

Information collection	Number of respondents	Total annual responses	Burden hours per response	Total annual burden hours	Hourly cost to public	Total annual cost to public	Hourly cost to government	Total annual cost to government
Amendment to Project-Based Section 8 Housing Assistance Payments Contract [Contract A1] Pursuant to Section 8(bb)(1) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (HUD-93185a) .....	25	25	0.50	13	\$39.72	\$496.50	\$51.18	\$639.75
Amendment to Project-Based Section 8 Housing Assistance Payments Contract [Contract B] Pursuant to Section 8(bb)(1) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (HUD-93185b) .....	25	25	0.50	13	39.72	496.50	51.18	639.75
Letters to Owners/Agents: Option 1 and 3 (HUD-9626) ....	419	419	0.25	105	39.72	4,160.67	51.18	5,361.11
Request to Renew Using FMRs as Market Ceiling (HUD-9630) .....	88	88	0.50	44	39.72	1,747.68	51.18	2,251.92
Consent to Assignment of HAP Contract as Security for Freddie Mac Financing (HUD-9648a) .....	50	50	0.50	25	39.72	993.00	51.18	1,279.50
Project-Based Section 8 Contract Administration Consent to Assignment of HAP Contract to Freddie Mac as Security for Freddie Mac Credit Enhancement (HUD-9648b) .....	50	50	0.50	25	39.72	993.00	51.18	1,279.50
Consent to Assignment of HAP Contract to FNMA as Security for FNMA Credit Enhancement (HUD-9648d) .....	50	50	0.50	25	39.72	993.00	51.18	1,279.50
Consent to Assignment of HAP Contract as Security for Financing (HUD-9649) .....	600	600	0.50	300	39.72	11,916.00	51.18	15,354.00
Project-Based Section 8 Contract Administration Consent to Assignment of HAP Contract as Security for Financing When HFA is Both Lender and Contract Administrator (HUD-9649b) .....	100	100	0.50	50	39.72	1,986.00	51.18	2,559.00
Consent to Assignment of HAP Contract as Security for FNMA Financing (HUD-9651) .....	100	100	0.50	50	39.72	1,986.00	51.18	2,559.00
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>1,507</b>	<b>1,507</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>25,768.35</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>33,203.03</b>

*Description of the need for the information and proposed use:* The *Section 8 Renewal Policy Guidebook* explains the various options available under the Multifamily Housing Reform and Affordability Act of 1997 (MAHRA) for the renewal of expiring project-based section 8 contracts and the adjustment of contract rents and establishes related administrative policies. Stakeholders have identified the need for corrections to 8 existing forms and the creation of 2 new forms.

*Respondents:* Businesses or other for-profit and not-for-profit entities.

*Estimated number of respondents:* 1,507.

*Estimated number of responses:* 1,507.

*Frequency of response:* Various.

*Average hours per response:* 0.43 hours.

*Total estimated burden hours:* 650 hours.

**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 comments.

**C. Authority**

Section 2 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3507.

**Vance T. Morris,**

*Associate General Deputy Assistant, Secretary for Housing, H.*

[FR Doc. 2026-01289 Filed 1-22-26; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4210-67-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Fish and Wildlife Service**

**[FWS-R2-ES-2025-N037; FXES1113020000-256-FF02ENEH00]**

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

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

**ACTION:** Notice of receipt of permit applications; 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 scientific research to promote conservation or other activities intended to recover and enhance endangered species survival. With some exceptions, the Endangered Species Act (ESA) prohibits certain activities that may impact endangered species, unless a Federal permit allows such activity. The ESA also requires that we invite public comment before issuing these permits.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, please submit your written comments by February 23, 2026.

**ADDRESSES:**

*Document availability:* Request documents from the contact in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section.

*Comment submission:* Submit comments by email to [fw2\\_te\\_permits@fws.gov](mailto:fw2_te_permits@fws.gov). Please specify the permit application you are interested in by number (e.g., Permit Record No. PER1234567).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Katie Boyer, Acting Supervisor, Environmental Review Division, by phone at 737-932-1341, or via email at [katie\\_boyer@fws.gov](mailto:katie_boyer@fws.gov). Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make

international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

With some exceptions, the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), prohibits activities that constitute take of listed species unless a Federal permit is issued that allows such activity. The ESA’s definition of “take” includes hunting, shooting, harming, wounding, or killing, and also such activities as pursuing, harassing, trapping, capturing, or collecting.

The ESA and our implementing regulations in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at title 50, part 17, provide for issuing such permits and require that we invite public comment

before issuing permits for activities involving listed species.

