

Frequency of Response: 1.

Average Hours per Response: 5 hours.

Total Estimated Burden: 1907.

B. Solicitation of Public Comment

This notice is soliciting comments from members of the public and affected parties concerning the collection of information described in Section A on the following:

(1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(2) The accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information;

(3) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) Ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond: including through the use of appropriate automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

HUD encourages interested parties to submit comment in response to these questions.

Authority: Section 3507 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35.

Dated: May 23, 2017.

Colette Pollard,

*Department Reports Management Officer,
Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R8-ES-2017-N067;
FXES1113080000-178-FF08E00000]

Endangered Species Recovery Permit Applications

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of permit applications; request for comment.

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 also requires that we invite public comment before issuing recovery permits to conduct certain activities with endangered species.

DATES: Comments on these permit applications must be received on or before July 20, 2017.

ADDRESSES: Written data or comments should be submitted to the Endangered Species Program Manager, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 8, 2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2606, Sacramento, CA 95825 (telephone: 916-414-6464; fax: 916-414-6486). Please refer to the respective permit number for each application when submitting comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Daniel Marquez, Fish and Wildlife Biologist; see **ADDRESSES** (telephone: 760-431-9440; fax: 760-431-9624).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following applicants have applied for scientific research permits to conduct certain activities with endangered species under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). We seek review and comment from local, State, and Federal agencies and the public on the following permit requests.

Applicants

Permit No. TE-28101C

Applicant: Shannon Rose Kieran

The applicant requests a new permit to take (harass by survey, capture, handle, release, collect vouchers, and collect branchiopod cysts) the Conservancy fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta conservatio*), longhorn fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta longiantenna*), and vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardii*) in conjunction with survey activities and genetic research throughout the range of the species in California and Oregon for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

Permit No. TE-009015

Applicant: Jason Berkley, Chino, California

The applicant requests a permit renewal to take (harass by survey, capture, handle, and release) the San Bernardino Merriam's kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys merriami parvus*); take (harass by survey and locate and monitor nests) the southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*); and take (locate and monitor nests) the least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) in conjunction with survey and population monitoring activities throughout the range of the species in California and Arizona for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

Permit No. TE-26551C

Applicant: Matthew Hirkala, Carmichael, California

The applicant requests a permit renewal to take (harass by survey,

capture, handle, release, collect vouchers, and collect branchiopod cysts) the Conservancy fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta conservatio*), longhorn fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta longiantenna*), San Diego fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta sandiegonensis*), Riverside fairy shrimp (*Streptocephalus woottoni*), and vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardii*) in conjunction with survey activities throughout the range of the species in California for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

Permit No. TE-75988A

Applicant: San Diego Natural History Museum, San Diego, California

The applicant requests a permit renewal and amendment to remove/reduce to possession on Federal lands the following plant taxa in conjunction with survey activities, establishment and maintenance of a living collection or seed bank, and research throughout the range of the species in California for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

- *Acanthoscyphus parishii* var. *goodmaniana* (*Oxytheca* p. var. g.) (Cushenbury oxytheca)
- *Acmispon dendroideus* var. *traskiae* (*Lotus* d. subsp. *traskiae*) (San Clemente Island lotus)
- *Allium munzii* (Munz's onion)
- *Ambrosia pumila* (San Diego ambrosia)
- *Arctostaphylos glandulosa* subsp. *crassifolia* (Del Mar manzanita)
- *Arenaria paludicola* (marsh sandwort)
- *Astragalus albens* (Cushenbury milk-vetch)
- *Astragalus brauntonii* (Braunton's milk-vetch)
- *Astragalus lentiginosus* var. *coachellae* (Coachella Valley milk-vetch)
- *Astragalus pycnostachyus* var. *lanosissimus* (Ventura Marsh milk-vetch)
- *Astragalus tener* var. *titi* (coastal dunes milk-vetch)
- *Astragalus tricarinatus* (triple-ribbed milk-vetch)
- *Atriplex coronata* var. *notatior* (San Jacinto Valley crownscale)
- *Berberis nevini* (Nevin's barberry)
- *Calystegia stebbinsii* (Stebbins' morning-glory)
- *Carex albida* (white sedge)
- *Castilleja affinis* subsp. *neglecta* (Tiburon paintbrush)
- *Cercocarpus traskiae* (Catalina Island mountain-mahogany)
- *Chloropyron maritimum* subsp. *maritimum* (*Cordylanthus maritimus* subsp. *maritimus*) (salt marsh bird's-beak)

