

combination with the above findings, in our final analysis to determine whether or not to issue a permit. If the requirements and issuance criteria under section 10(a) are met, we will issue the permit to the applicant for incidental take of gnatcatcher.

**Public Comments**

If you wish to comment on the permit application, proposed HCP, and associated documents, you may submit comments by any of the methods noted in ADDRESSES.

**Public Availability of Comments**

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 may 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.

**Authority**

We provide this notice under section 10 of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

**Karen A. Goebel,**

*Acting Field Supervisor, Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office, Carlsbad, California.*

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**BILLING CODE 4333-15-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Fish and Wildlife Service**

[FWS-R3-ES-2016-N229;  
FXES11130300000-178-FF03E00000]

**Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Permit Applications**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, invite the public to comment on the following applications for a permit to conduct activities intended to enhance the survival of endangered or threatened species. Federal law prohibits certain activities with endangered species unless a permit is obtained.

**DATES:** We must receive any written comments on or before January 30, 2017.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments by U.S. mail to the Regional Director, Attn: Carlita Payne, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services, 5600 American Blvd. West, Suite 990, Bloomington, MN 55437-1458; or by electronic mail to [permitsR3ES@fws.gov](mailto:permitsR3ES@fws.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Carlita Payne, (612) 713-5343.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), prohibits certain activities with endangered and threatened species unless the activities are specifically authorized by a Federal permit. The

ESA and our implementing regulations in part 17 of title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) provide for the issuance of such permits and require that we invite public comment before issuing permits for activities involving endangered species.

A permit granted by us under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA authorizes the permittee to conduct activities with U.S. endangered or threatened species for scientific purposes, enhancement of propagation or survival, or interstate commerce (the latter only in the event that it facilitates scientific purposes or enhancement of propagation or survival). Our regulations implementing section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA for these permits are found at 50 CFR 17.22 for endangered wildlife species, 50 CFR 17.32 for threatened wildlife species, 50 CFR 17.62 for endangered plant species, and 50 CFR 17.72 for threatened plant species.

**Applications Available for Review and Comment**

We invite local, State, Tribal, and Federal agencies and the public to comment on the following applications. Please refer to the permit number when you submit comments. Documents and other information the applicants have submitted with the applications are available for review, subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a) and Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552).

**Permit Applications**

Proposed activities in the following permit requests are for the recovery and enhancement of survival of the species in the wild.

Application No.	Applicant	Species	Location	Activity	Type of take	Permit action
TE38793A .....	Kenneth Mierzwa.	Hine's emerald dragonfly ( <i>Somatochlora hineana</i> ).	Alabama, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, Wisconsin, Illinois .....	Survey and monitor, habitat assessment.	Capture and release, exuviae collection, adult counts.	Renew.
TE11170C .....	Ashleigh Cable.	Indiana bat ( <i>Myotis sodalis</i> ), gray bat ( <i>M. grisescens</i> ), northern long-eared bat ( <i>M. septentrionalis</i> ).	Illinois .....	Conduct presence/absence surveys, document habitat use, conduct population monitoring, evaluate impacts.	Capture, handle, radio-tag, harp trap, release.	New.
TE01311C .....	Shawn McKinley.	Indiana bat ( <i>Myotis sodalis</i> ), gray bat ( <i>M. grisescens</i> ), northern long-eared bat ( <i>M. septentrionalis</i> ), Virginia big-eared bat ( <i>Plecotus townsendii virginianus</i> ).	Rangewide .....	Conduct presence/absence surveys, document habitat use, conduct population monitoring, evaluate impacts.	Capture, handle, mist-net, harp trap, radio-tag, band, release.	New.
TE13571C .....	Jennifer Moore.	Eastern massasauga rattlesnake ( <i>Sistrurus catenatus</i> ).	Michigan .....	Survey and monitoring, habitat assessment, population connectivity assessment.	Capture, handle, pit-tag, tissue collection, release.	New.
TE14588C .....	Dane Smith	Indiana bat ( <i>Myotis sodalis</i> ), gray bat ( <i>M. grisescens</i> ), northern long-eared bat ( <i>M. septentrionalis</i> ).	Missouri .....	Conduct presence/absence surveys, document habitat use, conduct population monitoring, evaluate impacts.	Capture, handle, mist-net, radio-tag, band, tissue collection, release.	New.

Application No.	Applicant	Species	Location	Activity	Type of take	Permit action
TE15664C .....	April McKay	Indiana bat ( <i>Myotis sodalis</i> ), gray bat ( <i>M. grisescens</i> ), northern long-eared bat ( <i>M. septentrionalis</i> ).	Rangewide .....	Conduct presence/absence surveys, document habitat use, conduct population monitoring, evaluate impacts.	Capture, handle, mist-net, harp trap, radio-tag, band, release.	New.
TE106217 .....	The Toledo Zoological Society.	Mitchell's satyr butterfly ( <i>Neonympha mitchellii mitchellii</i> ).	Ohio .....	Propagation and transport	Capture, handle, hold, release.	Amend, renew.
TE85231B .....	Kalamazoo Nature Center.	Mitchell's satyr butterfly ( <i>N.m. mitchellii</i> ).	Michigan .....	Propagation and transport	Capture, handle, temporarily hold, release.	Amend.
TE02373A .....	Environmental Solutions and Innovations.	Indiana bat ( <i>Myotis sodalis</i> ), gray bat ( <i>M. grisescens</i> ), northern long-eared bat ( <i>M. septentrionalis</i> ), Virginia big-eared bat ( <i>Plecotus townsendii virginianus</i> ), Ozark big-eared bat ( <i>P.t.ingens</i> ), American burying beetle ( <i>Nicrophorus americanus</i> ), eastern massasauga rattlesnake ( <i>Sistrurus catenatus</i> ), Karner blue butterfly ( <i>Lycaeides melissa samuelis</i> ), Mitchell's satyr butterfly ( <i>Neonympha mitchellii mitchellii</i> ), St. Francis' satyr butterfly ( <i>N.m. francisci</i> ), rusty patched bumble bee ( <i>Bombus affinis</i> ), Guyandotte River crayfish ( <i>Cambarus veteranus</i> ), Big Sandy crayfish ( <i>C. callainus</i> ), 12 fish species, 57 freshwater mussel species.	Rangewide .....	Conduct presence/absence surveys, habitat assessment, DNA sampling, relocation, transport.	Capture, handle, temporarily hold, release.	Amend, renew.
TE194099 .....	Michael Hoggarth.	30 freshwater mussel species.	Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia.	Conduct presence/absence surveys, relocations, transport.	Capture, handle, relocate, release.	Renew.
TE14549C .....	Larissa Herrera.	10 freshwater mussel species.	Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin.	Conduct presence/absence surveys.	Capture, handle, release	New.
TE181256 .....	Lewis Environmental Consulting, LLC.	62 freshwater mussel species.	Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, West Virginia.	Conduct presence/absence surveys, transport, propagation.	Capture, handle, hold, transport, release.	Amend, renew.

**National Environmental Policy Act**

The proposed activities in the requested permits qualify as categorical exclusions under the National Environmental Policy Act, as provided by Department of the Interior implementing regulations in part 46 of title 43 of the CFR (43 CFR 46.205, 46.210, and 46.215).

**Public Availability of Comments**

We seek public review and comments on these permit applications. Please refer to the permit number when you submit comments. Comments and materials we receive in response to this notice are available for public inspection, by appointment, during

normal business hours at the address listed above in **ADDRESSES**.

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.

**Authority**

We provide this notice under section 10 of the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Dated: December 23, 2016.

**Lori H. Nordstrom,**

*Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, Midwest Region.*

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