

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

We invite the public to comment on applications to conduct certain activities with endangered species. With some exceptions, the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*; ESA) prohibits activities with listed species unless Federal authorization is acquired that allows such activities.

*Applicant:* Zoological Society of San Diego, San Diego, CA; PRT-33261C

The applicant requests a permit to import one male captive-born Amur leopard (*Panthera pardus orientalis*) from the Parco Faunistico La Torbiera Zoo, Piemonte, Italy, to enhance the propagation or survival of the species. This notification is for a single import.

*Applicant:* St. Catherine's Island Foundation, Midway, GA; PRT-34507C

The applicant requests a permit to export 12 male captive-born ring-tailed lemurs (*Lemur catta*) to Australia Zoo, Queensland, Australia, to enhance the propagation or survival of the species. This notification is for a single export.

*Applicant:* Auburn University, Auburn, AL; PRT-33510C

The applicant requests a permit to import biological samples from captive-held Asian elephants (*Elephas maximus*) from Canada for the purpose of scientific research. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

*Applicant:* Columbus Zoo & Aquarium, Powell, Ohio; PRT-28059C

The applicant requests a permit to export two captive-born bonobo (*Pan paniscus*) to Germany to enhance the propagation or survival of the species. This notification is for a single export.

*Applicant:* Thomas Wright, Queen Creek, AZ; PRT-21374C

The applicant requests a captive-bred wildlife registration under 50 CFR 17.21(g) for the golden parakeet (*Guaruba guarouba*) to enhance the propagation or survival of the species. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

*Applicant:* Ripley's Aquarium (Gatlinburg), L.L.C., Gatlinburg, TN; PRT-72630A

The applicant requests a renewal of a captive-bred wildlife registration under 50 CFR 17.21(g) for the jackass penguin

(*Spheniscus demersus*) to enhance the propagation or survival of the species. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

*Applicant:* Lucky 7 Exotics Ranch, Eden, TX; PRT-70470A

The applicant requests a renewal of a captive-bred wildlife registration under 50 CFR 17.21(g) for barasingha (*Rucervus duvaucelii*), Eld's deer (*Rucervus eldii*), Arabian oryx (*Oryx leucoryx*), and red lechwe (*Kobus leche*) to enhance the propagation or survival of the species. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

### Multiple Trophy Applicants

The following applicants each request a permit to import sport-hunted trophies of a male bontebok (*Damaliscus pygargus pygargus*) culled from a captive herd maintained under the management program of the Republic of South Africa, to enhance the propagation or survival of the species.

*Applicant:* Ronald D. Urbanczyk, San Antonio, TX; PRT-36855C

*Applicant:* Richard Frank Rueden, New Berlin, WI; PRT-35535C

*Applicant:* John T. Tubbs, Belgrade, MT; PRT-33449C

### IV. Next Steps

If the Service decides to issue permits to any of the applicants listed in this notice, we will publish a notice in the **Federal Register**. You may locate the **Federal Register** notice announcing the permit issuance date by searching regulations.gov under the permit number listed in this document.

### V. Public Comments

You may submit your comments and materials concerning this notice by one of the methods listed in **ADDRESSES**. We will not consider comments sent by email or fax or to an address not listed in **ADDRESSES**.

If you submit a comment via regulations.gov, your entire comment, including any personal identifying information, will be posted on the Web site. If you submit a hardcopy comment that includes personal identifying information, 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.

We will post all hardcopy comments on regulations.gov.

### VI. Authority

The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

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-HQ-ES-2017-N096;  
FXHC11220900000-167-FF09E33000; OMB  
Control Number 1018-0148]

### Agency Information Collection Activities; Land-Based Wind Energy Guidelines

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of information collection; request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, we, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) are proposing to renew an information collection.

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before December 11, 2017.

**ADDRESSES:** Send your comments on the information collection request (ICR) by mail to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS: BPHC, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803 (mail); or by email to [Info\\_Coll@fws.gov](mailto:Info_Coll@fws.gov). Please reference OMB Control Number 1018-0148 in the subject line of your comments.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** To request additional information about this ICR, contact Madonna L. Baucum, Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, by email at [Info\\_Coll@fws.gov](mailto:Info_Coll@fws.gov), or by telephone at (703) 358-2503.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, we provide the general public and other Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on new, proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. It also helps the public understand our information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format.

