

**Contact Person:** Joanne T. Fujii, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 4184, MSC 7850, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 435-1178, [fujii@csr.nih.gov](mailto:fujii@csr.nih.gov).

**Name of Committee:** Population Sciences and Epidemiology Integrated Review Group; Kidney, Nutrition, Obesity and Diabetes Study Section.

**Date:** October 10–11, 2013.

**Time:** 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**Agenda:** To review and evaluate grant applications.

**Place:** Melrose Hotel, 2430 Pennsylvania Ave. NW., Washington, DC 20037.

**Contact Person:** Fungai Chanetsa, Ph.D., MPH, Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 3135, MSC 7770, Bethesda, MD 20892, 301-408-9436, [fungai.chanetsa@nih.hhs.gov](mailto:fungai.chanetsa@nih.hhs.gov).

**Name of Committee:** Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel; PAR-11-315 Systems Science and Health in the Behavioral and Social Sciences.

**Date:** October 10, 2013.

**Time:** 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**Agenda:** To review and evaluate grant applications.

**Place:** National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892, (Virtual Meeting).

**Contact Person:** Tomas Drgon, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 3152, MSC 7770, Bethesda, MD 20892, 301-435-1017, [tdrgon@csr.nih.gov](mailto:tdrgon@csr.nih.gov).

**Name of Committee:** Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Neuroscience Integrated Review Group; Cellular and Molecular Biology of Neurodegeneration Study Section.

**Date:** October 10–11, 2013.

**Time:** 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Agenda:** To review and evaluate grant applications.

**Place:** The Westin Arlington Gateway, 801 N. Glebe Road, Arlington, VA 22203.

**Contact Person:** Laurent Taupenot, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 4183, MSC 7850, Bethesda, MD 20892, 301-435-1203, [taupenol@csr.nih.gov](mailto:taupenol@csr.nih.gov).

**Name of Committee:** Biobehavioral and Behavioral Processes Integrated Review Group; Language and Communication Study Section.

**Date:** October 11, 2013.

**Time:** 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**Agenda:** To review and evaluate grant applications.

**Place:** Doubletree Hotel Washington, 1515 Rhode Island Ave. NW., Washington, DC 20005.

**Contact Person:** Biao Tian, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 3180, MSC 7848, Bethesda, MD 20892, 301-437-9858, [tianbi@csr.nih.gov](mailto:tianbi@csr.nih.gov).

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.306, Comparative Medicine; 93.333, Clinical Research, 93.306, 93.333, 93.337, 93.393–93.396, 93.837–93.844,

93.846–93.878, 93.892, 93.893, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

**Dated:** September 11, 2013.

**Michelle Trout,**

*Program Analyst; Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.*

[FR Doc. 2013-22503 Filed 9-16-13; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4140-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

**[FWS-R6-ES-2013-N206;  
FXES1113060000D2-123-FF06E00000]**

### Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Recovery 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 application to conduct certain activities with endangered or threatened species. With some exceptions, the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act), prohibits activities with endangered and threatened species unless a Federal permit allows such activity. The Act requires that we invite public comment before issuing these permits.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, please send your written comments by October 17, 2013.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments or requests for copies or more information by any of the following methods. Alternatively, you may use one of the following methods to request hard copies or a CD-ROM of the documents. Please specify the permit you are interested in by number (e.g., Permit No. TE-XXXXXX).

- **Email:** [permitsR6ES@fws.gov](mailto:permitsR6ES@fws.gov).

Please refer to the respective permit number (e.g., Permit No. TE-XXXXXX) in the subject line of the message.

- **U.S. Mail:** Ecological Services, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 25486–DFC, Denver, CO 80225.

- **In-Person Drop-off, Viewing, or Pickup:** Call (303) 236-4212 to make an appointment during regular business hours at 134 Union Blvd., Suite 645, Lakewood, CO 80228.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kathy Konishi, Permit Coordinator, Ecological Services, (303) 236-4212 (phone); [permitsR6ES@fws.gov](mailto:permitsR6ES@fws.gov) (email).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

### Background

The Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) prohibits activities with endangered and threatened species unless a Federal permit allows such activity. Along with our implementing regulations in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 50 CFR part 17, the Act provides for permits and requires that we invite public comment before issuing these permits.

A permit granted by us under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Act 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) 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, and Federal agencies and the public to comment on the following application. Documents and other information the applicant has submitted with this application is 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 Application Number: TE046795

**Applicant:** Colorado State University, Department of Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Biology, Fort Collins, CO.

The applicant requests an amendment to hold captive-reared bony-tail chub (*Gila elegans*) and humpback chub (*Gila cypha*) in aquaria for public display and education for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

### National Environmental Policy Act

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), we have made an initial determination that the proposed activities in this permit are categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement (516 DM 6 Appendix 1, 1.4C(1)).

### Public Availability of Comments

All comments and materials we receive in response to this request will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the address listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice.

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 Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Dated: September 10, 2013.

Nicole Alt,

Acting Assistant Regional Director, Mountain-Prairie Region.

