DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

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 January 23, 2012.

ADDRESSES: Brenda Tapia, Division of Management Authority, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 212, Arlington, VA 22203; fax (703) 358–2280; or email DMAFR@fws.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brenda Tapia, (703) 358–2104 (telephone); (703) 358–2280 (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.

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).

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 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 before final action on these permit applications before final action is taken.

III. Permit Applications

A. Endangered Species

Applicant: Curt Harbsmeier, Lakeland, FL; PRT–033580

The applicant requests renewal of their captive-bred wildlife registration under 50 CFR 17.21(g) for radiated tortoise (Astrochelys radiata), to enhance their propagation or survival. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

Applicant: Daniel Arenas, Miami, FL; PRT–60140A

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

Applicant: Giordi Evenson, Saint Paul, MN; PRT–60356A

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

Applicant: Stephan Haller, Summerville, SC; PRT–60965A

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

Applicant: National Institute of Health, Frederick, MD; PRT–604126

The applicant requests renewal of a permit to import biological samples from wild, captive-held and/or captive-bred mammals for the purpose of scientific research. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

Applicant: Frederick, MD; PRT–604126
Applicant: Terrance Wolosek, Plover, WI; FR–60798A

The applicant requests a permit to import a sport-hunted trophy of one male bontebok (Damaliscus pygargus pygargus) culled from a captive herd maintained under the management program of the Republic of South Africa, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

Brenda Tapia,
Program Analyst/Data Administrator, Branch of Permits, Division of Management Authority.

[FR Doc. 2011–32876 Filed 12–22–11; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310–55–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service

Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Maricopa Sun Solar Complex Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan, Kern County, CA

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent; announcement of public scoping meetings; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), intend to prepare a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) under the National Environmental Policy Act for the proposed Maricopa Sun Solar Complex Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) under development by Maricopa Sun, LLC. The draft EIS will evaluate the impacts of several alternatives related to the HCP being proposed by Maricopa Sun, LLC in support of its anticipated application for an Endangered Species Act permit for incidental take of five federally endangered species (one reptile and four mammal species) and 14 California special status species (one amphibian species, three reptile species, six avian species, and four mammal species) from activities associated with the construction, operation, and decommissioning of a 700 megawatt photo-voltaic power generating facility and implementation of conservation actions associated with the HCP in Kern County, California. We also announce plans for a public scoping meeting and the opening of a public comment period. 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.

DATES: A public scoping meeting will be held to solicit comments from interested parties to assist in determining the scope of the environmental analysis, including the alternatives to be addressed, and to identify significant environmental issues related to the Proposed Action. The scoping meeting date and location are:

• Monday, January 23, 2012 from 1–3 p.m.
• Kern County Public Services Building, 2700 M Street Conference Room 1–A, Bakersfield, CA 93301.

To ensure consideration, please send your written comments by close of business February 21, 2012.

ADDRESSES: To request further information or submit written comments, please use one of the following methods, and note that your information request or comment is in reference to the Maricopa Sun Solar Complex Habitat Conservation Plan.

• In-Person Drop-off, Viewing, or Pickup: Call (916) 414–6600 to make an appointment during regular business hours to drop off comments or view received comments at the above location.
• Fax: Justin Sloan or Mike Thomas, (916) 414–6713. Attn.: Maricopa Sun Solar Complex Habitat Conservation Plan.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Justin Sloan, Senior Fish and Wildlife Biologist, (916) 414–6600 (phone) or Mike Thomas, Chief, Habitat Conservation Planning Division, (916) 414–6678 (phone). If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf, please call the Federal Information Relay Service at (800) 877–8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), publish this notice under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.; NEPA), and its implementing regulations in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 40 CFR 1506.6, as well as in compliance with section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.; Act). We intend to prepare a draft EIS to evaluate the impacts of several alternatives related to the potential issuance of an incidental take permit (ITP) to the applicant, as well as impacts of the implementation of the supporting HCP. The applicant proposes to develop an HCP as part of their application for an ITP under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Act. The proposed HCP will include measures necessary to minimize and mitigate the impacts, to the maximum extent practicable, of potential proposed taking of federally listed and non-listed species to be covered by the HCP, and the habitats upon which they depend, resulting from construction, operation, and decommissioning of a 700 megawatt photo-voltaic power generating facility and implementation of conservation actions associated with the HCP in Kern County, California.

The project is a proposed 700 megawatt solar power facility within a proposed planning area covering approximately 6,766 acres in the southwest portion of unincorporated Kern County, California. Multiple parcels comprise the project, which are approximately six to 20 miles east of Taft along South Lake Road and along Copus Road. The individual sites can be accessed from Interstate 5, South Lake Road and Copus Road, and several other access roads.

Background

Section 9 of the Act prohibits taking of fish and wildlife species listed as endangered or threatened under section 4 of the Act. Under the Act, 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. The term “harm” is defined in the regulations as including significant habitat modification or degradation that results in death or injury to listed wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding, or sheltering (50 CFR 17.3). The term “harass” is defined in the regulations as to carry out actions that create the likelihood of injury to listed 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).

However, under specified circumstances, the Service may issue permits that allow the take of federally listed wildlife species, provided that the take that occurs is incidental to, but not the purpose of, an otherwise lawful activity. Regulations governing permits for endangered and threatened species are at 50 CFR 17.22 and 17.32, respectively.

Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Act contains provisions for issuing incidental take permits to non-Federal entities for the take of endangered and threatened wildlife species, provided the following criteria are met:

1. The taking will be incidental;