

**ACTION:** Notice; extension of registration period.

**SUMMARY:** On November 21, 2014, the Secretary of Homeland Security (Secretary) published three notices in the **Federal Register** designating Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone for Temporary Protected Status (TPS), each for a period of 18 months. The designations took effect on November 21, 2014 and are valid through May 21, 2016. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) established a 180-day registration period from November 21, 2014 through May 20, 2015.

Through this Notice, the Secretary is extending the initial registration period for each of the designations to provide an additional 90 days for individuals who may be eligible for TPS under the Guinea, Liberia, or Sierra Leone designation to prepare and submit their applications. The initial registration period for all three countries has been extended from May 21, 2015 through August 18, 2015. Complete applications must be received with the appropriate fee or with a fee waiver request by August 18, 2015. The extension of the initial registration period does not extend the period of the TPS designation. To be eligible for TPS under the Guinea, Liberia, or Sierra Leone designations, applicants must demonstrate that they have been continuously physically present in the United States since November 21, 2014, and have continuously resided in the United States since November 20, 2014.

**DATES:** On November 21, 2014, DHS published notices in the **Federal Register** designating Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone for TPS for a period of 18 months effective from November 21, 2014 through May 21, 2016. The original initial registration period, that was to expire on May 20, 2015, will be extended with a new filing deadline of August 18, 2015, for all three countries.

Eligible applicants have until August 18, 2015, to submit an initial application. Additionally, an individual who previously submitted an application for TPS under the Guinea, Liberia, or Sierra Leone designations and to whom USCIS previously returned the application based on the prior May 20, 2015 filing deadline may now resubmit his or her complete application by August 18, 2015.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

- For further information on TPS, including guidance on the application process and additional information on eligibility, please visit the USCIS TPS Web page at <http://www.uscis.gov/tps>. You can find specific information about the designations of Guinea, Liberia, and

Sierra Leone for TPS and the extension of the registration period by selecting the appropriate country from the menu on the left of the TPS Web page.

- You can also contact the TPS Operations Program Manager at the Waivers and Temporary Services Branch, Service Center Operations Directorate, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, Mail Stop 2060, Washington, DC 20529-2060; or by phone at (202) 272-1533 (this is not a toll-free number). Note: The phone number provided here is solely for questions regarding this TPS notice. It is not for individual case status updates.

- Applicants seeking information about the status of their individual cases can check Case Status Online, available at the USCIS Web site at <http://www.uscis.gov>, or call the USCIS National Customer Service Center at 800-375-5283 (TTY 800-767-1833).

- Further information will also be available at local USCIS offices upon publication of this Notice.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**When did the Secretary designate Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone for TPS?**

On November 21, 2014, DHS published three notices in the **Federal Register** designating Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone for TPS, each for a period of 18 months by notice effective November 21, 2014 through May 21, 2016. See 79 FR 69502 (Liberia), 79 FR 69506 (Sierra Leone), and 79 FR 69511 (Guinea).

**What authority does the Secretary have to extend the registration period?**

Section 244(c)(1)(A)(iv) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, authorizes the Secretary to provide TPS applicants with a registration period of not less than 180 days and requires individuals to register to the extent and in a manner which the Secretary establishes. See also 8 CFR 244.2(f), 244.7(b). The initial registration period for Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone under their respective TPS designations originally lasted for 180 days, from November 21, 2014 through May 20, 2015. Through this Notice, the Secretary has extended the registration period for an additional 90 days, until August 18, 2015.

**Why is the Secretary extending the registration period for Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone TPS?**

The Secretary is extending the registration period to provide additional time for individuals who may be eligible for TPS under the Guinea, Liberia, or

Sierra Leone designations to prepare and submit their applications.

**Jeh Charles Johnson,**  
*Secretary.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Fish and Wildlife Service**

**[FWS-R6-ES-2015-N103;  
FXES11130600000-156-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 eight applications to conduct activities intended to enhance the survival of target endangered species.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, please send your written comments by July 27, 2015.

