman, Rohnert Park, California.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservancy fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta conservatio</i>). Longhorn fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta longiantenna</i>). Vernal pool tadpole shrimp (<i>Lepidurus packardii</i>). California tiger salamander (<i>Ambystoma californiense</i>) Sonoma County distinct population segment. San Francisco garter snake (<i>Thamnophis sirtalis tetrataenia</i>). 	CA	Survey, capture, handle, swab, release, collect adult vouchers, and collect resting eggs.	Renew.

TABLE 1—PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED—Continued

Application No.	Applicant, city, state	Species	Location	Take activity	Permit action
041668	Cleveland National Forest, San Diego, California.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southwestern willow flycatcher (<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>). • Arroyo toad (<i>Anaxyrus californicus</i>) • San Diego button-celery (<i>Eryngium aristulatum</i> var. <i>parishii</i>). • Nevin's barberry (<i>Berberis nevenii</i>) • Slender-horned spineflower (<i>Dodecahema leptoceras</i>). • San Bernardino bluegrass (<i>Poa atropurpurea</i>). • Braunton's milk-vetch (<i>Astragalus brauntonii</i>). • Munz's onion (<i>Allium munzii</i>) 	CA	Survey, capture, handle, swab, release, and collect.	Renew and amend.
PER12435078	Cailan Patel, Concord, California.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foothill yellow-legged frog (<i>Rana boylei</i>) South Sierra and South Coast distinct population segments. 	CA	Survey, capture, handle, swab, and release.	New.
PER4775159	Andrew Kort, La Mesa, California.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quino checkerspot butterfly (<i>Euphydryas editha quino</i>). 	CA	Pursue	New.
32232D	Sara Snyder, Grover Beach, California.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservancy fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta conservatio</i>). • Longhorn fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta longiantenna</i>). • Vernal pool tadpole shrimp (<i>Lepidurus packardii</i>). • Riverside fairy shrimp (<i>Streptocephalus woottoni</i>). • San Diego fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta sandiegonensis</i>). 	CA	Survey, capture, handle, release, and collect adult vouchers.	Renew.
PER12736199	Stephen L Peterson, Grover Beach, California.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • California tiger salamander (<i>Ambystoma californiense</i>) Santa Barbara County and Sonoma County distinct population segments. 	CA	Survey, capture, handle, swab, and release.	New.
027427	Jeff Alvarez, Sacramento, California.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • California tiger salamander (<i>Ambystoma californiense</i>) Santa Barbara County and Sonoma County distinct population segments. • Conservancy fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta conservatio</i>). • Longhorn fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta longiantenna</i>). • Vernal pool tadpole shrimp (<i>Lepidurus packardii</i>). • Riverside fairy shrimp (<i>Streptocephalus woottoni</i>). • San Diego fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta sandiegonensis</i>). • Foothill yellow-legged frog (<i>Rana boylei</i>), South Sierra and South Coast distinct population segments. 	CA	Survey, capture, handle, swab, and release.	Renew and amend.
808241	Sonoma County Water Agency, Santa Rosa, California.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • California tiger salamander (<i>Ambystoma californiense</i>) Santa Barbara County and Sonoma County distinct population segments. • California freshwater shrimp (<i>Syncaris pacifica</i>). 	CA	Survey, capture, handle, swab, and release.	Renew.
30023C	Joshua Zinn, La Mesa, California.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservancy fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta conservatio</i>). • Longhorn fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta longiantenna</i>). • Vernal pool tadpole shrimp (<i>Lepidurus packardii</i>). • Riverside fairy shrimp (<i>Streptocephalus woottoni</i>). • San Diego fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta sandiegonensis</i>). 	CA	Survey, capture, handle, release, collect adult vouchers, and collect resting eggs.	Renew.
102310	Mitchell Dallas, Morro Bay, California.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservancy fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta conservatio</i>). • Longhorn fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta longiantenna</i>). • Vernal pool tadpole shrimp (<i>Lepidurus packardii</i>). • Riverside fairy shrimp (<i>Streptocephalus woottoni</i>). • San Diego fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta sandiegonensis</i>). 	CA	Survey, capture, handle, release, collect adult vouchers, collect and hydrate resting eggs.	Renew.
29522A	Kenneth Gilliland, Ventura, California.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • California tiger salamander (<i>Ambystoma californiense</i>) Santa Barbara County distinct population segment. 	CA	Collect tail clips for genetic samples ...	Amend.