- *Chorizanthe orcuttiana* (Orcutt's spineflower)
- *Delphinium variegatum* subsp. *kinkiense* (San Clemente Island larkspur)
- *Dodecahema leptoceras* (slender-horned spineflower)
- *Eriastrum densifolium* subsp. *sanctorum* (Santa Ana River woolly-star)
- *Eriogonum ovalifolium* var. *vineum* (Cushenbury buckwheat)
- *Eryngium aristulatum* var. *parishii* (San Diego button-celery)
- *Fremontodendron mexicanum* (Mexican flannelbush)
- *Lithophragma maximum* (San Clemente Island woodland-star)
- *Malacothamnus clementinus* (San Clemente Island bush-mallow)
- *Monardella viminea* (*M. linoides* subsp. *v.*) (willow monardella)
- *Nasturtium gambelii* (*Rorippa g.*) (Gambel's watercress)
- *Orcuttia californica* (California orcutt grass)
- *Pentachaeta lyonii* (Lyon's pentachaeta)
- *Physaria kingii* subsp. *bernardina* (*Lesquerella k.* subsp. *b.*) (San Bernardino Mountains bladderpod)
- *Poa atropurpurea* (San Bernardino bluegrass)
- *Poa napensis* (Napa bluegrass)
- *Pogogyne abramsii* (San Diego mesa-mint)
- *Pogogyne nudiuscula* (Otay mesa-mint)
- *Sibara filifolia* (Santa Cruz Island rockcress)
- *Sidalcea pedata* (pedate checker-mallow)
- *Taraxacum californicum* (California taraxacum)
- *Thelypodium stenopetalum* (slender-petaled mustard)

Permit No. TE-166490

Applicant: Heather Rodriguez, Fresno, California

The applicant requests a permit renewal to take (harass by survey, capture, handle, release, collect vouchers, and collect branchiopod cysts) the Conservancy fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta conservatio*), longhorn fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta longiantenna*), San Diego fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta sandiegonensis*), Riverside fairy shrimp (*Streptocephalus woottoni*), and vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardii*) in conjunction with survey activities throughout the range of the species in California for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

Permit No. TE-27460A

Applicant: Brian Zitt, Huntington Beach, California

The applicant requests a permit amendment to take (harass by survey, capture, handle, and release) the unarmored threespine stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus williamsoni*) in conjunction with survey activities throughout the range of the species in California, for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

Permit No. TE-799570

Applicant: Carol Witham, Sacramento, California

The applicant requests a permit renewal to take (harass by survey, capture, handle, release, collect vouchers, and collect branchiopod cysts) the Conservancy fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta conservatio*), longhorn fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta longiantenna*), San Diego fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta sandiegonensis*), Riverside fairy shrimp (*Streptocephalus woottoni*), and vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardii*), and remove/reduce to possession from lands under Federal jurisdiction *Tuctoria mucronata* (Solano grass) in conjunction with survey activities throughout the range of the species in California for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

Permit No. TE-782703

Applicant: Michael Couffer, Corona Del Mar, California

The applicant requests a permit renewal take (survey by pursuit) the Quino checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha quino*) in conjunction with survey activities throughout the range of the species in California, for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

Permit No. TE-840619

Applicant: Jeffrey Priest, San Diego, California

The applicant requests a permit renewal to take (survey by pursuit) the Quino checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha quino*) and take (harass by survey) the southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) in conjunction with survey activities throughout the range of the species in California for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

Permit No. TE-237086

Applicant: Stillwater Sciences, Berkeley, California

The applicant requests a permit amendment to take (harass by capture, handle, release, and swab for disease) the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog (*Rana sierrae*) in conjunction with research activities throughout the range of the species in California for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

Permit No. TE-221290

Applicant: Lee Ripma, San Diego, California

The applicant requests a permit renewal to take (survey by pursuit) the Quino checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha quino*) and take (harass by survey, capture, handle, release, collect adult vouchers, and collect branchiopod cysts) the Conservancy fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta conservatio*), the longhorn fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta longiantenna*), the Riverside fairy shrimp (*Streptocephalus woottoni*), the San Diego fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta sandiegonensis*), and the vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardii*) in conjunction with survey activities throughout the range of the species in California for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

Permit No. TE-089980

Applicant: Hagar Environmental Science, Loch Lomond, California

The applicant requests a new permit to take (harass by survey, capture, handle, and release) the tidewater goby (*Eucyclogobius newberryi*) in Humboldt County, California, in conjunction with survey activities for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

Permit No. TE-29909C

Applicant: Jennie Jones Scherbinski, Arcata, California

The applicant requests a new permit to take (harass by survey utilizing fern bundles, cameras and scent detection dogs; collect genetic samples via hair snares; and insert passive integrated transponder (PIT) tags) the Point Arena mountain beaver (*Aplodontia rufa nigra*) in conjunction with survey and research activities throughout the range of the species in California for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