A recovery permit we issue under the ESA, section 10(a)(1)(A), authorizes the permittee to conduct activities with endangered or threatened species for scientific purposes that promote recovery or enhance the species’ propagation or survival. These activities often include such prohibited actions as capture and collection. Our regulations implementing section 10(a)(1)(A) 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.

**Permit Applications Available for Review and Comment**

Documents and other information submitted with these applications are

available for review by any party who submits a request as specified in **ADDRESSES**. Our release of documents is subject to Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a) and Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) requirements.

Proposed activities in the following permit requests are for the recovery and enhancement of propagation or survival of the species in the wild. We invite local, State, Tribal, and Federal agencies and the public to submit written data, views, or arguments with respect to these applications. The comments and recommendations that will be most useful and likely to influence agency decisions are those supported by quantitative information or studies. Please refer to the permit record number when submitting comments.

**TABLE 1—PERMIT APPLICATIONS**

Permit record No.	Applicant	Species	Location	Activity	Type of take	Permit action
PER23398797 .....	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 2/ Ocelot Recovery; Alpine, Arizona.	Ocelot ( <i>Leopardus pardalis</i> ) .....	Ohio, Texas .....	Captive propagation, bio-sample.	Harass, harm	New.
PER23398796 .....	Bruhns, Wanda; Flagstaff, Arizona.	Southwestern willow flycatcher ( <i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i> ).	Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, Texas, Utah.	Presence/absence surveys, nest monitoring.	Harass, harm	New.
PER23188967 .....	Norris, Thomas; Kyle, Texas.	Golden-cheeked warbler ( <i>Setophaga chrysoparia</i> ).	Texas .....	Presence/absence surveys.	Harass, harm	New.
PER23249867 .....	Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma; Durant, Oklahoma.	Gray bat ( <i>Myotis grisescens</i> ), Indiana bat ( <i>Myotis sodalis</i> ), northern long-eared bat ( <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> ).	Oklahoma .....	Presence/absence surveys, bio-sample.	Harass, harm, capture.	New.
PER22884850 .....	Jenkerson, Jeffrey; San Marcos, Texas.	Texas hornshell ( <i>Popenaias popeii</i> ), Ouachita rock pocketbook ( <i>Arcidens wheeleri</i> ), Neosho mucket ( <i>Lampsilis rafinesqueana</i> ), scaleshell mussel ( <i>Leptodea leptodon</i> ), winged mapleleaf ( <i>Quadrula fragosa</i> ), dunes sagebrush lizard ( <i>Sceloporus arenicolus</i> ).	Arkansas, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas.	Presence/absence surveys, relocations, trap.	Harass, harm, capture.	Amend.
PER21892107 .....	Vidal, Amanda; Leander, Texas.	Golden-cheeked warbler ( <i>Setophaga chrysoparia</i> ).	Texas .....	Presence/absence surveys.	Harass, harm	New.
PER21921910 .....	Lewis, Chancey; Cameron, Texas.	Houston toad ( <i>Bufo houstonensis</i> ) ...	Texas .....	Presence/absence surveys.	Harass, harm	Renew.
PER21485967 .....	Allira, Meagan; Norman, Oklahoma.	Gray bat ( <i>Myotis grisescens</i> ), Indiana bat ( <i>Myotis sodalis</i> ).	Oklahoma .....	Presence/absence surveys.	Harass, harm, capture.	New.
PER21344773 .....	Edwards, Christine; St. Louis, Missouri.	Texas trailing phlox ( <i>Phlox nivalis ssp. Texensis</i> ).	Texas .....	Presence/absence surveys, collection.	Harm, collect	Renew.
PER21344774 .....	Tetra Tech, Inc.—Tucson; Tucson, Arizona.	Southwestern willow flycatcher ( <i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i> ).	Arizona .....	Presence/absence surveys.	Harass, harm	Amend.
PER21266468 .....	Frey, Jennifer; Radium Springs, New Mexico.	New Mexico meadow jumping mouse ( <i>Zapus hudsonius luteus</i> ), Penasco least chipmunk ( <i>Tamias minimus atristriatus</i> ).	Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico.	Presence/absence surveys, trap, capture, handle, tag, bio-sample.	Harass, harm, capture.	New.
PER21344775 .....	Leonard, Wendy; Helotes, Texas.	Golden-cheeked warbler ( <i>Setophaga chrysoparia</i> ).	Texas .....	Presence/absence surveys.	Harass, harm	Renew.
PER21339358 .....	Brown and Gay Engineers, Inc.; Frisco, Texas.	Golden-cheeked warbler ( <i>Setophaga chrysoparia</i> ), lesser prairie-chicken ( <i>Tympanuchus pallidicinctus</i> ), dunes sagebrush lizard ( <i>Sceloporus arenicolus</i> ), Houston toad ( <i>Bufo houstonensis</i> ).	Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas.	Presence/absence surveys..	Harass, harm	Renew.