[FR Doc. 2013-22550 Filed 9-16-13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R1-ES-2013-N179;  
FXES11130100000D2-134-FF01E00000]

#### Experimental Removal of Barred Owls To Benefit Threatened Northern Spotted Owls; Record of Decision for Final Environmental Impact Statement

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, announce the availability of the record of decision (ROD) for the final environmental impact statement (Final EIS) for experimental removal of barred owls to benefit threatened northern spotted owls. We completed a thorough analysis of the environmental, social, and economic considerations and presented it in our Final EIS, which we released to the public on July 24, 2013.

**DATES:** The Regional Director, Pacific Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, signed the ROD on September 10, 2013.

**ADDRESSES:** You may view or obtain copies of the Final EIS and ROD by any of the following methods:

- **Agency Web site:** Download a copy of the document at <http://www.fws.gov/oregonfwo>.

- **Telephone:** Call and leave a message requesting the Final EIS or Record of Decision hard copy or CD, at 503-231-6901.

- **In-Person Viewing or Pickup:** Call the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Oregon Fish and Wildlife Office, at 503-231-6179 to make an appointment to

review or pick up a copy of the Final EIS and ROD during regular business hours at the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Office, 2600 SE 98th Ave., Suite 100, Portland, OR 97266.

- **U.S. Mail:** Paul Henson, State Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Oregon Fish and Wildlife Office, 2600 SE. 98th Ave., Suite 100, Portland, OR 97266.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Paul Henson, State Supervisor, Oregon Fish and Wildlife Office, at 503-231-6179. If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf, please call the Federal Information Relay Service at 800-877-8339.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Introduction

We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce the availability of the ROD, which we developed in compliance with the agency decision-making requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*; NEPA) and its implementing regulations at 40 CFR 1506.6. We completed a thorough analysis of impacts on the human environment in the Final EIS for experimental removal of barred owls to benefit threatened northern spotted owls. The Final EIS evaluates the impacts of eight action alternatives and a no-action alternative related to: (1) Federal involvement in barred owl removal experiments, and (2) the possible issuance of a scientific collecting permit under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703-712; MBTA) for lethal and nonlethal take of barred owls. The ROD documents the rationale for our decision.

Based on our review of the alternatives and their environmental consequences as described in our Final EIS, we selected a Preferred Alternative based on a combination of the features of Alternatives 2 and 3. The Preferred Alternative consists of a demography study conducted on four study areas. The study would be conducted in western Washington, western Oregon, and northwestern California. The action alternatives vary by the number and location of study areas, the type of experimental design, duration of the study, and the method of barred owl removal.

##### Background

The Service listed the northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*) as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*; Act) in 1990, based primarily on habitat loss and degradation (55 FR

26114). As a result, conservation efforts for the northern spotted owl have been largely focused on habitat protection. While our listing rule noted that the long-term impact of barred owls (*Strix varia*) on the spotted owl was of considerable concern, the scope and severity of this threat was largely unknown at that time (55 FR 26114, p. 26190). Competition from barred owls is identified as one of the main threats to the northern spotted owl in the 2011 *Revised Northern Spotted Owl Recovery Plan* (Recovery Plan) (USFWS 2011, p. III-62). The Recovery Plan summarized information available since our listing rule and found that competition from barred owls now poses a significant and immediate threat to the northern spotted owl throughout its range (USFWS 2011, pp. B-10 through B-12). To address this threat, the Recovery Plan recommends designing and implementing large-scale controlled experiments to assess the effects of barred owl removal on spotted owl site occupancy, reproduction, and survival (USFWS 2011, p. III-65).

Historically, the barred owl did not occur in the Pacific Northwest. In the past century, barred owls have expanded their range westward, reaching the range of the northern spotted owl in British Columbia by about 1959. Barred owl populations continue to expand southward within the range of the northern spotted owl, the population of barred owls behind the expansion-front continues to increase, and barred owls now outnumber spotted owls in many portions of the northern spotted owl's range (Pearson and Livezey 2003, p. 272).

There is strong evidence to indicate that barred owls are negatively affecting northern spotted owl populations. Barred owls displace spotted owls from high-quality habitat (Kelley *et al.* 2003, p. 51; Pearson and Livezey 2003, p. 274; Courtney *et al.*, pp. 7-27 through 7-31; Gremel 2005, pp. 9, 11, 17; Hamer *et al.* 2007, p. 764; Dugger *et al.* 2011, pp. 2464-2466), reducing their survival and reproduction (Olson *et al.* 2004, p. 1048; Anthony *et al.* 2006, p. 32; Forsman *et al.* 2011, pp. 41-43, 69-70). In addition, barred owls may physically attack spotted owls (Gutierrez *et al.* 2007, p. 187). These effects may help explain declines in northern spotted owl territory occupancy associated with barred owls in the Northwest, and reduced northern spotted owl survivorship and sharp population declines in Washington (e.g., in northern Washington, spotted owl populations declined by as much as 55 percent between 1996 and 2006) (Anthony *et al.* 2006, pp. 21, 30, 32;