

ecosystems was important to provide context for the later section on adaptation strategies.

Comments Relating to Scientific Information, Tools, and Accuracy

The Management Team received 116 unique comments relating to scientific information, tools, and accuracy. These comments ranged from suggestions for additional or substitute references to concerns about uncertainty and consensus surrounding anthropogenic influence on the climate system. While the *Strategy* acknowledges the role of humans, it presents observed changes in species' ranges and environmental conditions and provides adaptation strategies regardless of the underlying cause. The draft *Strategy* has undergone a review in accordance with the Information Quality Act and a review by Federal, State, and tribal agencies. References were changed or added only to correct errors or if they substantially added to the quality of document, or if they clarified the discussion of a specific topic.

Comments Regarding Existing Stressors

The Management Team received 82 unique comments regarding existing stressors on fish, wildlife, plants, and their related habitats. The majority of these comments encouraged further discussion of invasive species in the *Strategy*. The Management Team clarified the definition of invasive species and urged consideration of the potential for facilitation of invasive species movement through corridors. Based on comments, the Management Team added an additional action within Strategy 7.3 that explicitly addresses invasive species. Strategy 7.4 was also added to address the need for reduction of destructive capture practices, illegal trade, and over-harvesting.

Comments Regarding the Structure, Leveling, and Prioritization

The Management Team received 153 unique comments regarding the structure and prioritization of the *Strategy*. In response, the Management Team ensured that all actions and items in the Progress Check Lists progressed in a logical order and revised or repositioned items as needed. The Management Team also clarified that the Check Lists are not comprehensive. There were also several comments encouraging prioritization throughout the *Strategy*. The strategies and actions are not ordered according to their priority, nor does the Implementation section identify a prioritized list of what to pursue. The Management Team decided that priorities should and will

ultimately be decided by the implementation body.

Comments Relating to the Clarification and Consistent Use of Terms

The Management Team received 38 unique comments on the need to clarify or be consistent with terms used in the *Strategy*. In particular, definitions of "resilience," "restoration," and "invasive species" garnered many comments. Based on the input received and discussions within the Management Team, the terms were further discussed in the text, better defined in the Glossary (Appendix B), or both, and checked for consistency throughout the *Strategy*.

Comments Unrelated to or Outside the Scope of the Strategy

The Management Team received 163 unique comments that fell outside the scope of the *Strategy's* purpose. These comments included concerns over a lack of emphasis on mitigation of greenhouse gases, changes and references to the ecosystem background papers, and many other considerations that were not the main focus of the *Strategy*. The Management Team included further information on the carbon capture benefits provided by ecosystems. However, though climate change mitigation is important, the main focus of the *Strategy* is climate adaptation for fish, wildlife, and plants. Public comment on the ecosystem background papers was not solicited as part of the public comment period; therefore, no changes were made in response to comments received regarding the ecosystem background papers. These papers were developed as source material for the *Strategy*, but are not formal appendices to the *Strategy*. Comments that provided background material on climate change mitigation and adaptation were reviewed; however, many were outside the scope of the document. No changes were made in response to comments outside the scope of the *Strategy*.

Comments of an Editorial or Opinion-Based Nature

The Management Team received 270 unique comments that were of an editorial or opinion-based nature. These comments were taken into account during review. The majority of comments of this nature required no change to the document; however, minor changes were made to the *Strategy* in response where necessary, given the purpose and scope of the document.

V. Authority

Conference Report for the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010.

Dated: March 20, 2013.

Gabriela Chavarria,

Science Advisor to the Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R4-ES-2013-N069; 40120-1112-0000-F2]

Receipt of Applications for Endangered Species Permits

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

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 a Federal permit is issued that allows such activities. The ESA requires that we invite public comment before issuing these permits.

DATES: We must receive written data or comments on the applications at the address given below, by May 1, 2013.

ADDRESSES: Documents and other information submitted with the applications are available for review, subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act, by any party who submits a written request for a copy of such documents to the following office within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 200, Atlanta, GA 30345 (Attn: David Dell, Permit Coordinator).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David Dell, Permit Coordinator, telephone 404-679-7313; facsimile 404-678-7081.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The public is invited to comment on the following applications for permits to conduct certain activities with endangered and threatened species pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and our regulations in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 50 CFR part 17. This notice is provided under section 10(c) of the Act.

If you wish to comment, you may submit comments by any one of the following methods. You may mail comments to the Fish and Wildlife Service's Regional Office (see **ADDRESSES** section) or via electronic mail (email) to: permitsR4ES@fws.gov. Please include your name and return address in your email message. If you do not receive a confirmation from the Fish and Wildlife Service that we have received your email message, contact us directly at the telephone number listed above (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**). Finally, you may hand deliver comments to the Fish and Wildlife Service office listed above (see **ADDRESSES**).