TABLE 1—PERMIT APPLICATIONS—Continued

Permit record No.	Applicant	Species	Location	Activity	Type of take	Permit action
PER21344776 .....	Dallas Zoo Management, Inc.; Dallas, Texas.	Dunes sagebrush lizard ( <i>Sceloporus arenicolus</i> ), Houston toad ( <i>Bufo houstonensis</i> ), Barton Springs salamander ( <i>Eurycea sosorum</i> ), Texas blind salamander ( <i>Eurycea rathbuni</i> ).	Texas .....	Hold, handle, captive rearing, captive propagation, headstarting, captive breeding, educational display, reintroduction.	Harass, harm, capture.	Renew/amend.
PER21894441 .....	Hawks Aloft, Inc.; Albuquerque, New Mexico.	Southwestern willow flycatcher ( <i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i> ).	New Mexico .....	Presence/absence surveys.	Harass, harm	Renew.
PER20350238 .....	Morrison, Michael; Bishop, California.	Golden-cheeked warbler ( <i>Setophaga chrysoparia</i> ).	Texas .....	Presence/absence surveys, band, trap, handle, nest search, camera monitoring,.	Harass, harm, capture.	Renew.
PER20678521 .....	Forstner, Michael; Seguin, Texas.	Houston toad ( <i>Bufo houstonensis</i> ), Barton Springs salamander ( <i>Eurycea sosorum</i> ), Austin blind salamander ( <i>Eurycea waterlooensis</i> ), fountain darter ( <i>Etheostoma fonticola</i> ).	Texas .....	Presence/absence surveys, bio-sample, headstarting, reintroduction, translocation, capture, voucher specimen, captive propagation.	Harass, harm, capture, kill.	Renew/amend.
PER20350987 .....	Terrell, Danielle; Austin, Texas.	Golden-cheeked warbler ( <i>Setophaga chrysoparia</i> ).	Texas .....	Presence/absence surveys.	Harass, harm	Amend.
PER20285322 .....	Borstein, Samuel; San Marcos, Texas.	Leon Springs pupfish ( <i>Cyprinodon bovinus</i> ), Comanche Springs pupfish ( <i>Cyprinodon elegans</i> ), fountain darter ( <i>Etheostoma fonticola</i> ), Big Bend gambusia ( <i>Gambusia gaigei</i> ), Clear Creek gambusia ( <i>Gambusia heterochir</i> ), Pecos gambusia ( <i>Gambusia nobilis</i> ), peppered chub ( <i>Macrhybopsis tetranema</i> ), smalleye shiner ( <i>Notropis buccula</i> ), sharpnose shiner ( <i>Notropis oxyrinchus</i> ).	Texas .....	Capture, trap, euthanize, bio-sample, voucher specimen, DNA sequencing.	Harass, harm, capture, kill.	New.
PER22885812 .....	Henson, Jeremy; Round Rock, Texas.	Pink mucket ( <i>Lampsilis abrupta</i> ), fat pocketbook ( <i>Potamilus capax</i> ).	Arkansas .....	Presence/absence surveys.	Harass, harm, capture.	Amend.
PER20370275 .....	Joint Base San Antonio; Camp Bullis, Texas.	Golden-cheeked warbler ( <i>Setophaga chrysoparia</i> ).	Texas .....	Presence/absence surveys, handle, band.	Harass, harm, capture.	Renew.
PER20284844 .....	Buckingham, Matthew; Lufkin, Texas.	Houston toad ( <i>Bufo houstonensis</i> ), Guadalupe fatmucket ( <i>Lampsilis bergmanni</i> ), Texas fatmucket ( <i>Lampsilis bracteate</i> ), Guadalupe orb ( <i>Cyclonaias necki</i> ), Texas pimpleback ( <i>Cyclonaias petrina</i> ), Balcones spike ( <i>Fusconaia iheringi</i> ), false spike ( <i>Fusconaia mitchelli</i> ), Texas hornshell ( <i>Popenaias popeii</i> ).	Texas .....	Presence/absence Surveys, salvage.	Harass, harm	New.
PER21344777 .....	Sonoran Institute; Tucson, Arizona.	Gila topminnow ( <i>Poeciliopsis occidentalis</i> ).	Arizona .....	Presence/absence surveys, voucher specimen.	Harass, harm, capture, kill.	Renew.

