

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service**

[Docket No. FWS-HQ-IA-2018-0014;
FXIA16710900000-178-FF09A30000]

Endangered Species; Receipt of Permit Applications

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of permit applications.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, invite the public to comment on applications to conduct certain activities with foreign endangered species. With some exceptions, the Endangered Species Act (ESA) prohibits activities with listed species unless Federal authorization is acquired that allows such activities. The ESA also requires that we invite public comment before issuing these permits.

DATES: We must receive comments by June 4, 2018.

ADDRESSES: *Document availability:* The applications, as well as any comments and other materials that we receive, will be available for public inspection online in Docket No. FWS-HQ-IA-2018-0014 at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

Submitting Comments: You may submit comments by one of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments on Docket No. FWS-HQ-IA-2018-0014.

- *U.S. mail or hand-delivery:* Public Comments Processing, Attn: Docket No. FWS-HQ-IA-2018-0014; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Headquarters, MS: BPHC; 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.

When submitting comments, please indicate the name of the applicant and the PRT# at the beginning of your comment. We will post all comments on <http://www.regulations.gov>. This generally means that we will post any personal information you provide us (see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for more information).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brenda Tapia, (703) 358-2104 (telephone); (703) 358-2281 (fax); DMAFR@fws.gov (email).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Public Comment Procedures***A. How do I comment on submitted applications?*

You may submit your comments and materials by one of the methods listed under *Submitting Comments* in the **ADDRESSES** section. We will not

consider comments sent by email or fax, or to an address not in the **ADDRESSES** section.

Please make your requests or comments as specific as possible, 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.

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 in **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 street 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.

C. Who will see my comments?

If you submit a comment via <http://www.regulations.gov>, your entire comment, including any personal identifying information, will be posted on the website. If you submit a hardcopy comment that includes personal identifying information, such as your address, phone number, or email address, you may request at the top of your document that we withhold this information from public review. However, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

II. Background

Under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*),

we invite public comment on these permit applications before final action is taken.

III. Permit Applications

We invite the public to comment on applications to conduct certain activities with endangered species. With some exceptions, the ESA prohibits activities with listed species unless Federal authorization is acquired that allows such activities.

Applicant: Safari West, Santa Rosa, CA; PRT-27040C

In the **Federal Register** of 82 FR 35817, August 1, 2017, we published a notice inviting the public to comment on an application that we received from Safari West, Santa Rosa, CA for a captive-bred wildlife registration under 50 CFR 17.21(g). In that notice, two species were omitted in the notification to the public. We are inviting the public to comment on the following two species to be added to this applicant's existing registration: bontebok (*Damaliscus pygargus pygargus*) and red ruffed lemur (*Varecia variegata*) for the purpose to enhance species propagation or survival. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

Applicant: Ryan McDonald, Waxahachie, TX; PRT-82656A

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

Applicant: Cornell University, Ithaca, NY; PRT-62281C

The applicant requests a permit to import dried blood samples from 30 captive-held Asian elephants (*Elephas maximus*) from Elephant Stay, Thailand, for scientific research. This notification is for a single import.

Multiple Trophies

The following applicants each request a permit to import sport-hunted trophies of a 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 enhancing the propagation or survival of the species.

Applicant: Steven Collins, McKinney, TX; PRT-69195C

Applicant: David Seeno, Concord, CA; PRT-72306C

Applicant: C. Tustin, Ridley Park, PA; PRT-66701C

Applicant: Tommie Fogle, Lampasas, TX; PRT-66547C

Applicant: Rudy Nix, Barksdale, TX; PRT-74969C

Applicant: Kevin Perry, Peyton, CO; PRT-74842C

IV. Next Steps

If the Service decides to issue permits to any of the applicants listed in this notice, we will publish a notice in the **Federal Register**. You may locate the **Federal Register** notice announcing the permit issuance date by searching in www.regulations.gov under the application number listed in this document (e.g., PRT-12345X).

