

5. Other possible reasonable alternatives to the proposed permit action that the Service should consider, including additional or alternative avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures;

6. The presence of historic properties—including archaeological sites, buildings and structures, historic events, sacred and traditional areas, and other historic preservation concerns—in the proposed permit area, which are required to be considered in project planning by the National Historic Preservation Act;

7. Information on other current or planned activities in, or in the vicinity of, Thurston County and their possible impacts on the covered species, including any connected actions that are closely related and should be discussed in the same DEIS; and

8. Other information relevant to the Thurston HCP and its impacts on the human environment.

Comments received in writing during the 2013 public comment period were retained, and do not need be provided again during this public comment period to be considered during this review. Once the DEIS is prepared, there will be further opportunity for comment on this proposed permit action through an additional public comment period.

#### *Public Availability of Comments*

You may submit your comments and materials by one of the methods listed in **ADDRESSES**. Before including your address, phone number, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—might 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.

Comments and materials we receive, as well as supporting documentation we use in preparing the DEIS, will be available for public inspection online in Docket No. FWS-R1-ES-2020-0101 at <http://www.regulations.gov/> (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

#### *Decision Maker and Nature of Decision to Be Made*

The Decision Maker is the Service's Regional Director. If after publication of the ROD we determine that all

requirements are met for ITP issuance, the Regional Director will issue a decision on the requested ITP.

#### **Authority**

We provide this notice in accordance with the requirements of Section 10(c) of the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1539(c)) and NEPA regulations pertaining to the publication of a notice of intent to issue an EIS (40 CFR 1501.9(d)).

**Robyn Thorson,**

*Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*

[FR Doc. 2020-22963 Filed 10-15-20; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4333-15-P**

## **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

### **Fish and Wildlife Service**

**[FWS-R1-ES-2020-N115;  
FXES11140100000-201-FF01E00000]**

#### **Receipt of Enhancement of Survival Permit Applications Developed in Accordance With the Template Safe Harbor Agreement for the Columbia Basin Pygmy Rabbit; Douglas County, Washington**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, have received two applications for enhancement of survival permits (permits) pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA). The two applications, one from Mr. Ed Preston and one from Mr. Ward Glessner, were developed in accordance with the Template Safe Harbor Agreement (Template SHA) for the Columbia Basin pygmy rabbit. We are requesting comments from the public regarding the proposed issuance of a permit to each of the two applicants.

**DATES:** Submit written comments no later than November 16, 2020.

**ADDRESSES:** To request further information or submit written comments, please use one of the following methods:

- *Internet:* You may view or download copies of the Template SHA and environmental assessment and obtain additional information on the internet at <http://www.fws.gov/wafwo/>.
- *Email:* [wfwocomments@fws.gov](mailto:wfwocomments@fws.gov).

Include "Template SHA for the Columbia Basin pygmy rabbit" in the subject line of the message.

- *U.S. Mail:* Public Comments Processing, Attn: FWS-R1-ES-2020-

N115; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; c/o Jeff Krupka; Central Washington Fish and Wildlife Field Office; 215 Melody Lane, Suite 119, Wenatchee, WA 98801.

- *Facsimile:* 509-665-3509.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Kimberly Veverka (see **ADDRESSES**); telephone: 509-665-3508, ext. 2012; facsimile: 509-665-3509. If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf, please call the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), have received two applications for enhancement of survival permits (permits) pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). The two applications, one from Mr. Ed Preston and one from Mr. Ward Glessner, were developed in accordance with the Template Safe Harbor Agreement (Template SHA) for the Columbia Basin pygmy rabbit (*Brachylagus idahoensis*). Mr. Preston's application includes a request to enroll 421.74 acres of land in Douglas County, Washington, under the Template SHA. Mr. Glessner's application includes a request to enroll 2,023.84 acres of land in Douglas County, Washington, under the Template SHA. If approved, the permits would authorize otherwise prohibited take of the endangered Columbia Basin pygmy rabbit that is above the baseline conditions of the properties enrolled under the Template SHA, and that may result from the permittees' otherwise lawful land-use activities. We provide this notice to open a public comment period and invite comments from all interested parties regarding the proposed issuance of a permit to each applicant.

#### **Background**

Section 9 of the ESA prohibits the take of fish and wildlife species listed as endangered under section 4 of the ESA. Under the ESA, the term "take" means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct (16 U.S.C. 1532(19)). The term "harm," as defined in our regulations, includes significant habitat modification or degradation that results in death or injury to listed species by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding, or sheltering (50 CFR 17.3). The term "harass" is defined in our regulations as [to carry out] an intentional or negligent act or omission which creates the likelihood of injury to wildlife by annoying it to such an extent as to significantly disrupt normal

behavioral patterns, which include, but are not limited to, breeding, feeding, or sheltering (50 CFR 17.3). Under specified circumstances, however, we may issue permits that authorize take of federally listed species, provided the take is incidental to, but not the purpose of, an otherwise lawful activity. Regulations governing permits for endangered species are at 50 CFR 17.22.