Permit No. TE-839960

Applicant: John Dicus, Black Canyon City, Arizona

The applicant requests a permit renewal to take (survey by pursuit) the Quino checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha quino*) and Delhi Sands flower-loving fly (*Rhaphiomidas terminatus abdominalis*) in conjunction with survey activities throughout the range of the species for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

Permit No. TE-29992C

Applicant: Dominic Vitali, Stockton, California

The applicant requests a new permit to take (harass by survey, capture, handle, release, collect adult vouchers, and collect branchiopod cysts) the Conservancy fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta conservatio*), the longhorn fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta longiantenna*), and the vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardii*) in conjunction with survey activities throughout the range of the species in California for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

Permit No. TE-177903

Applicant: Kathryn Simon, Redlands, California

The applicant requests a permit renewal and amendment to take (harass by survey, capture, handle, mark, and release) the San Bernardino Merriam's kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys merriami parvus*) in conjunction with survey activities throughout the range of the species in California for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

Permit No. TE-30023C

Applicant: Joshua Zinn, La Mesa, California

The applicant requests a new permit to take (harass by survey, capture, handle, release, collect adult vouchers, and collect branchiopod cysts) the Conservancy fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta conservatio*), the longhorn fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta longiantenna*), the Riverside fairy shrimp (*Streptocephalus woottoni*), the San Diego fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta sandiegonensis*), and the vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardii*) in conjunction with survey activities throughout the range of the species in California for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

Public Comments

We invite public review and comment on each of these recovery permit applications. Comments and materials

we receive will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the address listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice.

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.

Robert Krijgsman,

Acting Regional Director, Pacific Southwest Region, Sacramento, California.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Land Management**

[LLNM006200 L99110000.EK0000 XXX L4053RV]

Notice of Crude Helium Auction and Sale for Fiscal Year 2018 Delivery

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of the Interior (Secretary), through the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) New Mexico State Office, is issuing this Notice to conduct an auction and sale from the Federal Helium Program, administered by the BLM New Mexico, Amarillo Field Office. The Helium Stewardship Act of 2013 (HSA) requires the BLM to conduct an annual auction and sale of crude helium. Accordingly, the BLM will once again use the auction and sale process established in the **Federal Register** dated August 24, 2015, for a previous sale.

DATES: This Notice is effective on June 20, 2017. The schedule for the auction and sale process is:

1. July 19, 2017—FY 2018 helium auction held in Amarillo, Texas
2. July 24, 2017—FY 2018 helium auction results published on the BLM Web site
3. July 28, 2017—Invoices for auction sent on or before this date; payments due 30 days from invoice
4. August 2, 2017—Invitation for offers (IFO) posted for helium sale
5. August 17, 2017—Bids due from IFO
6. August 21, 2017—Award announcements published on the BLM Web site

7. August 25, 2017—Invoices for sale sent on or before; payments due 30 days from invoice

8. September 30, 2017—Helium transferred to buyers' storage accounts

ADDRESSES: The July 19, 2017, helium auction will be held in the main conference room of the Amarillo Field Office, 801 South Fillmore, Suite 500, Amarillo, TX 79101.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Samuel R.M. Burton, Amarillo Field Manager, at 806-356-1000. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339. The FRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**A. Purpose and Background:**

In October 2013, Congress passed the HSA. The HSA requires the Department of the Interior, through the BLM Director, to offer for auction and sale annually a portion of the helium reserves owned by the United States and stored underground at the Cliffside Gas Field, near Amarillo, Texas.

On July 23, 2014, the BLM published a "Final Notice for Implementation of Helium Stewardship Act Sales and Auctions" in the **Federal Register** (79 FR 42808) (2014 Final Notice). The 2014 Final Notice contained information about the HSA, definitions of terms used in the Notice, the reasons for the action, and a process for conducting the auctions and sales in FY 2014.

On August 24, 2015, the BLM published a "Notice of Final Action: Crude Helium Sale and Auction for Fiscal Year 2016 Delivery" in the **Federal Register** (80 FR 51304) (2015 Final Notice). The 2015 Final Notice refined the process the BLM used in 2014 for conducting the auction and sale of crude helium. The BLM will use the process set forth in the 2015 Final Notice for the auction and sale of crude helium to occur in FY 2017 for FY 2018 delivery.

Both the 2014 and 2015 Final Notices are available from the Helium Stewardship, HSA Implementation page of the BLM helium Web site at www.blm.gov/programs/energy-and-minerals/helium.

B. Volumes Offered in the FY 2018 Helium Auction and Sale

Table 1 identifies the volumes to be offered for auction and sale in FY 2017 for FY 2018 delivery.