

Permits for Endangered Species Native to the United States


Section 10 of the Endangered Species Act regulates a range of activities that threaten threatened plants and animals. With some exceptions, the Act prohibits activities that harm protected species and their habitats unless authorized by a permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Permitted activities must be designed to be consistent with the conservation of the species.

If you want permitting information for species that are not native to the United States or are not threatened or endangered, follow the links below to go to sites with information for you.

[Permits Issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#) - general information about permits issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

[Permits for International Species](#)

Three Permit Types

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issues three types of permits for endangered species native to the United States. An overview of these permits is provided in the following document - [Permits for Native Species Under the Endangered Species Act](#)  - with additional information provided below.

Recovery Permits and Interstate Commerce Permits

Section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act

Recovery and interstate commerce permits are issued to allow for take and other activities intended to foster the recovery of listed species. A typical use of a recovery permit is to allow for scientific research on a listed species in order to understand the species' long-term survival needs. Examples include: abundance and distribution research, relocations, capture and marking and telemetric monitoring. Interstate commerce permits also allow transport and sale of listed species across state boundaries (for recovery purposes such as a breeding program).

For Permit Holders

[Permit Contact Information for Region 3 \(Midwest Region\)](#) - list includes

purpose of your activity is not scientific research or enhancement of a listed species, you may need to obtain an Incidental Take Permit (section 10(a)(1)(B)).

Examples of activities that may require an Incidental Take Permit include but are not limited to: construction and/or development activities or in-stream or water quality activities that may impact listed species.

[Incidental Take Permits and Habitat Conservation Plans
HCPs in the Upper Midwest \(Region 3\)](#)

[Principal Deputy Director's Memorandum Regarding Guidance on When to
Seek an Incidental Take Permit \(April 26, 2018\) \[1.2MB\]](#)

Enhancement of Survival Permits

This type of permit is different than the two previous types. It was developed as a mechanism to promote endangered species conservation on national system lands and is used in conjunction with Safe Harbor Agreements and Conservation Agreements with Assurances. The enhancement permit, in conjunction with one of these Agreements, allows landowners to increase habitat for listed species without incurring additional restrictions if the area occupied by the species increases or their number increases.

[Enhancement of Survival Permits](#)

[Safe Harbor Agreements](#)

[Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances](#)

How to Apply for a Permit

First, [contact your nearest USFWS Ecological Services Office](#). Service staff can help determine whether your proposed project or action is likely to result in "take", whether a permit is needed, or if there are other options to consider. Our staff can also provide technical assistance to help you design your project to avoid take. For example, the project could be designed to include restrictions on construction to minimize disturbance during the nesting season, or the need for an incidental take permit.

If you decide that a permit is needed, the next step is to complete an application. This link will take you to the forms and application instructions on our national website: [How to Apply](#).

Additional Information about Endangered Species

In writing:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Endangered Species Program - Permits
5600 American Blvd. West, Suite 990
Bloomington, MN 55437-1458

By phone:

(612) 713-5339