TABLE 1—PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED—Continued

Application No.	Applicant, city, state	Species	Location	Take activity	Permit action
217402	Julie Love, Santa Barbara, California.	• Tidewater goby (<i>Eucyclogobius newberryi</i>).	CA	Survey, capture, handle, photograph (as vouchering tool), release, and collect voucher specimens.	Renew.
217401	Cristina Slaughter, Santa Ynez, California.	• Tidewater goby (<i>Eucyclogobius newberryi</i>).	CA	Survey, capture, handle, and release	Renew.
797999	Merkel & Associates, Inc., San Diego, California.	• Tidewater goby (<i>Eucyclogobius newberryi</i>). • Conservancy fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta conservatio</i>). • Longhorn fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta longiantenna</i>). • Vernal pool tadpole shrimp (<i>Lepidurus packardii</i>). • Riverside fairy shrimp (<i>Streptocephalus woottoni</i>). • San Diego fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta sandiegonensis</i>). • Quino checkerspot butterfly (<i>Euphydryas editha quino</i>). • Light-footed Ridway's rail (<i>Rallus longirostris levipes</i>). • Unarmored threespine stickleback (<i>Gasterosteus aculeatus williamsoni</i>). • Southwestern willow flycatcher (<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>).	CA	Survey, pursue, capture, handle, release, collect adult vouchers, and collect resting eggs.	Renew.
13639B	Anastasia Ennis, San Francisco, California.	• Salt marsh harvest mouse (<i>Reithrodontomys raviventris</i>). • California Ridway's rail (<i>Rallus longirostris obsoletus</i>).	CA	Survey, capture, handle, mark, take hair and tissue samples, and release.	Renew and amend.
PER13461767	Port of Los Angeles, San Pedro, California.	• California least tern (<i>Sterna antillarum browni</i>).	CA	Survey, locate and monitor nests, and mark nests.	New.
68599D	San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance, San Diego, California.	• Laguna Mountains skipper (<i>Pyrgus ruralis lagunae</i>).	CA	Release all life stages	Amend.
PER0002928	Fresno Chaffee Zoo, Fresno, California.	• Blunt-nosed leopard lizard (<i>Gambelia silus</i>).	CA	Survey, capture, handle, and release	Amend.
08087D	Jonathan Walker, San Diego, California.	• Quino checkerspot butterfly (<i>Euphydryas editha quino</i>). • Conservancy fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta conservatio</i>). • Longhorn fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta longiantenna</i>). • Vernal pool tadpole shrimp (<i>Lepidurus packardii</i>). • Riverside fairy shrimp (<i>Streptocephalus woottoni</i>). • San Diego fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta sandiegonensis</i>).	CA	Survey, pursue, capture, handle, release, collect adult vouchers, and collect resting eggs.	Renew.
42300D	Kelli Camara, Soquel, California.	• Foothill yellow-legged frog (<i>Rana boylei</i>), South Coast distinct population segment. • Santa Cruz long-toed salamander (<i>Ambystoma macrodactylum croceum</i>).	CA	Survey, capture, handle, swab, release, rescue, and relocate.	Renew and amend.
PER13593542	Brian Nissen, San Ramon, California.	• California tiger salamander (<i>Ambystoma californiense</i>) Santa Barbara County distinct population segment.	CA	Survey, capture, handle, swab, and release.	New.
31349D	University of California, Santa Barbara, California.	• Mountain yellow-legged frog (<i>Rana mucosa</i>), Southern California distinct population segment. • Mountain yellow-legged frog (<i>Rana mucosa</i>), Northern California distinct population segment. • Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog (<i>Rana sierrae</i>). • Arroyo toad (<i>Anaxyrus californicus</i>)	CA	Survey, capture, handle, swab, collect mucosome samples, clip toes, and release; and collect tadpole specimens.	Renew and amend.
788133	Vincent Scheidt, San Diego, California.	• Quino checkerspot butterfly (<i>Euphydryas editha quino</i>).	CA	Survey, pursue, capture, handle, and release.	Renew.
817397	John Storrer, Santa Barbara, California.	• California tiger salamander (<i>Ambystoma californiense</i>) Santa Barbara County and Sonoma County distinct population segments.	CA	Survey, capture, handle, collect tissue samples, collect voucher specimens, and release.	Renew.
135948	Natalie Brodie, San Diego, California.	• Quino checkerspot butterfly (<i>Euphydryas editha quino</i>).	CA	Survey, pursue, capture, handle, and release.	Renew.

