

regarding the establishment and implementation of existing and proposed policies and authorities with regard to wildlife and habitat conservation endeavors that benefit wildlife resources; encourage partnership among the public, sporting conservation organizations, and Federal, State, Tribal, and Territorial governments; and benefit recreational hunting and recreational shooting sports.

DATES: Comments regarding the re-establishment of the Council charter must be submitted no later than March 12, 2024.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments via email to doug_hobbs@fws.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Douglas Hobbs, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Designated Federal Officer, by telephone at (703) 358-2336, or by email at doug_hobbs@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: The Hunting and Wildlife Conservation Council (Council) is re-established under the authority of the Secretary of the Interior and regulated by the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (FACA; 5 U.S.C. Ch. 10). The Council's duties are strictly advisory and consist of, but are not limited to, providing recommendations for implementation of Executive Order (E.O.) 13443, Facilitation of Hunting Heritage and Wildlife Conservation; E.O. 14008, Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad; and Secretarial Order 3362, Improving Habitat Quality in Western Big Game Winter Range and Migration Corridors. Duties include, but are not limited to:

A. Assessing and quantifying implementation of E.O. 13443, E.O. 14008, and Secretarial Order 3362 across relevant departments, agencies, and offices and making recommendations to enhance and expand their implementation as identified;

B. Making recommendations regarding policies and programs that accomplish the following objectives:

1. Conserve and restore wetlands, grasslands, forests, and other important wildlife habitats, and improve management of rangelands and agricultural lands to benefit wildlife;

2. Promote opportunities for fair chase hunting and safe recreational shooting sports and wildlife-associated recreation on public and private lands; encourage hunting and recreational shooting sports safety, including by developing sighting-in ranges on public lands; recruit and retain hunters; and increase public awareness of the importance of wildlife conservation and the social and economic benefits of fair chase hunting, safe recreational shooting sports, and wildlife-associated recreation; and

3. Encourage coordination among the public; the hunting and shooting sports communities; wildlife conservation groups; wildlife-associated recreation interests; and Federal, State, Tribal, and territorial governments.

The Council will meet at least two times per year.

Public Disclosure 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 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.

Certification Statement: I hereby certify that the Hunting and Wildlife Conservation Council is necessary, in the public interest, and is in connection with the performance of duties imposed on the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture under 43 U.S.C. 1457 and provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742a), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1996 (43 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*), the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 1600 *et seq.*), the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 668dd-668ee), and Executive Order 13443, Facilitation of Hunting Heritage and Wildlife Conservation.

Authority: 5 U.S.C. ch. 10.

Deb Haaland,

Secretary, Department of the Interior.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[Docket No. FWS-HQ-IA-2024-0030; FXIA1671090000-245-FF09A30000]

Foreign Endangered Species; Receipt of 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 applications to conduct certain activities with foreign species that are listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). With some exceptions, the ESA prohibits activities with listed species unless Federal authorization is issued that allows such activities. The ESA also requires that we invite public comment before issuing permits for any activity otherwise prohibited by the ESA with respect to any endangered species.

DATES: We must receive comments by March 27, 2024.

ADDRESSES:

Obtaining Documents: The applications, application supporting materials, and any comments and other materials that we receive will be available for public inspection at <https://www.regulations.gov> in Docket No. FWS-HQ-IA-2024-0030.

Submitting Comments: When submitting comments, please specify the name of the applicant and the permit number at the beginning of your comment. You may submit comments by one of the following methods:

- **Internet:** <https://www.regulations.gov>. Search for and submit comments on Docket No. FWS-HQ-IA-2024-0030.

- **U.S. Mail:** Public Comments Processing, Attn: Docket No. FWS-HQ-IA-2024-0030; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Headquarters, MS: PRB/3W; 5275 Leesburg Pike; Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.

For more information, see Public Comment Procedures under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Timothy MacDonald, by phone at 703-358-2185 or via email at DMAFR@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:

I. Public Comment Procedures

A. How do I comment on submitted applications?

We invite the public and local, State, Tribal, and Federal agencies to comment on applications. Before issuing any of the requested permits, we will take into consideration any information that we receive during the public comment period.

