

Application No.	Applicant, city, state	Species	Location	Take activity	Permit action
TE-829554 .....	Barbara Kus, San Diego, California.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Southwestern willow flycatcher (<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>).</li> <li>Least Bell's vireo (<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>).</li> </ul>	CA, NV, NM, AZ.	Play taped vocalizations, monitor nests, capture, collect genetic samples, handle, band, conduct training workshops, and remove brown-headed cowbird ( <i>Molothrus ater</i> ) eggs and chicks from parasitized nests.	Renew.
TE-29522A .....	Kenneth Gilliland, Ventura, California.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>California tiger salamander (Santa Barbara County and Sonoma County Distinct Population Segments (DPSs)) (<i>Ambystoma californiense</i>).</li> <li>Least Bell's vireo (<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>).</li> <li>California least tern (<i>Sterna antillarum browni</i>).</li> <li>Arroyo (=arroyo southwestern) toad (<i>Anaxyrus californicus</i>).</li> </ul>	CA .....	Capture, handle, release, monitor nests, remove brown-headed cowbird ( <i>Molothrus ater</i> ) eggs and chicks from parasitized nests, translocate, erect nest enclosures, collect infertile eggs, swab, mark, and attach radio transmitters.	Renew and amend.
PER0002114 .....	Scott Whitman .....	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>California tiger salamander (Santa Barbara County and Sonoma County Distinct Population Segments (DPSs)) (<i>Ambystoma californiense</i>).</li> <li>Conservancy fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta conservatio</i>).</li> <li>Longhorn fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta longiantenna</i>).</li> <li>Vernal pool tadpole shrimp (<i>Lepidurus packardii</i>).</li> </ul>	CA .....	Capture, handle, release, and collect vouchers.	New.
TE-67253D .....	City of Eureka, Eureka, California.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Behren's silverspot butterfly (<i>Speyeria zerene behrensi</i>).</li> </ul>	CA .....	Capture, handle, captive breed, captive rear, translocate, and release.	Amend.
PER0002166 .....	Danielle Dillard, College Station, Texas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Giant kangaroo rat (<i>Dipodomys ingens</i>).</li> </ul>	CA .....	Capture, handle, examine for mites, collect fecal samples, and humanely euthanize for disease research.	New.

### Public Availability of Comments

Written comments we receive become part of the administrative record associated with this action. 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 request in your comment that we withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public disclosure in their entirety.

### Next Steps

If we decide to issue permits to any of the applicants listed in this notice, we will publish a notice in the **Federal Register**.

### Authority

We publish this notice under section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

#### Angela Picco,

Regional Endangered Species Program Manager, Pacific Southwest Region, Sacramento, California.

[FR Doc. 2020-28180 Filed 12-21-20; 8:45 am]

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### DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

#### Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-HQ-ES-2020-N146; FXHC11140900000-212-FF09E33000; OMB Control Number 1018-0148]

#### Agency Information Collection Activities; Land-Based Wind Energy Guidelines

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

**ACTION:** Notice of information collection; request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, we,

the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), are proposing to renew an information collection.

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before February 22, 2021.

**ADDRESSES:** Send your comments on the information collection request (ICR) by mail to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS: PRB (JAO/3W), 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803 (mail); or by email to [Info\\_Coll@fws.gov](mailto:Info_Coll@fws.gov). Please reference Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Control Number 1018-0148 in the subject line of your comments.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** To request additional information about this ICR, contact Madonna L. Baucum, Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, by email at [Info\\_Coll@fws.gov](mailto:Info_Coll@fws.gov), or by telephone at (703) 358-2503. Individuals who are hearing or speech impaired may call the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 for TTY assistance.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA, 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations

at 5 CFR 1320.8(d)(1), all information collections require approval under the PRA. We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

As part of our continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burdens, we invite the public and other Federal agencies to comment on new, proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. It also helps the public understand our information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format.