TABLE 1—PERMIT APPLICATIONS—Continued

Permit record No.	Applicant	Species	Location	Activity	Type of take	Permit action
.....	Texas State University; San Marcos, Texas.	Barton Springs salamander ( <i>Eurycea sosorum</i> ), Austin blind salamander ( <i>Eurycea waterlooensis</i> ), Texas blind salamander ( <i>Eurycea rathbuni</i> ), fountain darter ( <i>Etheostoma fonticola</i> ), Comal Springs riffle beetle ( <i>Heterelmis comalensis</i> ), Comal Springs dryopid beetle ( <i>Stygoparnus comalensis</i> ), Peck's Cave amphipod ( <i>Stygobromus pecki</i> ), diamond tryonia ( <i>Pseudotryonia adamantina</i> ), Gonzales tryonia ( <i>Tryonia circumstriata</i> ), phantom tryonia ( <i>Tryonia cheatum</i> ), phantom springsnail ( <i>Pyrgulopsis texana</i> ), Pecos amphipod ( <i>Gammarus pecos</i> ), Pecos assiminea snail ( <i>Assimineea pecos</i> ), diminutive amphipod ( <i>Gammarus hyalleloides</i> ), Coffin Cave mold beetle ( <i>Batrisodes texanus</i> ), ground beetle ( <i>Rhadine exilis</i> ), ground beetle ( <i>Rhadine infernalis</i> ), Helotes mold beetle ( <i>Batrisodes venyivi</i> ), Kretschmarr Cave mold beetle ( <i>Texamaurops reddelli</i> ), Tooth Cave ground beetle ( <i>Rhadine persephone</i> ), Cokendolpher cave harvestman ( <i>Texella cokendolpheri</i> ), Robber Baron Cave meshweaver ( <i>Cicurina baronia</i> ), Madla Cave meshweaver ( <i>Cicurina madla</i> ), Government Canyon Bat Cave meshweaver ( <i>Cicurina vespera</i> ), Government Canyon Bat Cave spider ( <i>Tayshaneta microps</i> ), Tooth Cave spider ( <i>Tayshaneta myopica</i> ), Tooth Cave pseudoscorpion ( <i>Tartarocreagris texana</i> ), Bee Creek Cave harvestman ( <i>Texella reddelli</i> ), Bone Cave harvestman ( <i>Texella reyesi</i> ).	Texas .....	Presence/absence surveys, harry, herd, handle, trap, voucher specimen.	Harass, harm, capture, kill.	Renew.
PER20454959 .....	Kutz, Julie; Albuquerque, New Mexico.	Southwestern willow flycatcher ( <i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i> ).	New Mexico .....	Presence/absence surveys.	Harass, harm	New.
PER22242412 .....	USDA Forest Service—Carson National Forest; Taos, New Mexico.	Southwestern willow flycatcher ( <i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i> ).	New Mexico .....	Presence/absence surveys.	Harass, harm	Renew/amend.
PER20454960 .....	Bureau of Land Management, Taos Field Office; Taos, New Mexico.	Black-footed ferret ( <i>Mustela nigripes</i> ), New Mexico meadow jumping mouse ( <i>Zapus hudsonius luteus</i> ), southwestern willow flycatcher ( <i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i> ).	New Mexico .....	Presence/absence surveys, trap, nest monitoring.	Harass, harm, capture.	New.
PER20735572 .....	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation—Phoenix; Glendale, Arizona.	Wildlife: Desert pupfish ( <i>Cyprinodon macularius</i> ), Gila chub ( <i>Gila intermedia</i> ), spikedace ( <i>Meda fulgida</i> ), woundfin ( <i>Plagopterus argentissimus</i> ), Gila topminnow ( <i>Poeciliopsis occidentalis</i> ), Colorado pikeminnow ( <i>Ptychocheilus lucius</i> ), Yuma Ridgway's rail ( <i>Rallus obsoletus yumanensis</i> ), loach minnow ( <i>Tiaroga cobitis</i> ), razorback sucker ( <i>Xyrauchen texanus</i> ), southwestern willow flycatcher ( <i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i> ); Plants: Pima pineapple cactus ( <i>Coryphantha scheeri</i> var. <i>robustispina</i> ).	Arizona, New Mexico.	Presence/absence surveys, nest monitoring, hold, voucher specimen.	Harass, harm, capture, kill.	New.
PER21273610 .....	Texas State Aquarium; Corpus Christi, Texas.	Ocelot ( <i>Leopardus pardalis</i> ) .....	Texas .....	Transport, rehabilitation.	Harass, harm, capture.	Amend.
PER23567771 .....	Nueces County Coastal Parks; Corpus Christi, Texas.	Hawksbill sea turtle ( <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> ), Kemp's ridley sea turtle ( <i>Lepidochelys kempii</i> ), leatherback sea turtle ( <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> ).	Texas .....	Hold, handle, tag, nest searching, egg collection, transport, captive incubation.	Harass, harm, capture.	Amend.

