

samples, band, radio-tag, light-tag, swab, and wing-punch) Indiana bats (*Myotis sodalis*), gray bats (*M. grisescens*) and northern long-eared bats (*M. septentrionalis*) while conducting presence/absence surveys, studies to document habitat use, population monitoring, and white-nose syndrome surveillance: Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

Permit Application Number: TE 18119C-0

Applicant: Joey A. Weber, Candler, NC.

The applicant requests a permit to take (enter hibernacula or maternity roost caves, salvage dead bats, capture with mist nets or harp traps, handle, identify, collect hair samples, band, radio-tag, light-tag, swab, and wing-punch) Indiana bats (*Myotis sodalis*), gray bats (*M. grisescens*), northern long-eared bats (*M. septentrionalis*), and Virginia big-eared bats (*Corynorhinus (= plecotus) townsendii virginianus*) while conducting presence/absence surveys, studies to document habitat use, population monitoring, and white-nose syndrome surveillance in 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, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

Permit Application Number: TE 56746B-2

Applicant: Joseph S. Johnson, Ohio University, Athens, OH.

The applicant requests amendment of his permit to add authorization to take (capture with mist nets, handle, band, and radio-tag) up to 5 adult Indiana bats (*Myotis sodalis*) in Athens and Hocking counties, Ohio, for scientific research to identify the habitat characteristics associated with reproductive success.

Permit Application Number: TE 18986C-0

Applicant: North Carolina Zoological Park, Asheboro, NC.

The applicant requests a permit to conduct the following activities with the Virgin Islands tree boa (*Epicrates monensis granti*) in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands: Collect 10 males and 10 females from the wild for holding and captive propagation at the North Carolina Zoo and Fort Worth Zoo to serve as founder stock for future reintroduction efforts and as an assurance colony population; take (capture, handle, PIT-tag, collect blood, clip ventral scales or tail tip, and salvage) all Virgin Islands tree boas encountered in the field while searching for appropriate individuals for the captive propagation program for population monitoring and genetic analyses; and take (capture, handle, radio-tag, and release) up to 10 individuals to study the species' spatial/temporal habitat use.

Permit Application Number: TE 68616B-1

Applicant: Carla Atkinson, Univ. of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL.

The applicant requests amendment of her permit to authorize take (relocate into in-stream enclosures, attach individually labeled fishing line) of up to 800 southern clubshells (*Pleurobema decisum*) in the Sipsey River, Alabama, for a 3-month mussel movement and burial preferences study.

Permit Application Number: TE 62778B-1

Applicant: Chanston T. Osborne, Kennesaw, GA.

The applicant requests amendment of his permit to add authorization to take (capture with mist nets and harp traps, handle, identify, band, and attach radio transmitters) gray bats (*Myotis grisescens*) in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and West Virginia while conducting presence/absence surveys.

Authority: We provide this notice under section 10(c) of the Act.

Dated: February 1, 2017.

Leopoldo Miranda,

Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, Southeast Region.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[Docket No. FWS-HQ-IA-2017-0008; FXIA16710900000-178-FF09A30000]

Endangered Species; Receipt of Applications for Permit

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of applications for permit.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, invite the public to comment on the following applications to conduct certain activities with endangered species. With some exceptions, the Endangered Species Act (ESA) prohibits activities with listed species unless Federal authorization is acquired that allows such activities.

DATES: We must receive comments or requests for documents on or before April 12, 2017.

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

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments on Docket No. FWS-HQ-IA-2017-0008.

- *U.S. mail or hand-delivery:* Public Comments Processing, Attn: Docket No. FWS-HQ-IA-2017-0008; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Headquarters, MS: BPHC; 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.

When submitting comments, please indicate the name of the applicant and the PRT# you are commenting on. We will post all comments on <http://www.regulations.gov>. This generally means that we will post any personal information you provide us (see the Public Comments section below for more information).

