

## Next Steps

After this comment period ends, we will analyze comments and address them in a final EIS.

## Public Comments

We request data, comments, new information, or suggestions from all interested parties. We will consider these comments in developing the final EIS. We particularly seek comments on the following:

- The barred owl and its population status and trend;
- The northern spotted owl and its population status and trend;
- Ongoing northern spotted owl demography studies;
- Effects of the proposed removal experiment on other wildlife species;
- Social and human value/ethics, including the intrinsic value of spotted and barred owls and human culpability in the presence of barred owls in the West;
- Economic effects of the alternatives;
- Cultural resources that may be affected by the alternatives;
- Effects of the alternatives on visitor use and recreation, and visitor experience, especially in National Parks and Recreation Areas and other recreation sites; and
- Effects of the alternatives on Wilderness Areas and wilderness attributes.

You may submit your comments and materials by one of the methods listed in the **ADDRESSES** section.

Comments and materials we receive, as well as supporting documentation we used in preparing the draft EIS, will be available for public inspection by appointment, during normal business hours, at our office (see **ADDRESSES** section).

## Public Availability of Comments

Written comments 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.

## Public Meetings

We will hold at least two public meetings at locations within the range of the northern spotted owl (western Washington, western Oregon, and

northwestern California). We will announce exact meeting locations and times in local newspapers and on the Internet at <http://www.fws.gov/oregonfwo>.

## References Cited

A complete list of references cited in this notice is available upon request from our Oregon Fish and Wildlife Office (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

## Authority

We provide this notice under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), and its implementing regulations in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 40 CFR 1506.6. We also publish this notice under authority of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703–712) and its specific implementing regulations at 50 CFR 10.13 and 50 CFR 21.23.

Dated: January 11, 2012.

**Theresa E. Rabot,**

*Acting Regional Director, Region 1, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*

[FR Doc. 2012–5139 Filed 3–7–12; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310–55–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

**[FWS–R3–ES–2012–N052:  
FXES11130300000F3–123–FF03E00000]**

### Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Permit Applications

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

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

**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 (Act) prohibits activities with endangered and threatened species unless a Federal permit allows such activity. The Act requires that we invite public comment before issuing these permits.

**DATES:** We must receive any written comments on or before April 9, 2012.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments by U.S. mail to the Regional Director, Attn: Lisa Mandell, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services, 5600 American Blvd. West, Suite 990, Bloomington, MN 55437–1458; or by electronic mail to [permitsR3ES@fws.gov](mailto:permitsR3ES@fws.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Lisa Mandell, (612) 713–5343.

## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

### Background

We invite public comment on the following permit applications for certain activities with endangered species authorized by section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and our regulations governing the taking of endangered species in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 50 CFR 17. Submit your written data, comments, or request for a copy of the complete application to the address shown in **ADDRESSES**.

### Permit Applications

**Permit Application Number:** TE06778A

**Applicant:** USDA Forest Service, Shawnee National Forest (Rod McClanahan, P.I.), Vienna, IL.

The applicant requests a permit renewal/amendment to take (capture and release; salvage dead specimens) Indiana bats (*Myotis sodalis*) and Gray bats (*Myotis grisescens*) on federal lands in Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, and Ohio. Proposed activities are aimed at enhancement of survival of the species in the wild.

**Permit Application Number:** TE207526

**Applicant:** U.S. Geological Survey, Columbia Environmental Research Center (Mark Wildhaber, P.I.), Columbia, MO.

The applicant requests a permit renewal/amendment to take Pallid Sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*), Topeka shiner (*Notropis topeka*), and Neosho madtom (*Noturus placidus*). Proposed activities include captive propagation, reintroduction, scientific study, field assessments, and other recovery activities involving capture, handling, and holding of fish in the laboratory (hatchery) and in the wild. Proposed field activities would occur in the Missouri River, its tributaries, the Middle Mississippi River, Neosho River (KS) and Cottonwood River (KS).

**Permit Application Number:** TE06809A

**Applicant:** USDA Forest Service, North Central Research Station (Sybill Amelon, P.I.), Columbia, MO.

The applicant requests a permit renewal to take Indiana bats, gray bats, and Ozark big-eared bats (*Corynorhinus townsendii ingens*) throughout the range of the species in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. Proposed activities are for

the recovery of the species and enhancement of survival of the species in the wild.

*Permit Application Number: TE66634A*

*Applicant:* U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis, TN.