We are especially interested in public comment addressing the following:

(1) Whether or not the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether or not the information will have practical utility;

(2) The accuracy of our estimate of the burden for this collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

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

(4) How might the agency minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, *e.g.*, permitting electronic submission of response.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. We will include or summarize each comment in our request to OMB to approve this ICR. 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.

**Abstract:** As wind energy production increased, both developers and wildlife agencies recognized the need for a system to evaluate and address the potential negative impacts of wind energy projects on species of concern. As a result, the Service worked with the wind energy industry, conservation nongovernmental organizations, Federal

and State agencies, Tribes, and academia to develop the voluntary Land-Based Wind Energy Guidelines (Guidelines; <http://www.fws.gov/windenergy>) to provide a structured, scientific process for addressing wildlife conservation concerns at all stages of land-based wind energy development. Released in 2012, the Guidelines promote effective communication among wind energy developers and Federal, State, Tribal, and local conservation agencies. When used in concert with appropriate regulatory tools, the Guidelines are the best practical approach for conserving species of concern.

The Guidelines discuss various risks to species of concern from wind energy projects, including collisions with wind turbines and associated infrastructure; loss and degradation of habitat from turbines and infrastructure; fragmentation of large habitat blocks into smaller segments that may not support sensitive species; displacement and behavioral changes; and indirect effects such as increased predator populations or introduction of invasive plants. The Guidelines assist developers in identifying species of concern that may potentially be affected by proposed projects, including but not limited to:

- Migratory birds;
- Bats;
- Bald and golden eagles, and other birds of prey;
- Prairie chickens and sage grouse; and
- Species that have been identified as candidates, or proposed or listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

The Guidelines follow a tiered approach. The wind energy developer begins at Tier 1 or Tier 2, which entails gathering of existing data to help identify any potential risks to wildlife and their habitats at proposed wind energy project sites. The developer then proceeds through subsequent tiers, as appropriate, to collect information in increasing detail until the level of risk is adequately ascertained to inform the developer's decision on whether or not to develop the site. Many projects may not proceed beyond Tier 1 or 2, when developers become aware of potential barriers, including high risks to wildlife. Developers would only have an interest in adhering to the Guidelines for those projects that proceed beyond Tier 1 or 2.

At each tier, wind energy developers and operators should retain documentation to provide to the Service. Such documentation may include copies of correspondence with the Service, results of pre- and post-

construction studies conducted at project sites, bird and bat conservation strategies, or any other record that supports a developer's adherence to the Guidelines. The extent of the documentation will depend on the conditions of the site being developed. Sites with greater risk of impacts to wildlife and habitats will likely involve more extensive communication with the Service and longer durations of pre- and post-construction studies than sites with little risk.

Distributed or community-scale wind energy projects are unlikely to have significant adverse impacts to wildlife and their habitats. The Guidelines recommend that developers of these small-scale projects conduct the desktop analysis described in Tier 1 or Tier 2 using publicly available information to determine whether they should communicate with the Service. Since such project designs usually include a single turbine associated with existing development, conducting a Tier 1 or Tier 2 analysis for distributed or community-scale wind energy projects should incur limited non-hour burden costs. For such projects, if there is no potential risk identified, a developer will have no need to communicate with the Service regarding the project or to conduct studies described in Tiers 3, 4, and 5.

Adherence to the Guidelines is voluntary. Following the Guidelines does not relieve any individual, company, or agency of the responsibility to comply with applicable laws and regulations (*i.e.*, species protected by the Endangered Species Act and/or Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668–668c)).

This information collection was first approved by OMB in 2012 and subsequently renewed twice, in 2015 and 2018.

**Title of Collection:** Land-Based Wind Energy Guidelines.

**OMB Control Number:** 1018–0148.

**Form Number:** None.

**Type of Review:** Extension of a currently approved collection.

**Respondents/Affected Public:** Developers and operators of wind energy facilities.

**Respondent's Obligation:** Voluntary.

**Frequency of Collection:** On occasion.

**Total Estimated Annual Nonhour Burden Cost:** \$36,870,000. Costs will depend on the size and complexity of issues associated with each project. These expenses may include, but are not limited to: Travel expenses for site visits, studies conducted, and meetings with the Service and other Federal and State agencies; training in survey methodologies; data management;

special transportation, such as all-terrain vehicles or helicopters; equipment needed for acoustic,

telemetry, or radar monitoring; and carcass storage.

