

**ACTION:** Notice of receipt of permit application; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, have received an application for a permit to conduct activities intended to enhance the propagation and survival of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act. We invite the public and local, State, Tribal, and Federal agencies to comment on this application. Before issuing the requested permit, we will take into consideration any information that we receive during the public comment period.

**DATES:** We must receive your written comments on or before April 19, 2023.

**ADDRESSES:**

*Document availability and comment submission:* Submit a request for a copy of the application and related documents and submit any comments by one of the following methods. All requests and comments should specify the applicant name and application number (*i.e.*, Zoological Society of San Diego, ES060179):

- *Email:* [permitsR1ES@fws.gov](mailto:permitsR1ES@fws.gov).
- *U.S. Mail:* Marilet Zablan, Regional Program Manager, Restoration and Endangered Species Classification, Ecological Services, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pacific Regional Office, 911 NE 11th Avenue, Portland, OR 97232-4181.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Karen Colson, Acting Regional Recovery Permit Coordinator, Ecological Services, (208) 685-6956 (telephone); [permitsR1ES@fws.gov](mailto:permitsR1ES@fws.gov) (email).

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:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, invite the public to comment on an application for a permit under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). The requested permit would allow the applicant to conduct activities intended to promote recovery of species that are listed as endangered under the ESA.

**Background**

With some exceptions, the ESA 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 such activities as pursuing, harassing, trapping, capturing, or collecting, in addition to hunting, shooting, harming, wounding, or killing.

A recovery permit issued by us under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA authorizes the permittee to conduct activities with endangered or threatened species for scientific purposes that promote recovery or for enhancement of propagation or survival of the species. These activities often include such prohibited actions as capture and collection. Our regulations implementing section 10(a)(1)(A) for these permits are found in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 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**

Proposed activities in the following permit request are for the recovery and enhancement of propagation or survival of the species in the wild. The ESA requires that we invite public comment before issuing this permit. Accordingly, we invite local, State, Tribal, and Federal agencies and the public to submit written data, views, or arguments with respect to this application. The comments and recommendations that will be most useful and likely to influence agency decisions are those supported by quantitative information or studies.

Application No.	Applicant, city, state	Species	Location	Take activity	Permit action
ES060179 .....	Zoological Society of San Diego, San Diego, CA.	ʻĀkohekohe ( <i>Palmeria dolei</i> ), Maui Parrotbill/Kiwikiu ( <i>Pseudonestor xanthophrys</i> ), Akikiki ( <i>Oreomystis bardi</i> ).	Hawaii .....	Increase in the number of individuals taken from the wild for captive holding and breeding.	Amend.

**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 a permit to the applicant 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.*).

**Marilet A. Zablan,**

*Regional Program Manager for Restoration and Endangered Species Classification, Pacific Region.*

[FR Doc. 2023-05573 Filed 3-17-23; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4333-15-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Fish and Wildlife Service**

[FWS-HQ-ES-2023-N012; FXES1113090000/234/FF09E32000; OMB Control Number 1018-0095]

**Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Endangered and Threatened Wildlife, Experimental Populations**

**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 existing information collection without change.

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before April 19, 2023.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to <https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain>. Find this particular information collection by selecting “Currently under Review—Open for Public Comments” or by using the search function. Please provide a copy of your comments 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 “1018–0095” 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 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 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 a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

On October 4, 2022, we published in the **Federal Register** (87 FR 60197) a notice of our intent to request that OMB approve this information collection. In that notice, we solicited comments for 60 days, ending on December 5, 2022. In an effort to increase public awareness of, and participation in, our public commenting processes associated with information collection requests, the Service also published the **Federal Register** notice on *Regulations.gov* (Docket FWS–HQ–ES–2022–0140) to provide the public with an additional method to submit comments (in addition to the typical *Info\_Coll@fws.gov* email and U.S. mail submission

methods). We received the following comments in response to that notice:

*Comment 1:* Electronic comment received via *Regulations.gov* (FWS–HQ–ES–2022–0140–0002) from Jean Publiee on October 7, 2022. The comment did not address the information collection requirements.

*Agency Response to Comment 1:* No response required.

*Comment 2:* Anonymous electronic comment received via *Regulations.gov* (FWS–HQ–ES–2022–0140–0003) on October 19, 2022. The comment did not address the information collection requirements.

