



FEDERAL FISH AND WILDLIFE PERMIT

1. PERMITTEE

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING OPERATIONS, INC.
17724 I-30
SUITE 5A
BENTON, AR 72019
U.S.A.

2. AUTHORITY-STATUTES
16 USC 1539(a)

REGULATIONS
50 CFR 17.22

50 CFR 13

3. NUMBER
TE94728A-0

4. RENEWABLE
 YES
 NO

5. MAY COPY
 YES
 NO

6. EFFECTIVE
04/03/2013

7. EXPIRES
04/03/2018

8. NAME AND TITLE OF PRINCIPAL OFFICER (If #1 is a business)

STEVEN SHACKLEFORD
PRESIDENT

9. TYPE OF PERMIT

NATIVE ENDANGERED SP. RECOVERY - E WILDLIFE

10. LOCATION WHERE AUTHORIZED ACTIVITY MAY BE CONDUCTED

Arkansas

11. CONDITIONS AND AUTHORIZATIONS.

A. GENERAL CONDITIONS SET OUT IN SUBPART D OF 50 CFR 13, AND SPECIFIC CONDITIONS CONTAINED IN FEDERAL REGULATIONS CITED IN BLOCK #2 ABOVE, ARE HEREBY MADE A PART OF THIS PERMIT. ALL ACTIVITIES AUTHORIZED HEREIN MUST BE CARRIED OUT IN ACCORD WITH AND FOR THE PURPOSES DESCRIBED IN THE APPLICATION SUBMITTED. CONTINUED VALIDITY, OR RENEWAL, OF THIS PERMIT IS SUBJECT TO COMPLETE AND TIMELY COMPLIANCE WITH ALL APPLICABLE CONDITIONS, INCLUDING THE FILING OF ALL REQUIRED INFORMATION AND REPORTS.

B. THE VALIDITY OF THIS PERMIT IS ALSO CONDITIONED UPON STRICT OBSERVANCE OF ALL APPLICABLE FOREIGN, STATE, LOCAL, TRIBAL, OR OTHER FEDERAL LAW.

C. VALID FOR USE BY PERMITTEE NAMED ABOVE.

D. Further conditions of authorization are contained in the attached Special Terms and Conditions.

PERMITTEE IS AUTHORIZED TO TAKE (TRAP AND RELEASE) AMERICAN BURYING BEETLES (Nicrophorus americanus) WHILE CONDUCTING PRESENCE AND ABSENCE SURVEYS, AS CONDITIONED BELOW:

- Nicrophorus americanus MAY BE CAPTURED WITH PITFALL TRAPS WHICH WILL BE CHECKED AT LEAST ONCE DAILY. THESE TRAPS SHALL BE SET IN THE EVENING AND CHECKED AND CLOSED BEFORE 9 A.M. THE NEXT MORNING TO AVOID DIRECT SUNLIGHT. SAMPLING SHALL BE AVOIDED DURING INCLEMENT WEATHER.
- WHEN TEMPERATURES ARE EXPECTED TO BE GREATER THAN 77°F, THE TRAPS SHALL BE SHADED FROM DIRECT SUNLIGHT.
- CAPTURED Nicrophorus americanus MAY BE PHOTOGRAPHED AND SHALL BE RELEASED AT THEIR RESPECTIVE CAPTURE SITES.
- PLASTIC CUPS OF THE PITFALL TRAP SHALL NOT BE FLUSH WITH THE GROUND. THE LIP OF THE CUP SHOULD BE 1/2 TO 3/4 INCHES ABOVE THE GROUND SURFACE. THIS WILL PREVENT THE CUPS FROM FLOODING AND THE BEETLES FROM DROWNING DUE TO RUNOFF.

ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS AND AUTHORIZATIONS ALSO APPLY

12. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Reports will be provided to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service offices appearing in conditions L. and M. of this permit. Reporting content, format, sufficiency, and frequency is outlined in condition K. of this permit.

ISSUED BY

TITLE

DATE

CHIEF, DIVISION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES

04/03/2013

5. DOME COVER OVER PITFALL TRAP SHALL BE SECURED TO THE GROUND SO WIND OR ANIMALS CANNOT UNCOVER THE TRAP AND ALLOW SUN AND RAIN TO PENETRATE TRAP.

6. TRAPS SHOULD BE AT LEAST 7 METERS AWAY FROM ANT COLONIES.

7. ALL CAPTURED AMERICAN BURYING BEETLES SHALL BE CLEARED FROM TRAPS BY 9:00 A.M. TO AVOID HEAT STRESS.

8. A ONE INCH SQUARE PIECE OF SPONGE AND A SMALL PIECE OF FLOTATION MATERIALS (LIFE RAFT) SHALL BE PLACED IN THE TRAPS. THE SPONGES ABSORB WATER AND HELP AVOID DESICCATION WHEN HOT OR DRY.