Under a safe harbor agreement (SHA), participating landowners voluntarily undertake management activities on their properties to enhance, restore, or maintain habitat benefiting species listed under the ESA. SHAs, and the subsequent enhancement of survival permits that are issued pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA, encourage private and other non-Federal property owners to implement conservation efforts for listed species. The SHAs provide assurances to property owners that they will not be subjected to increased property use restrictions as a result of their efforts to attract listed species to their property, or to increase the numbers or distribution of listed species already on their property. Application requirements and issuance criteria for enhancement of survival permits through SHAs are found in 50 CFR 17.22(c). As provided for in the Service's final Safe Harbor Policy (64 FR 32717; June 17, 1999), SHAs provide assurances that allow the property owner to alter or modify their enrolled property, even if such alteration or modification results in the incidental take of a listed species, to such an extent that the property is returned back to the originally agreed-upon baseline conditions.

On March 5, 2003, the Service listed the Columbia Basin pygmy rabbit as an endangered species (68 FR 10388). On September 7, 2006, the Service announced the availability for public review and comment of a draft Template SHA for the Columbia Basin pygmy rabbit, which was jointly developed by the Service and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), and a draft environmental assessment (EA), which was developed by the Service pursuant to Federal responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (71 FR 52816). The Service's September 7, 2006, **Federal Register** notice also announced the receipt of three initial permit applications that were developed in accordance with the Template SHA. The final Template SHA, which contained only minor modifications from the draft released for public review, was signed by the Service and WDFW on October 24, 2006. On April 25, 2007, the Service announced the

availability for public review and comment of another 13 permit applications that were developed in accordance with the Template SHA (72 FR 20557). On October 8, 2008, the Service announced the availability for public review and comment of one permit application that was developed in accordance with the Template SHA (73 FR 58975). On June 18, 2015, the Service announced the availability for public review and comment of nine permit applications that were developed in accordance with the Template SHA (80 FR 34928). To date, the Service has issued 26 permits under the Template SHA, which cover 152,849 acres that are within the historic distribution of the Columbia Basin pygmy rabbit.

The objectives of the Template SHA include: (1) Encourage land owners and managers to undertake voluntary conservation measures to benefit the Columbia Basin pygmy rabbit; (2) maintain or increase the amount of habitat available to the Columbia Basin pygmy rabbit within their historic distribution; (3) accomplish the foregoing without negatively affecting existing and proposed future land-use activities by reducing participants' future management liability for incidental take of Columbia Basin pygmy rabbits on their enrolled property; and (4) increase public support for Columbia Basin pygmy rabbit conservation efforts by implementing proactive, cooperative, and flexible management in accordance with the measures prescribed by the ESA.

#### Proposed Action

We received two applications, one from Mr. Edward Preston and one from Mr. Ward Glessner, requesting permits under the ESA and in accordance with the Template SHA and 50 CFR 13.25(b). If we approve the applications, the implementation of the Template SHA would occur on the following properties:

- *Mr. Edward Preston:* The properties included within the proposed enrollment total 421.74 acres in Douglas County, Washington, and are located within the geographic area covered by the Template SHA. All of the land areas proposed for enrollment by Mr. Preston represent intervening properties (*i.e.*, property outside of Columbia Basin pygmy rabbit recovery emphasis areas) as defined in the Template SHA. WDFW biologists conducted evidence searches for the Columbia Basin pygmy rabbit on Mr. Preston's properties identified for enrollment under the Template SHA. No Columbia Basin pygmy rabbits or evidence of active pygmy rabbit burrows

were detected during these surveys. Therefore, in accordance with the provisions of the Template SHA, the baseline for covered properties is zero (0) active pygmy rabbit burrows.

- *Mr. Ward Glessner:* The properties included within the proposed enrollment total 2,023.84 acres in Douglas County, Washington, and are located within the geographic area covered by the Template SHA. All of the land areas proposed for enrollment by Mr. Glessner represent intervening properties (*i.e.*, property outside of Columbia Basin pygmy rabbit recovery emphasis areas) as defined in the Template SHA. WDFW biologists conducted evidence searches for the Columbia Basin pygmy rabbit on Mr. Glessner's properties identified for enrollment under the Template SHA. No Columbia Basin pygmy rabbits or evidence of active pygmy rabbit burrows were detected during these surveys. Therefore, in accordance with the provisions of the Template SHA, the baseline for covered properties is zero (0) active pygmy rabbit burrows.