TABLE 1—PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED—Continued

Application No.	Applicant, city, state	Species	Location	Take activity	Permit action
134338	Brenna Ogg, San Diego, California.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quino checkerspot butterfly (<i>Euphydryas editha quino</i>). Conservancy fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta conservatio</i>). Longhorn fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta longiantenna</i>). Vernal pool tadpole shrimp (<i>Lepidurus packardii</i>). Riverside fairy shrimp (<i>Streptocephalus woottoni</i>). San Diego fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta sandiegonensis</i>). 	CA	Survey, pursue, capture, handle, release, collect adult vouchers, and collect resting eggs.	Renew and amend.
62708B	Mary Halterman, Onyx, California.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Southwestern willow flycatcher (<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>). 	CA	Survey	Renew.
036499	National Park Service—Golden Gate National Recreation Area, San Francisco, California.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> San Francisco garter snake (<i>Thamnophis sirtalis tetrataenia</i>). 	CA	Survey, capture, handle, temporarily hold in captivity, transport, mark, conduct telemetry, collect biological samples, and release.	Amend.
92167B	San Francisco Zoological Society, San Francisco, California.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foothill yellow-legged frog (<i>Rana boylei</i>), South Coast and South Sierra distinct population segments. San Francisco garter snake (<i>Thamnophis sirtalis tetrataenia</i>). California tiger salamander (<i>Ambystoma californiense</i>) Santa Barbara County and Sonoma County distinct population segments. 	CA, NV	Transport, captive-rear, provide veterinary treatment and husbandry, take biological samples, mark, provide disease treatment and immunization, hold for educational display, release, sacrifice, and necropsy.	Amend.

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 request in your comment that we 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, will be made available for public disclosure in their entirety.

Next Steps

If we decide to issue permits to any of the applicants listed in this notice, we will publish a notice in the **Federal Register**.

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.*).

Angela Picco,

Regional Threatened and Endangered Species Lead, Ecological Services, Pacific Southwest Region, Sacramento, California.

[FR Doc. 2024–29643 Filed 12–16–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4333–15–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[Docket No. FWS–R4–ES–2024–0189; FXES11140400000–256–FF04EF4000]

Receipt of Incidental Take Permit Application and Proposed Habitat Conservation Plan for the Sand Skink; Polk County, FL; Categorical Exclusion

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability; request for comments and information.

SUMMARY: We, the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce receipt of an application from RWLC Development Sub, LLC (applicant) for an incidental take permit (ITP) under the Endangered Species Act. The applicant requests the ITP to take the federally listed sand skink and bluetail mole skink (skinks) incidental to the construction of a commercial development in Polk County, Florida. We request public comment on the application, which includes the applicant’s proposed habitat conservation plan (HCP), and on the Service’s preliminary determination that the proposed permitting action may be eligible for a categorical exclusion pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality’s National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations, the Department of the Interior’s (DOI) NEPA regulations, and the DOI Departmental Manual. To make this preliminary determination, we prepared a draft environmental action

statement and low-effect screening form, both of which are also available for public review. We invite comment from the public and local, State, Tribal, and Federal agencies.

DATES: We must receive your written comments on or before January 16, 2025.

ADDRESSES:

Obtaining Documents: The documents this notice announces, as well as any comments and other materials that we receive, will be available for public inspection online in Docket No. FWS–R4–ES–2024–0189 at <https://www.regulations.gov>.

Submitting Comments: If you wish to submit comments on any of the documents, you may do so in writing by one of the following methods:

- Online: <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments on Docket No. FWS–R4–ES–2024–0189; or

- U.S. mail: Public Comments Processing, Attn: Docket No. FWS–R4–ES–2024–0189; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS: PRB/3W, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041–3803.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Erin Gawera, by U.S. mail (see **ADDRESSES**), by telephone at 904–404–2464, or via email at erin_gawera@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