9. ALL SURVEY DATA SHALL BE SUBMITTED WITHIN 30 DAYS OF EACH SURVEY EFFORT. THE DATA MAY BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING AND/OR ELECTRONICALLY TO THE FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE OFFICE IDENTIFIED IN CONDITION M., BELOW.

10. THE MOST RECENT VERSION OF THE **American Burying Beetle Nicrophorus Americanus Survey Guidance** SHALL BE FOLLOWED. THIS PROTOCOL IS REVISED ON AN ANNUAL BASIS. YOU ARE REQUIRED TO USE THE MOST RECENT PROTOCOLS AVAILABLE. YOU SHALL CONTACT THE SERVICE'S OFFICE LISTED IN M., BELOW FOR A COPY OF THE PROTOCOL EACH YEAR.

11. BAITING AWAY FROM THE STUDY AREA IS PROHIBITED.

E. The Service anticipates that multiple individuals may be captured; however no injury or mortality is expected. If any injury or mortality does occur, the permittee shall immediately notify the Service offices noted in condition M., below. Notification shall also be made within 24 hours to the Regional Permits Biologist, at the address and telephone number noted in condition L., below. Based on consultation with these offices, a decision will be made as to whether any of the authorized activities can continue. Decisions will also be made concerning the disposition of any dead or injured specimens within 5 working days of an injury or mortality. The permittee shall provide a written statement to the Service offices noted in conditions L., and M., below, which documents the cause of the injury or mortality, and identifies the remedial measures employed by the permittee to eliminate future mortality or injury events. The final decision on remedial measures rests with the Service.

F. This permit is non-transferable, but other qualified personnel may assist in the authorized activities, subject to the requirements of § 13.25. When any such assistance is to be provided, those designations are to be made by letter from the permittee to each agent. The letter(s) must identify the scope and duration of the assistance to the permittee. Copies of such letters will be provided immediately to the Service at the addresses listed in conditions L., and M., below. The permittee must be present on site at all times while activities authorized under this permit are being carried out.

G. The permittee must carry a copy of this permit at all times when conducting the authorized activities. Shipments of collected biological materials should also be accompanied by a copy of this permit. Note that this permit is limited to the above activities and identified species.

H. Issuance of this permit does not constitute permission to conduct these activities on National Wildlife Refuges or any other public or private lands; such permission must be obtained separately from the appropriate landowner or land manager before beginning these authorized activities. This permit, neither directly nor by implication, grants the right of trespass.

I. Acceptance of this permit serves as evidence that the permittee and its authorized agents understand and agree to abide by the terms of this permit and all sections of title 50 Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 13 and 17, pertinent to issued permits. Section 11 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as Amended, provides for civil and criminal penalties for failure to comply with permit conditions.

J. Upon locating a dead, injured, or sick American Burying Beetle or any other threatened or endangered species, under circumstances not addressed in this authorization, initial notification must be made immediately to the Service field office identified in condition M., below. Notification should also be made by the next work day to the Service office identified in condition L., below. Care should be taken in handling sick, injured, or dead specimens to ensure effective treatment or to preserve biological materials for later analysis. In conjunction with the care of sick or injured endangered or threatened species, and the preservation of biological materials from a dead animal, the finder should take responsible steps to ensure that the site is not unnecessarily disturbed.

K. An annual report summarizing authorized activities must be submitted by December 31 of each year this permit is valid. Each report should include, at a minimum, the following information:

1. The total number of surveys conducted, survey locations, survey lengths, and the tabulated results from each site, including any anomalous incidences of suspected mortality or a reduction in reproductive potential caused by the permittee.

2. Survey locations shall be noted using figures, maps, and by referencing a common coordinate system (e.g., latitude-longitude, Universal Transverse Mercator system, etc.).
3. Sampling methodology should describe all methods implemented, a description of the area sampled, and note the biotic and abiotic features that might influence sample composition.
4. A species list from all sites shall be included in a table. The list shall include the number of individuals, condition, age, sex (where determinable), the site where found, and disposition. Negative data shall also be reported.
5. The results of the work authorized under this permit including a discussion of their significance in relation to species recovery, and recommendations for the recovery of the species.
6. Copies of all data and reports, published and unpublished.

L. For the purposes of monitoring compliance and administration of the terms and conditions of this permit, the contact office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
ATTN: PERMIT COORDINATOR
1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 200
Atlanta, Georgia 30345-3301
Telephone: 404/679-4176
Facsimile: 404/679-7081

M. Copies of annual reports shall also be sent to the following U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service offices:

FIELD SUPERVISOR
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

110 S. AMITY ROAD, SUITE 300

CONWAY, ARKANSAS 72032

TELEPHONE: 501/513-4470

END