The applicant requests a permit to take (capture and release) fat pocketbook (*Potamilus capax*), pink mucket (*Lampsilis abrupta*), scaleshell (*Leptodea leptodon*), and rabbitsfoot (*Quadrula cylindrical*) during freshwater mussel surveys to evaluate potential impacts and avoid harm to listed species. Activities are proposed within the jurisdiction of the Memphis District (USACE) in Illinois and Missouri.

*Permit Application Number: TE02378A*

*Applicant:* U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District, St. Paul, MN.

The applicant requests a permit renewal to take (capture and release) Higgins' eye pearlymussel (*Lampsilis higginsii*) within Minnesota, Iowa, and Wisconsin. Proposed activities are for the enhancement of survival of the species in the wild.

*Permit Application Number: TE02344A*

*Applicant:* Mainstream Commercial Divers, Inc.

The applicant requests a permit renewal to take (capture and release) the following freshwater mussels species: Clubshell (*Pleurobema clava*), Northern riffleshell (*Epioblasma torulosa rangiana*), Orange-footed pimpleback pearlymussel (*Plethobasus cooperianus*), Pink mucket pearlymussel, Rough pigtoe (*Pleurobema plenum*), Purple cat's paw pearlymussel (*Epioblasma obliquata obliquata*), White cat's paw pearlymussel (*Epioblasma obliquata perobliqua*), Fanshell (*Cyprogenia stegaria*), Fat pocketbook, Higgins' eye pearlymussel (*Lampsilis higginsii*), Winged mapleleaf (*Quadrula fragosa*), and Scaleshell within the States of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. Proposed activities are for the enhancement of survival and recovery of the species in the wild.

*Permit Application Number: TE838715*

*Applicant:* The Nature Conservancy, Ohio Operating Unit, Swanton, OH.

The applicant requests a permit renewal to take Karner blue butterfly (*Lycaeides melissa samuelis*) in the context of habitat management for the

recovery of the species at the Kitty Todd Nature Preserve, Lucas County, Ohio.

*Permit Application Number: TE66724A*

*Applicant:* Cleveland Metroparks, Timothy Krynak, P.I., Willoughby Hills, OH.

The applicant requests a permit to take (capture and release) Indiana bats within the State of Ohio for the purpose of scientific research aimed at recovery of the species.

*Permit Application Number: TE06820A*

*Applicant:* Russell A. Benedict, Central College, Pella, IA

The applicant requests a permit to take (capture and release) Indiana bats and gray bats within the states of Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri. Proposed activities are for the enhancement and recovery of the species in the wild.

*Permit Application Number: TE06801A*

*Applicant:* Pittsburgh Wildlife & Environmental, Inc., McDonald, PA.

The applicant requests a permit renewal to take (capture and release) Indiana bats and gray bats throughout the States of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. Proposed activities are for the enhancement of survival and recovery of the species in the wild.

*Permit Application Number: TE38842A*

*Applicant:* Sanders Environmental, Inc.

The applicant requests a permit renewal and amendment to take (capture and release) Indiana bats within the States of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin. Proposed activities are for the enhancement of survival and recovery of the species in the wild.

*Permit Application Number: TE66727A*

*Applicant:* Wildlife Specialists, LLC, Wellsboro, PA.

The applicant requests a permit to take (capture and release) Indiana bats within Ohio for the enhancement of survival of the species in the wild.

*Permit Application Number: TE130900*

*Applicant:* EnviroScience, Inc., Stow, OH.

The applicant requests a permit renewal to take (capture and release) freshwater mussel species within the States of Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio,

Tennessee, and Wisconsin. Take in the context of harass through capture during surveys within these states is proposed for the purpose of enhancement of survival of the species in the wild through evaluation of habitat use and consideration of those species in project planning.

*Permit Application Number: TE195082*

*Applicant:* Thomas E. Tomasi, Missouri State University, Springfield, MO.

The applicant requests a permit amendment to take (capture and release; capture and hold; euthanize) gray bats within the State of Missouri for scientific research activities aimed at recovery of the species and enhancement of its survival in the wild.

### Public Comments

We seek public review and comments on these permit applications. Please refer to the permit number when you submit comments. Comments and materials we receive are available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the address shown in the **ADDRESSES** section. 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.

### National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

In compliance with NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), we have made an initial determination that the proposed activities in these permits are categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement (516 DM 6 Appendix 1, 1.4C(1)).

Dated: March 1, 2012.

**Lynn Lewis,**

*Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, Region 3.*

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