Before including your address, telephone 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 comments to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

**Permit Application Number:
TE-94704A**

Applicant: Dorothy Brown, Candler, North Carolina

Applicant requests authorization to take (capture, mark, apply transmitters, track, survey, and collect tissues) Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), gray bat (*M. grisescens*), Virginia big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii virginianus*), Carolina northern flying squirrel (*Glaucomys sabrinus coloratus*), and bog turtle (*Clemmys muhlenbergii*) for the purpose of conducting presence/absence surveys and assisting in species recovery efforts. These activities may be conducted throughout the States of Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Kentucky, Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia, Indiana, Ohio, Arkansas, Missouri, and Illinois.

**Permit Application Number:
TE-97394A**

Applicant: Zachary Couch, Pleasureville, Kentucky

Applicant requests authorization to take (capture, mark, apply transmitters, track, survey, and collect tissues) Indiana bat (*M. sodalis*), gray bat (*M. grisescens*), and Virginia big-eared bat (*C. t. virginianus*), for the purpose of conducting presence/absence surveys and assisting in species recovery efforts. These activities may be conducted throughout Kentucky.

**Permit Application Number:
TE-97999A**

Applicant: National Park Service, Buck Island Reef National Monument, Christiansted, Virgin Islands

Applicant requests authorization to take (capture, handle, mark, track, and survey) the St. Croix ground lizard (*Ameiva polops*) for the purpose of conducting presence/absence surveys and assisting in species recovery efforts. These activities will be conducted in Buck Island Reef National Monument, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands.

**Permit Application Number:
TE-96635A**

Applicant: David Thomas, Austin, Texas

Applicant requests authorization to take (capture, handle, and survey) pallid sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*), Gulf sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi*), Alabama shad (*Alosa alabamae*), pearl darter (*Percina aurora*), fat pocketbook (*Potamilus capax*), inflated heelsplitter (*Potamilus inflatus*), Louisiana pearlshell (*Margaritifera hembeli*), pink mucket (*Lampsilis abrupta*), and rabbitsfoot (*Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica*) for the purpose of conducting presence/absence surveys and assisting in species recovery efforts. These activities will be conducted in Louisiana.

**Permit Application Number:
TE-94669A**

Applicant: Toledo Zoological Gardens, Toledo, Ohio

The applicant requests authorization to take the Virgin Islands boa (*Epicrates monensis granti*) for the purpose of developing a conservation breeding program and reintroduction to the wild. This activity will occur in Puerto Rico.

**Permit Application Number:
TE-105626**

Applicant: Rex Roberg, Cabot, Arkansas

The applicant requests authorization to take (capture, handle, release) American burying beetle (*Nicrophorus americanus*) for the purpose of conducting presence/absence surveys and assisting in species recovery efforts. These activities will be conducted in Oklahoma and Arkansas.

**Permit Application Number:
TE-97308A**

Applicant: John Harris, Scott, Arkansas

The applicant requests authorization to take (capture, handle, tissue sampling, release) 18 species of freshwater mussels for the purpose of

conducting presence/absence/ population surveys and assisting in species recovery efforts. These activities will be conducted throughout the range of each species: Ouachita rock pocketbook (*Arkansia wheeleri*), spectaclecase (*Cumberlandia monodonta*), fanshell (*Cyprogenia stegaria*), Curtis pearl mussel (*Epioblasma florentina curtisii*), snuffbox (*E. triquetra*), turgid blossom (*E. turgidula*), pink mucket (*Lampsilis abrupta*), Arkansas fatmucket (*Lampsilis powellii*), Neosho mucket (*L. rafinesqueana*), speckled pocketbook (*L. streckeri*), scaleshell (*Leptodea leptodon*), Louisiana pearlshell (*Margaritifera hembeli*), ring pink (*Obovaria retusa*), sheepnose (*Plethobasus cyphus*), rough pigtoe (*Pleurobema plenum*), fat pocketbook (*Potamilus capax*), rabbitsfoot (*Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica*), and winged mapleleaf (*Q. fragosa*).

Dated: March 21, 2013.

Kenneth A. Garrahan,
Acting Regional Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

**[LLWO320000 L13100000 DT0000
LXSIOSHL0000]**

Notice of Availability of Approved Land Use Plan Amendments/Record of Decision for Allocation of Oil Shale and Tar Sands Resources on Lands Administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming and Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces the availability of the Approved Land Use Plan Amendments/Record of Decision (ROD) for Allocation of Oil Shale and Tar Sands Resources on Lands Administered by the BLM in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming. The BLM Principal Deputy Director signed the ROD on March 22, 2013, which constitutes the final decision of the BLM and makes the Approved Plan Amendments effective immediately.