We are soliciting comments on the proposed ICR that is described below. We are especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) Is the collection necessary to the proper functions of the Service; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Service enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Service minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. We will include or summarize each comment in our request to OMB to approve this ICR. 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.

**Abstract:** As wind energy production increased, both developers and wildlife agencies recognize the need for a system to evaluate and address the potential negative impacts of wind energy projects on species of concern. As a result, the Service worked with the wind energy industry, conservation non-governmental organizations, federal and state agencies, Tribes, and academia to develop the voluntary Land-Based Wind Energy Guidelines (Guidelines; <http://www.fws.gov/windenergy>) to provide a structured, scientific process for addressing wildlife conservation concerns at all stages of land-based wind energy development. Released in 2012, the Guidelines promote effective communication among wind energy developers and Federal, State, tribal, and local conservation agencies. When used in concert with appropriate regulatory tools, the Guidelines are the best practical approach for conserving species of concern.

The Guidelines discuss various risks to species of concern from wind energy projects, including collisions with wind

turbines and associated infrastructure; loss and degradation of habitat from turbines and infrastructure; fragmentation of large habitat blocks into smaller segments that may not support sensitive species; displacement and behavioral changes; and indirect effects such as increased predator populations or introduction of invasive plants. The Guidelines assist developers in identifying species of concern that may potentially be affected by proposed projects, including, but not limited to:

- Migratory birds;
- Bats;
- Bald and golden eagles, and other birds of prey;
- Prairie chickens and sage grouse; and
- Listed, proposed, or candidate endangered and threatened species.

The Guidelines follow a tiered approach. The wind energy developer begins at Tier 1 or Tier 2, which entails gathering of existing data to help identify any potential risks to wildlife and their habitats at proposed wind energy project sites. The developer then proceeds through subsequent tiers, as appropriate, to collect information in increasing detail until the level of risk is adequately ascertained and a decision on whether or not to develop the site can be made. Many projects may not proceed beyond Tier 1 or 2, when developers become aware of potential barriers, including high risks to wildlife. Developers would only have an interest in adhering to the Guidelines for those projects that proceed beyond Tier 1 or 2.

At each tier, wind energy developers and operators should retain documentation to provide to the Service. Such documentation may include copies of correspondence with the Service, results of pre- and post-construction studies conducted at project sites, bird and bat conservation strategies, or any other record that supports a developer's adherence to the Guidelines. The extent of the documentation will depend on the conditions of the site being developed. Sites with greater risk of impacts to wildlife and habitats will likely involve more extensive communication with the Service and longer durations of pre- and post-construction studies than sites with little risk.

Distributed or community-scale wind energy projects are unlikely to have significant adverse impacts to wildlife and their habitats. The Guidelines recommend that developers of these small-scale projects conduct the desktop analysis described in Tier 1 or Tier 2 using publicly available information to determine whether they should communicate with the Service. Since such project designs usually include a single turbine associated with existing development, conducting a Tier 1 or Tier 2 analysis for distributed or community-scale wind energy projects should incur limited non-hour burden costs. For such projects, if there is no potential risk identified, a developer will have no need to communicate with the Service regarding the project or to conduct studies described in Tiers 3, 4, and 5.

Adherence to the Guidelines is voluntary. Following the Guidelines does not relieve any individual, company, or agency of the responsibility to comply with applicable laws and regulations. Developers of wind energy projects have a responsibility to comply with the law; for example, they must obtain incidental take authorization for species protected by the Endangered Species Act and/or Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

**Title of Collection:** Land-Based Wind Energy Guidelines.

**OMB Control Number:** 1018–0148.

**Form Number:** None.

**Type of Review:** Extension of a currently approved collection.

**Respondents/Affected Public:** Developers and operators of wind energy facilities.

**Respondent's Obligation:** Voluntary.

**Frequency of Collection:** On occasion.

**Total Estimated Annual Nonhour Burden Cost:** \$7,187,265. Costs will depend on the size and complexity of issues associated with each project. These expenses may include, but are not limited to: Travel expenses for site visits, studies conducted, and meetings with the Service and other Federal and State agencies; training in survey methodologies; data management; special transportation, such as all-terrain vehicles or helicopters; equipment needed for acoustic, telemetry, or radar monitoring, and carcass storage.