You may submit your comments and materials by one of the methods in **ADDRESSES**. We will not consider comments sent by email or to an address not in **ADDRESSES**. We will not consider or include in our administrative record comments we receive after the close of the comment period (see **DATES**).

When submitting comments, please specify the name of the applicant and the permit number at the beginning of your comment. Provide sufficient information 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.

B. May I review comments submitted by others?

You may view and comment on others' public comments at <https://www.regulations.gov> unless our allowing so would violate the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a) or Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552).

C. Who will see my comments?

If you submit a comment at <https://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. Moreover, 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.

II. Background

To help us carry out our conservation responsibilities for affected species, and in consideration of section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), we invite public comments on permit applications before final action is taken. With some exceptions, the ESA prohibits certain activities with listed species unless Federal authorization is issued that allows such activities. Permits issued under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA allow otherwise prohibited activities for scientific purposes or to enhance the propagation or survival of the affected species. Service regulations regarding prohibited activities with endangered species, captive-bred wildlife registrations, and permits for any activity otherwise prohibited by the ESA with respect to any endangered species are available in title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations in part 17.

III. Permit Applications

Applicant: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Forensics Laboratory, Ashland, OR; Permit No. PER8152300

The applicant requests a permit to import a specimen derived from a rhinoceros species (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) from Canada for law enforcement purposes. This notification is for a single import.

Applicant: Saint Louis Zoo, St. Louis, MO; Permit No. PER8298704

The applicant requests a permit to re-export two live, captive-born horned guans (*Oreophaps derbianus*) from Saint Louis Zoo, Missouri, to African Safari, Mexico, for the purpose of enhancing the propagation or survival of the species. This notification is for a single re-export.

Applicant: The Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois DBA Sponsored Programs Administration, Champaign, IL; Permit No. PER7081584

The applicant requests authorization to import biological samples from wild or captive-born populations of cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*), northern white rhinoceros (*Ceratotherium simum cottoni*), Sumatran rhinoceros (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*), black rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis*), Asian elephant (*Elephas maximus*), Pakistan sand cat (*Felis margarita scheffeli*), black-footed cat (*Felis nigripes*), large-eared hutia (*Capromys auritus*), Cabrera's hutia (*Capromys angelcabrerai*), dwarf hutia (*Capromys nana*), little earth hutia (*Capromys sanfelipensis*), lion (*Panthera leo leo*), jaguar (*Panthera onca*), leopard

(*Panthera pardus*), tiger (*Panthera tigris*), Javan rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros sondaicus*), great Indian rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*), Cuban solenodon (*Solenodon cubanus*), Haitian solenodon (*Solenodon paradoxus*), Central American tapir (*Tapirus bairdii*), and Asian tapir (*Tapirus indicus*) for the purpose of scientific research. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

IV. Next Steps

After the comment period closes, we will make decisions regarding permit issuance. If we issue permits to any of the applicants listed in this notice, we will publish a notice in the **Federal Register**. You may locate the notice announcing the permit issuance by searching <https://www.regulations.gov> for the permit number listed above in this document. For example, to find information about the potential issuance of Permit No. 12345A, you would go to [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) and search for "12345A".

V. Authority

We issue this notice under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and its implementing regulations.

Timothy MacDonald,

Government Information Specialist, Branch of Permits, Division of Management Authority.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Geological Survey

[GX24AC0000EXP00]

Advisory Committee for Science Quality and Integrity Establishment; Request for Nominations

AGENCY: U.S. Geological Survey, Department of the Interior

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) of 1972, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is establishing and seeking nominations for the Advisory Committee for Science Quality and Integrity (Committee). The Committee will advise the Secretary of the Interior and the Director of the USGS on matters related to the responsibilities of the USGS Office of Science Quality and Integrity (OSQI) including monitoring and enhancing the integrity, quality, and health of all USGS science through