**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 (719) 628-2670 to make an appointment during regular business hours at 134 Union Blvd., Suite 645, Lakewood, CO 80228.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Kathy Konishi, Recovery Permits Coordinator, Ecological Services, (719) 628-2670 (phone); [permitsR6ES@fws.gov](mailto:permitsR6ES@fws.gov) (email).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

The Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) prohibits certain activities with endangered and threatened species unless authorized by a Federal permit. Along with our implementing regulations at 50 CFR 17, the Act

provides for permits and requires that we invite public comment before issuing permits for endangered species.

A permit granted by us under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Act authorizes the permittees 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 applications. Documents and other information the applicants have submitted with their 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 Application Number TE053925

*Applicant:* Niobrara National Scenic River, National Park Service, NE.

The applicant requests the renewal of their permit to continue presence/absence surveys for the interior least tern (*Sternula antillarum athalassos*) in Nebraska along the Niobrara River for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

#### Permit Application Number TE161444

*Applicants:* California Academy of Sciences, Steinhart Aquarium, San Francisco, CA.

The applicant requests the renewal of their permit for public display and educational efforts at the Steinhart Aquarium in California with pallid sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*) for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

#### Permit Application Number TE64613B

*Applicant:* Andrew Phillips, Denver, CO.

The applicant requests a permit to conduct presence/absence surveys for Southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) in Colorado for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

#### Permit Application Number TE65611B

*Applicant:* Dennis Skadsen, Grenville, SD.

The applicant requests a permit to conduct presence/absence surveys for Poweshiek skipperling (*Oarisma poweshiek*) in South Dakota, North Dakota, and Minnesota for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

#### Permit Application Number TE66505B

*Applicant:* Wenck Associates, Mandan, ND.

The applicant requests a permit to conduct presence/absence surveys for pallid sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*) in North Dakota and South Dakota on the Missouri River from Garrison Dam to Lake Oahe for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

#### Permit Application Number TE66521B

*Applicant:* Western Biology, LLC, Hotchkiss, CO.

The applicant requests a permit to conduct presence/absence surveys for black-footed ferret (*Mustela nigripes*) and Southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) in Colorado and Utah for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

#### Permit Application Number TE237960

*Applicant:* Power Engineers, Hailey, ID.

The applicant requests a permit to conduct presence/absence surveys for the American burying beetle in South Dakota, Oklahoma, Texas, and Arkansas for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

#### Permit Application Number TE66521B

*Applicant:* Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Fort Collins, CO.

The applicant requests a permit to conduct plague immunity research for black-footed ferret (*Mustela nigripes*) in Colorado to determine the appropriate timing to administer vaccines 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 these permits 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 these requests 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.*).

**Michael G. Thabault,**

*Assistant Regional Director, Mountain-Prairie Region.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-HQ-IA-2015-N118;  
FXIA16710900000-156-FF09A30000]

#### Endangered Species; Marine Mammals; Issuance of Permits

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

**ACTION:** Notice of issuance of permits.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), have issued the following permits to conduct certain activities with endangered species, marine mammals, or both. We issue these permits under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA).

**ADDRESSES:** Brenda Tapia, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Management Authority, Branch of Permits, MS: IA, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041; fax (703) 358-2281; or email [DMAFR@fws.gov](mailto:DMAFR@fws.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Brenda Tapia, (703) 358-2104 (telephone); (703) 358-2281 (fax); [DMAFR@fws.gov](mailto:DMAFR@fws.gov) (email).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On the dates below, as authorized by the provisions of the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), as amended, and/or the MMPA, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), we issued requested permits subject to certain conditions set forth therein. For each permit for an endangered species, we found that (1) The application was filed in good faith, (2) The granted permit would not operate to the disadvantage of the endangered species, and (3) The granted permit would be