TABLE 1—PERMIT APPLICATIONS—Continued

Permit record No.	Applicant	Species	Location	Activity	Type of take	Permit action
PER21593741 .....	ACI Environmental Consulting; Austin, Texas.	Texas hornshell ( <i>Popenaias popeii</i> ), Texas fatmucket ( <i>Lampsilis bracteate</i> ).	New Mexico, Texas	Presence/absence surveys, relocations.	Harass, harm	Amend.

### Public Availability of Comments

All comments we receive become part of the public record associated with this action. Requests for copies of comments will be handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and Service and Department of the Interior policies and procedures. 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 to 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.

### Authority

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

### Leston Jacks,

Acting Regional Director, Southwest Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 2026-01250 Filed 1-22-26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4333-15-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

[Docket No. FWS-R7-NWRS-2025-1166; FF07R01500-256-FXRS126107AKEX0]

### Notice of Availability; Draft Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Winter Access Across Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

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

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

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, and the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 (ANILCA), as amended,

along with other laws as applicable, we, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), announce availability of a Draft Environmental Assessment (draft EA) to evaluate the effects associated with an access to inholdings request under ANILCA 1110(b) from the Kaktovik Iñupiat Corporation (KIC). KIC seeks a 20-year right-of-way (ROW) permit for certain Refuge lands located between the western boundary of the Refuge and KIC's inholdings near the community of Kaktovik. The ROW permit would enable KIC to annually create and utilize a winter snow trail for the purpose of transporting large equipment and commodities to its inholdings. We invite comment on the draft EA from the public and local, State, Tribal, and Federal agencies.

**DATES:** We must receive your written comments on or before February 9, 2026.

#### ADDRESSES:

**Obtaining Documents:** The documents this notice announces, as well as any comments and other materials that we receive, will be available for public inspection at <https://www.regulations.gov> in Docket No. FWS-RX-NWRS-2024-1166.

**Submitting Comments:** To send written comments, please use one of the following methods, and note that your information requests or comments are in reference to the draft EA.

- **Internet:** Submit comments at <https://www.regulations.gov> under Docket No. FWS-R7-NWRS-2025-1166.

- **U.S. Mail:** Public Comments Processing, Attn: Docket No. FWS-R7-NWRS-2025-1166; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Headquarters, MS: PRB/3W; 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.

For more information, see Public Review Process under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Merben Cebrian, Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Manager, by telephone at 907-388-6751 via email at [merben\\_cebrian@fws.gov](mailto:merben_cebrian@fws.gov). Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services. Individuals outside the United States

should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 (ANILCA; Pub. L. 96-487, Dec. 2, 1980; 16 U.S.C. 3111-3126), on February 8, 2023 (88 FR 8305), we, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), announced via the **Federal Register** that we were preparing a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the effects associated with an access to inholdings request under ANILCA 1110(b) from the Kaktovik Iñupiat Corporation (KIC). KIC seeks a 20-year right-of-way (ROW) permit for certain Refuge lands located between the western boundary of the Refuge and KIC's inholdings near the community of Kaktovik. The ROW permit would enable KIC to annually create and utilize a winter snow trail for the purpose of transporting large equipment and commodities to its inholdings. FWS must decide whether to issue a 20-year right-of-way (ROW) permit requested by KIC for the use of Refuge lands for the annual development of a winter overland snow trail to the applicant's inholding.

ANILCA provides additional requirements for conservation system units in Alaska, including refuges. Specifically, ANILCA Section 1110(b) assures adequate and feasible access to private owned lands surrounded by public lands, also known as inholdings. KIC's request pertains to accessing KIC-owned lands which are located within the Refuge and have been determined, by FWS, to be inholdings.

### National Environmental Policy Act Compliance

The proposed issuance of a permit triggers the need for compliance with NEPA. The draft EA was prepared to analyze the impacts of issuing an access to inholdings request under ANILCA 1110(b).

### Proposed Action

FWS's Proposed Action is to issue the requested 20-year ROW permit. The ROW permit would authorize KIC to