Viewing Comments: Comments and materials we receive will be available for public inspection on <http://www.regulations.gov>, or by appointment, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays, at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Management Authority, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803; telephone 703-358-2095.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Joyce Russell, (703) 358-2104 (telephone); (703) 358-2281 (fax); DMAFR@fws.gov (email).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Public Comment Procedures

A. How do I request copies of applications or comment on submitted applications?

Send your request for copies of applications or comments and materials concerning any of the applications to the contact listed under **ADDRESSES**. Please include the **Federal Register** notice publication date, the PRT-number, and the name of the applicant in your request or submission. We will not consider requests or comments sent to an email or address not listed under **ADDRESSES**. If you provide an email address in your request for copies of applications, we will attempt to respond to your request electronically.

Please make your requests or comments as specific as possible. Please confine your comments to issues for which we seek comments in this notice, and explain the basis for your comments. Include sufficient information with your comments 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. We will not consider or include in our administrative record comments we receive after the close of the comment period (see **DATES**) or comments delivered to an address other than those listed above (see **ADDRESSES**).

B. May I review comments submitted by others?

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the street address listed under **ADDRESSES**. The public may review documents and other information applicants have sent in support of the application unless our allowing viewing would violate the Privacy Act or Freedom of Information Act. 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.

II. Background

To help us carry out our conservation responsibilities for affected species, and

in consideration of section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), along with Executive Order 13576, “Delivering an Efficient, Effective, and Accountable Government,” and the President’s Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies of January 21, 2009—Transparency and Open Government (74 FR 4685; January 26, 2009), which call on all Federal agencies to promote openness and transparency in Government by disclosing information to the public, we invite public comment on these permit applications before final action is taken.

III. Permit Applications

Endangered Species

Applicant: Yerkes National Primate Research Center, Atlanta, GA; PRT-837068

The applicant requests renewal of a permit to take captive-bred sooty mangabeys (*Cercocebus atys*) through limited invasive sampling, including anesthetizing, collecting blood, skin, and bone marrow tissue samples, and MRI scanning usually but not always, during routine veterinary examinations for the purpose of scientific research. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

Applicant: University of Illinois, Brookfield, IL; PRT-203197

The applicant requests a permit to import biological specimens from wild and captive-held grey wolves (*Canis lupus*), bush dog (*Speothos venaticus*), and all cat species (*Felidae*) from any location where individuals from these species may be found for the purpose of scientific research. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

Applicant: Forrest Simpson, Bedias, TX; PRT-115344

The applicant requests a captive-bred wildlife registration under 50 CFR 17.21(g) for the following species to enhance species propagation or survival: Barasingha (*Rucervus duvaucelii*). This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

Applicant: Stevens Forest Ranch, Sanderson, TX; PRT-13615C

The applicant requests a permit authorizing the culling of excess barasinghas (*Rucervus duvaucelii*) from the captive herd maintained at their facility, to enhance the species’ propagation and survival. This notification covers activities to be

conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

Joyce Russell,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R2-ES-2017-N005;
FXES11140200000-178-FF02ENEH00]

Incidental Take Permit Application Received To Participate in American Burying Beetle Amended Oil and Gas Industry Conservation Plan in Oklahoma

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability; request for public comments.

SUMMARY: Under the Endangered Species Act, as amended (Act), we, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, invite the public to comment on an incidental take permit application for the federally listed American burying beetle. The applicant anticipates the take of American burying beetle as a result of impacts to habitat the species uses for breeding, feeding, and sheltering in Oklahoma. The take would be incidental to the applicant’s activities associated with oil and gas well field and pipeline infrastructure (gathering, transmission, and distribution), including geophysical exploration (seismic), construction, maintenance, operation, repair, decommissioning, and reclamation. If approved, the permit would be issued under the approved *American Burying Beetle Amended Oil and Gas Industry Conservation Plan (ICP) Endangered Species Act Section 10(a)(1)(B) Permit Issuance in Oklahoma*.

DATES: To ensure consideration, written comments must be received on or before April 12, 2017.

ADDRESSES: You may obtain copies of all documents and submit comments on the applicant’s Incidental Take Permit (ITP) application by one of the following methods. Please refer to the proposed permit number when requesting documents or submitting comments.

- *U.S. Mail:* U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Endangered Species—HCP Permits, P.O. Box 1306, Room 6034, Albuquerque, NM 87103.
- *Electronically:* fw2_hcp_permits@fws.gov.