Requirement	Total estimated number of annual respondents	Number of responses each	Total estimated number of annual responses	Estimated completion time per response (hours)	Total estimated number of annual burden hours
<b>Tier 1 (Desktop Analysis)</b>					
Reporting .....	40	1	40	80	3,200
Recordkeeping .....				1	40
<b>Tier 2 (Site Characterization)</b>					
Reporting .....	35	1	35	366	12,810
Recordkeeping .....				3	105
<b>Tier 3 (Pre-construction studies)</b>					
Reporting .....	30	1	30	14,690	440,700
Recordkeeping .....				5	150
<b>Tier 4 (Post-construction fatality monitoring and habitat studies)</b>					
Reporting .....	45	1	45	4,018	180,810
Recordkeeping .....				5	225
<b>Tier 5 (Other post-construction studies)</b>					
Reporting .....	10	1	10	6,934	69,340
Recordkeeping .....				5	50
Totals .....	160		160		707,430

An agency may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

The authority for this action is the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

**Madonna L. Baucum,**  
Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S.  
Fish and Wildlife Service.

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**BILLING CODE 4333-15-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[LLNM950000L13400000.BX0000]

### Notice of Filing of Plats of Survey, New Mexico

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of filing of Plats of Survey.

**SUMMARY:** The plats of survey described below are scheduled to be officially filed in the New Mexico State Office, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Santa Fe, New Mexico, thirty (30) calendar days from the date of this publication.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

These plats will be available for inspection in the New Mexico State

Office, Bureau of Land Management, 301 Dinosaur Trail, Santa Fe, New Mexico. Copies may be obtained from this office upon payment. Contact Carlos Martinez at 505-954-2096, or by email at [cjmarti@blm.gov](mailto:cjmarti@blm.gov), for assistance. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to contact the above individual during normal business hours.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**New Mexico Principal Meridian, New Mexico (NM)**

The plat, in three sheets, representing the dependent resurvey and survey, in Townships 13 & 14 North, Range 17 West, of the New Mexico Principal Meridian, accepted September 6, 2017, for Group 1186 NM. This survey was executed at the request of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Southwest Region, and is necessary for the management of these lands.

The plat representing the dependent resurvey and survey in Township 19 North, Range 9 East, of the New Mexico Principal Meridian, accepted May 25, 2017, for Group 1120 NM. This survey was executed at the request of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Southwest Region, for the Pojoaque Pueblo, and is necessary for the management of these lands.

The plat representing the dependent resurvey and survey in Township 18

North, Range 10 East, of the New Mexico Principal Meridian, accepted June 8, 2017, for Group 1180 NM. This survey was executed at the request of the U.S. Forest Service, Region 3, and is necessary for the management of these lands.

The plat representing the dependent resurvey and survey in Township 23 North, Range 5 East, of the New Mexico Principal Meridian, accepted September 26, 2017, for Group 1171 NM. This survey was executed at the request of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and is necessary for the management of these lands.

The plat representing the dependent resurvey and survey in Township 27 North, Range 20 West, of the New Mexico Principal Meridian, accepted August 9, 2017, for Group 1177 NM. This survey was executed at the request of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Navajo Region, and is necessary for the management of these lands.

The Supplemental plat representing Township 29 North, Range 11 East, of the New Mexico Principal Meridian, accepted July 13, 2017, for Group 1187 NM. This survey was executed at the request of the Bureau of Land Management, Taos District Office, and is necessary for the management of these lands.

The Supplemental plat representing Township 21 North, Range 10 East, of the New Mexico Principal Meridian, accepted December 14, 2016, for Group