VI. Authority

Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Brenda Tapia,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

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18x.L11100000.PH0000]

Notice of Availability of the Nevada and Northeastern California Draft Resource Management Plan Amendment and Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Availability.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA), and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended (FLPMA), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared the Nevada and Northeastern California Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) Amendment and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Nevada and Northeastern California Greater Sage-Grouse (GRSG) Planning Area and by this notice is announcing the opening of the comment period. BLM Nevada is soliciting

comments on the entire Draft EIS, as well as the specific planning issues mentioned in this NOA, the cumulative effects analysis, and Priority Habitat Management Area decisions.

DATES: To ensure that comments will be considered, the BLM must receive written comments on the Draft RMP Amendment/Draft EIS within 90 days following the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes a notice of availability of the Draft RMP Amendment/Draft EIS in the **Federal Register**. The BLM will announce future meetings or hearings and any other public participation activities at least 15 days in advance through public notices, media releases, and/or mailings.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments related to the Nevada and Northeastern California Draft RMP Amendment/Draft EIS by any of the following methods:

- *Website:* <https://goo.gl/uz89cT>.
- *Mail:* BLM Nevada State Office,

1340 Financial Blvd., Reno, NV 89502.

Copies of the Nevada and Northeastern California Draft RMP Amendment/Draft EIS are available at the BLM California State Office, 2800 Cottage Way # W1623, Sacramento, CA 95825, BLM Nevada State Office at the above address, or on the project website at: <https://goo.gl/uz89cT>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information contact Matthew Magaletti, BLM Nevada Sage-Grouse Lead, by telephone, 775-861-6472; at the address above; or by email, mmagalet@blm.gov. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to contact Mr. Magaletti. The FRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with Mr. Magaletti. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Greater Sage-Grouse is a state-managed species that is dependent on sagebrush steppe ecosystems. These ecosystems are managed in partnership across the range of the Greater Sage-Grouse by federal, state, and local authorities. Efforts to conserve the species and its habitat date back to the 1950s. Over the past two decades, state wildlife agencies, federal agencies, and many others in the range of the species have been collaborating to conserve Greater Sage-Grouse and its habitats. The United States Department of the Interior (DOI) and the BLM have broad responsibilities to manage federal lands and resources for the public benefit. Nearly half of Greater Sage-Grouse habitat is managed by the BLM. The BLM is committed to being a good neighbor and investing in on-the-ground

conservation activities through close collaboration with State governments, local communities, private landowners, and other stakeholders.

In September 2015, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) determined that the Greater Sage-Grouse did not warrant listing under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. The USFWS based its “not warranted” determination, in part, on the conservation commitments and management actions in the BLM and U.S. Forest Service (Forest Service) Greater Sage-Grouse land use plan amendments and revisions (2015 GRSG land use plan decisions), as well as on other private, state, and federal conservation efforts. Since 2015 the BLM, in discussion with partners, primarily Governors and state wildlife management agencies, recognized that several refinements and policy updates could help strengthen conservation efforts, while providing increased economic opportunity to local communities. The BLM and Department of Interior worked closely with Governors charged with managing Greater Sage-Grouse to determine whether some, none, or all of the 2015 Land Use Plans should be amended. After carefully considering the Governors input, and using its discretion and authority under FLPMA, as well as under direction from the Secretary, including Secretary’s Order (SO) 3353, the BLM proposes amending the Nevada and Northeastern California Greater Sage-Grouse land use plans that address GRSG management. This action is proposed to enhance cooperation and improve alignment with the state plans or management strategies, in accordance with the BLM’s multiple use and sustained yield mission. The BLM prepared the Nevada and Northeastern California Greater Sage-Grouse Draft RMP Amendment/Draft EIS to address alternatives that will build upon its commitment to conserve and restore Greater Sage-Grouse habitat, while improving collaboration and alignment with state management strategies for Greater Sage-Grouse. The BLM seeks to improve management alignment in ways that will increase management flexibility, maintain access to public resources, and promote conservation outcomes. The BLM used internal, agency, and public scoping to identify issues considered in the environmental analysis. As part of this analysis, the BLM also examined the range of alternatives evaluated in the BLM’s 2015 GRSG land use plan decisions and their supporting NEPA analyses.

This Draft RMP Amendment/Draft EIS is one of six separate planning efforts that are being undertaken in response to