*Agency Response to Comment 2:* No response required.

*Comment 3:* Anonymous electronic comment received via *Regulations.gov* (FWS–HQ–ES–2022–0140–0004) on December 5, 2022. The comment did not address the information collection requirements.

*Agency Response to Comment 3:* No response required.

*Comment 4:* Electronic comment received via *Regulations.gov* (FWS–HQ–ES–2022–0140–0005) from Francisco Santiago-Avila on December 2, 2022. Mr. Santiago-Avila supports this information collection and provides suggestions on ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected. Specifically, he suggests collaboration with volunteers to perform monitoring, recommends publication of specific mortality data, and recommends analyzing the effectiveness of management interventions.

*Agency Response to Comment 4:* We appreciate Mr. Santiago-Avila’s suggestions and acknowledge that many of the recommended actions are already under way. This information collection includes all experimental population monitoring and reporting requirements described by regulation under 50 CFR 17.84, where species-specific requirements are described in further detail. It is the responsibility of the lead office for an experimental population to engage with the public for any assistance needed for the monitoring of these populations, if appropriate. The lead field office tracks, manages, and analyzes mortality data, as appropriate for the species, as part of the requirement to periodically evaluate the success or failure of the reintroduction. The requirements for the periodic evaluation of effectiveness are also specified in each species-specific experimental population final rule.

Publishing location-specific mortality information, as the commenter suggested, is not feasible because it could result in an increased risk of

illegal/unauthorized take. Furthermore, for monitoring the effectiveness of management interventions, it is not always feasible to measure effectiveness of indirect preventative techniques due to the variability in year-to-year variation in where experimental populations overlap with livestock, and landowners are not required to report on their use of indirect preventative techniques to the Service as they are often voluntary measures.

*Comment 5:* Electronic comment received via *Regulations.gov* (FWS–HQ–ES–2022–0140–0006) from Michael Robinson on December 5, 2022. Mr. Robinson suggested additional categories of information that could be collected under this information collection, including: (1) preventative techniques implemented to protect livestock from predation by animals in an experimental population, (2) time elapsed between initial and subsequent predations on livestock by a particular animal of an experimental population, (3) information regarding illegal take of animals of experimental populations, and (4) identities of individuals having or intending to illegally take animals of experimental populations.

*Agency Response to Comment 5:* Mr. Robinson’s suggestions for information collection include data that are already collected and tracked by Service employees as specified in 50 CFR part 17 subpart H (existing data collections approved under OMB Control Number 1018–0095), as well as in each species-specific final rule issued by the Service establishing an experimental population. If we issue a permit for take of a listed animal of an experimental population relative to depredation prevention, the reporting requirements would be specified under the permit’s terms and conditions and be covered under OMB Control Number 1018–0094. The Service acknowledges the importance of this type of information and affirms that this information is being collected in this collection or within 1018–0094.

Additionally, the commenter’s third and fourth suggestions request information regarding investigations performed by the Service’s Office of Law Enforcement. This information cannot be shared during ongoing investigations; however, once investigations are resolved, the outcomes of cases may be shared at <https://www.fws.gov/program/office-of-law-enforcement/news>.

*Comment 6:* Electronic comment received via *Regulations.gov* (FWS–HQ–ES–2022–0140–0007) from Joe Bushyhead on December 5, 2022. Mr. Bushyhead supports the renewal and

suggests that the information collection include mandatory reporting and that information collection should be conducted at regular intervals with subsequent public disclosure, as appropriate.

*Agency Response to Comment 6:* The Service cannot require the public or its partners to report on information broadly. However, if we issue a permit for take of a listed animal of an experimental population, the reporting requirements would be specified under the permit's terms and conditions and be covered under OMB Control Number 1018-0094. Where specific reporting requirements exist with regards to permits, especially as to whether the reporting is mandatory, would be contained in that permit's terms and conditions. Failure to adhere to the terms of the permit could result in permit revocation or non-renewal. The required timing interval for reporting of take, if any, is specified in each species' specific regulations under 50 CFR 17.84.