The Service has previously determined that implementation of the Template SHA will result in conservation benefits to the Columbia Basin pygmy rabbit and will not result in significant effects to the human environment. The Service will evaluate the permit applications, related documents, and any comments submitted to determine whether the applications are consistent with the measures prescribed by the Template SHA and comply with relevant statutory and regulatory requirements. If it is determined that the requirements are met, a permit authorizing incidental take of the Columbia Basin pygmy rabbit will be issued to each of the applicants. The final determination for each permit will not be completed until after the end of the 30-day comment period, and we will fully consider all comments received.

#### Public Comments

You may submit your comments and materials by one of the methods listed in **ADDRESSES**. We request data, comments, new information, or suggestions from the public, other concerned governmental agencies, the scientific community, Tribes, industry, or any other interested party on our proposed Federal action. The original Template SHA and EA are available for reference.

#### Public Availability of Comments

All comments and materials we receive become part of the public record associated with this action. Before

including your address, phone number, email address or other personal identifying information in your comments, 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.

#### Authority

We provide this notice in accordance with the requirements of section 10(c) of the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), and their implementing regulations (50 CFR 17.22, and 40 CFR 1506.6, respectively).

**Robyn Thorson,**

*Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*

[FR Doc. 2020-22966 Filed 10-15-20; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4333-15-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Geological Survey

[GX20LR000F60100; OMB Control Number 1028-0068]

#### Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Ferrous Metals Surveys

**AGENCY:** U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Interior.

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

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, we, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) are proposing to renew an Information Collection.

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before November 16, 2020.

**ADDRESSES:** Send your comments on this Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget's Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior by email at [OIRA\\_Submission@omb.eop.gov](mailto:OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov); or via facsimile to (202) 395-5806. Please provide a copy of your comments to U.S. Geological Survey, Information Collections Officer, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive MS 159, Reston, VA 20192;

or by email to [gs-info\\_collections@usgs.gov](mailto:gs-info_collections@usgs.gov). Please reference OMB Control Number 1028-0068 in the subject line of your comments.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** To request additional information about this ICR, contact Elizabeth S. Sangine by email at [escottsangine@usgs.gov](mailto:escottsangine@usgs.gov), or by telephone at 703-648-7720. You may also view the ICR at <http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain>.

**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.

A **Federal Register** notice with a 60-day public comment period soliciting comments on this collection of information was published on August 14, 2020, 85 FR 49672. One comment was received from the Bureau of Economic Analysis supporting the collection of this data as nationally important.

We are again soliciting comments on the proposed ICR that is described below. We are especially interested in public comments addressing the following issues: (1) Is the collection necessary to the proper functions of the USGS; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the USGS enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the USGS 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. 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:** Respondents to these forms supply the USGS with domestic production and consumption data for 13

ores, concentrates, metals, and ferroalloys, some of which are considered strategic and critical, to assist in determining National Defense Stockpile goals. These data and derived information will be published as chapters in Minerals Yearbooks, monthly Mineral Industry Surveys, annual Mineral Commodity Summaries, and special publications, for use by Government agencies, industry education programs, and the general public.

**Title of Collection:** Ferrous Metals Surveys.

**OMB Control Number:** 1028-0068.

**Form Number:** Various, 15 forms.

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

**Respondents/Affected Public:** Business or Other-For-Profit Institutions: U.S. nonfuel minerals producers and consumers of ferrous and related metals.

**Total Estimated Number of Annual Respondents:** 954.

**Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses:** 2,208.

**Estimated Completion Time per Response:** For each form, we will include an average burden time ranging from 10 minutes to 1 hour.

**Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours:** 1,158.

**Respondent's Obligation:** Voluntary.

**Frequency of Collection:** Monthly or Annually.

**Total Estimated Annual Nonhour Burden Cost:** There are no "nonhour cost" burdens associated with this IC.

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 authorities for this action are the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), the National Materials and Minerals Policy, Research and Development Act of 1980 (30 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*), the National Mining and Minerals Policy Act of 1970 (30 U.S.C. 21(a)), the Strategic and Critical Materials Stock Piling Act (50 U.S.C. 98 *et seq.*), and the Defense Production Act (50 U.S.C. 2061 *et seq.*).

**Michael Magyar,**

*Acting Director, National Minerals Information Center, U.S. Geological Survey.*

[FR Doc. 2020-22905 Filed 10-15-20; 8:45 am]

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