Requirement	Annual number of respondents	Number of responses each	Total annual responses	Completion time per response (hours)	Total annual burden hours
Tier 1 (Desktop Analysis):					
Reporting .....	40	1	40	25	1,000
Recordkeeping .....				1	40
Tier 2 (Site characterization):					
Reporting .....	35	1	35	155	5,425
Recordkeeping .....				3	105
Tier 3 (Pre-construction studies):					
Reporting .....	30	1	30	3,100	93,000
Recordkeeping .....				5	150
Tier 4 (Post-construction fatality monitoring and habitat studies):					
Reporting .....	45	1	45	3,600	162,000
Recordkeeping .....				5	225
Tier 5 (Other post-construction studies):					
Reporting .....	10	1	10	2,100	21,000
Recordkeeping .....				5	50
Totals .....	160		160		282,995

An agency may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

The authority for this action is the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

Dated: December 17, 2020.

**Madonna Baucum,**

Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 2020-28259 Filed 12-21-20; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Fish and Wildlife Service**

[Docket No. FWS-R3-ES-2019-0101; FXES1113030000-190-FF03E00000]

**Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Draft Recovery Plan for the Ozark Hellbender**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability and request for public comment.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, announce the availability of the draft recovery plan for the Ozark hellbender, a salamander species. We request review and comment on this draft recovery plan from local, State, and Federal agencies, and the public.

**DATES:** We must receive comments by January 21, 2021.

**ADDRESSES:**

**Document availability:** The draft recovery plan, along with any comments and other materials that we receive, will be available for public inspection at <http://www.regulations.gov> in Docket No. FWS-R3-ES-2019-0101.

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

- **Internet:** <http://www.regulations.gov>. Search for and submit comments on Docket No. FWS-R3-ES-2019-0101.

- **U.S. mail or hand-delivery:** Public Comments Processing, Attn: Docket No. FWS-R3-ES-2019-0101; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Headquarters, MS: JAO/1N; 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.

For more information, see Availability of Public Comments under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Karen Herrington, by phone at 573-234-2132, via email at [karen\\_herrington@fws.gov](mailto:karen_herrington@fws.gov), or via the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce the availability of the draft recovery plan for the endangered Ozark hellbender (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis bishopi*) for public review and comment. The Ozark hellbender is a large, strictly aquatic salamander found only in southern Missouri and northern Arkansas. The draft recovery plan includes objective, measurable criteria and management actions as may be necessary for removal of the species from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife. We request review

and comment on this draft recovery plan from local, State, and Federal agencies, and the public.

**Recovery Planning**

Section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), requires the development of recovery plans for listed species, unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of a particular species. Also pursuant to section 4(f) of the Act, a recovery plan must, to the maximum extent practicable, include (1) a description of site-specific management actions as may be necessary to achieve the plan's goals for the conservation and survival of the species; (2) objective, measurable criteria that, when met, would support a determination under section 4(a)(1) that the species should be removed from the List of Endangered and Threatened Species; and (3) estimates of the time and costs required to carry out those measures needed to achieve the plan's goal and to achieve intermediate steps toward that goal.

**Species Background**

The Ozark hellbender is endemic to the White River drainage in northern Arkansas and southern Missouri (Johnson 2000), historically occurring in portions of the Spring, White, Black, Eleven Point, and Current Rivers and some of their tributaries (Bryant Creek, the North Fork White River, and Jacks Fork) (LaClaire 1993). Currently, populations of Ozark hellbenders are known to occur in Bryant Creek, the North Fork White River, the Eleven Point River, and the Current River, with