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:* Section 10(j) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to establish experimental populations of endangered or threatened species. Because the ESA protects individuals of experimental populations, the information we collect is important for monitoring the success of reintroduction and recovery efforts. This is a nonform collection (meaning there is no designated form associated with this collection). Regulations at 50 CFR 17.84 contain information collection requirements for experimental populations of vertebrate endangered and threatened species. These regulations identify and describe the three categories of information we collect, which include:

- (1) *General take or removal.* “Take” is defined by the ESA as “[to] harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct.” In this information collection, take most commonly is considered to be in the form of human-related mortality, including:
  - a. Unintentional taking incidental to otherwise lawful activities (*e.g.*, highway mortalities);
  - b. Animal husbandry actions authorized to manage the population (*e.g.*, translocation or providing aid to sick, injured, or orphaned individuals);
  - c. Take in defense of human life;
  - d. Take related to defense of property (if authorized); or

- e. Take in the form of authorized harassment.
- (2) *Depredation-related take.* Involves take for management purposes of documented livestock depredation, and may include authorized harassment or authorized lethal take of experimental population animals in the act of attacking livestock. See 50 CFR 17.84 for specific provisions of harassment for each species within this section.

The information that we collect includes:

- a. Name, address, and phone number of reporting party,
- b. Species involved,
- c. Type of incident,
- d. Quantity of take,
- e. Location and time of the reported incident, and
- f. Description of the circumstances related to the incident.

(3) *Specimen collection, recovery, or reporting of dead individuals.* This information documents incidental or authorized scientific collection. Most of the information collected addresses the reporting of sightings of experimental population animals or the inadvertent discovery of an injured or dead individual.

Service recovery specialists use this information to determine the success of reintroductions in relation to established recovery plan goals for the experimental populations of vertebrate endangered and threatened species involved. In addition, this information helps us to assess the effectiveness of control activities in order to develop better means to reduce problems with livestock for those species where depredation is a problem.

*Title of Collection:* Endangered and Threatened Wildlife, Experimental Populations, 50 CFR 17.84.

*OMB Control Number:* 1018-0095.

*Form Numbers:* None.

*Type of Review:* Extension without change of a currently approved collection.

*Respondents/Affected Public:* Individuals and households, private sector, and State/local/Tribal governments.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Voluntary.

*Frequency of Collection:* On occasion.

*Total Estimated Annual Nonhour Burden Cost:* None.

Requirement	Annual number of respondents	Total annual responses	Completion time per response	Total annual burden hours *
<b>Notification—General Take or Removal</b>				
Individuals .....	12	12	.5	6
Private Sector .....	7	7	.5	4

Requirement	Annual number of respondents	Total annual responses	Completion time per response	Total annual burden hours*
Government .....	29	29	.5	15
<b>Notification—Depredation-Related Take</b>				
Individuals .....	25	25	.5	13
Private Sector .....	2	2	.5	1
Government .....	9	9	.5	5
<b>Notification—Specimen Collection</b>				
Individuals .....	3	3	.5	2
Private Sector .....	2	2	.5	1
Government .....	16	16	.5	8
Totals .....	105	105	.....	55

\* Rounded.

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.*).

**Madonna Baucum,**

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

[FR Doc. 2023-05550 Filed 3-17-23; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4333-15-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Fish and Wildlife Service**

[Docket No. FWS-HQ-IA-2023-0031; FF09S00000/XXX/FXSC42050900000/4205; OMB Control Number 1018—New]

**Agency Information Collection Activities; Big Cat Public Safety Act Registration**

**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 emergency clearance of a new collection of information.

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before May 19, 2023.

**ADDRESSES:** Send your comments on the information collection request (ICR) by one of the following methods (reference “1018-BCPSA Registration” in the subject line of your comment):

- *Internet (preferred):* <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the

instructions for submitting comments on Docket No. FWS-HQ-IA-2023-0031.

- *Email:* [Info\\_Coll@fws.gov](mailto:Info_Coll@fws.gov).

• *U.S. mail:* Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 5275 Leesburg Pike, MS: PRB (JAO/3W), Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.

**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 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 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 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.

*Abstract:* The Service intends to seek emergency clearance of a new information collection under the authority of 16 U.S.C. 3372(e), pursuant to the Big Cat Public Safety Act (BCPSA), Public Law 117-243, December 20, 2022, 136 Stat. 2336 (amending the Captive Wildlife Safety Act, and Lacey Act Amendments of