

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Office of the Secretary****Final Report and Recommendations of the Working Group on the Endangered Species Act and Indian Water Rights**

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Interior is making available to the public and seeking comments on the Final Report and Recommendations of the Working Group on the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Indian Water Rights. This Working Group of five agency employees within the Department was appointed in 1997 to look at implementation of the ESA in relation to the exercise of Indian water rights in the West.

DATES: Comments on the Final Report and Recommendations should be submitted by October 4, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be submitted to S. Elizabeth Birnbaum, Special Assistant to the Solicitor, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, NW, Room 6352, Washington, DC 20240.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: S. Elizabeth Birnbaum at (202) 208-4423 or Timothy A. Vollmann at (505) 346-2700.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In 1997 the Secretary of the Interior asked the Department's Solicitor to put together a Working Group, chaired by Southwest Regional Solicitor Tim Vollmann, to examine the issue of the implementation of the ESA in relation to the exercise of Indian water rights in the West, and evaluate the process and criteria for the development of environmental baselines pursuant to section 7 of the ESA and existing regulations. The Working Group was also asked to prepare a case study of this issue in the upper Colorado River Basin. Beginning in August 1999, a draft of the Working Group's Report and Recommendations and the draft case study were released to Indian tribes, state officials, and members of the public, and comments were solicited. The Working Group has now completed its Final Report and Recommendations and submitted them to the Secretary.

The Department is seeking public comment on this Final Report and Recommendations. The case study on the upper Colorado River Basin is an

appendix to the Report. A 90-day period is established for the transmittal of written comments to the above address. No action will be taken to implement any of the Recommendations of the Working Group until all comments have been received and analyzed.

Copies of the Final Report and Recommendations are being mailed to western Indian tribes, State Attorneys General, and the heads of western State water resource departments, in addition to all persons who submitted written comments on the Working Group's draft Report and Recommendations. Additional copies may be requested from S. Elizabeth Birnbaum, Special Assistant to the Solicitor, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, NW, Room 6352, Washington, DC 20240. These documents have also been made available on the U.S. Department of the Interior website at http://www.doi.gov/feature/es_wr/index1.html.

John D. Leshy,
Solicitor.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service****Information Collection To Be Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Approval Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA)**

ACTION: Information Collection Renewal.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) plans to submit the collection of information requirement described below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for approval under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA). You may obtain copies of the collection requirement and related forms and explanatory material by contacting the Service's Information Collection Clearance Officer at the phone number listed below. The Service is soliciting comment and suggestions on the requirement as described below.

DATES: Interested parties must submit comments on or before September 5, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Interested parties should send comments and suggestions on the requirement to Rebecca A. Mullin, Information Collection Clearance

Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 222, Arlington, VA 22203, (703) 358-2278 or Rebecca_Mullin@fws.gov E-mail.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jack Hicks, (703) 358-1851, fax (703) 358-1837, or Jack_Hicks@fws.gov E-mail.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title of Forms: Summary Information for Ranking National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program Proposals.

Description and Use: The Service administers the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant program authorized by the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act. The Service uses the information collected to evaluate proposals under this program. This includes summarized information on habitat, coastal barriers, levels of conservation, watershed management, threatened and/or endangered species potentially involved, benefits of the restoration proposed, partners, cost sharing, education/outreach impact, impact on wildlife-oriented recreation and other benefits and determining if the estimated cost is reasonable.

Service Form Numbers: 3-2179 (Summary Information for Ranking National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program Proposals).

Supplementary Information: The service plans to submit the following information collection requirements to OMB for review and approval under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Comments are invited on (1) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimates of burden of the collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and, (4) ways to minimize the burden of collection of information on respondents, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Frequency: Generally annually.

Description of Respondents: States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, the Virgin Islands, and American Samoa.

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Summary Information for Ranking National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program Proposals

Title: _____

Costs: Federal _____ State _____ Other _____
 Total _____

Summary: Include a 2-5 sentence paragraph describing the project and its resource benefits.

(1) Wetlands Conservation: What is the breakdown by habitat type for the wetlands being conserved?

Habitat type	Number of acres	Percentage of total project area
Declining coastal wetlands		
Stable coastal wetlands		
Total wetlands		
Upland		
Total project acres		

(2) Maritime Forest on Coastal Barriers: What plant species are present that are indicative of maritime forest as defined in the criteria?

Common name	Scientific name	Prevalence (rare, common, predominant)

(3) Long-term conservation: How long will the habitat benefits be provided by the project?

	Benefits in perpetuity (number of acres)	Benefits for 26-99 years (number of acres)	Benefits for 10-25 years (number of acres)
Easements			
Fee-title (no restoration)			
Fee-title (that will also be restored)			
Not acquired, Restored only			
Not acquired, Enhanced only			
Other (please explain)			
Total			

(4) Coastal watershed management: How will this project help achieve the goals of specific management plans and efforts?

Management plan or effort	How this project helps implement its goals

(5a) Conservation of threatened and endangered species: What are the benefits to federally listed species, candidates, or recently delisted species?

Common name	Scientific name	Status	Project benefits	Does the project support goals of a Recovery Plan or HCP? List plan and goal.

(5b) What are the benefits to State species of concern?

Common name	Scientific name	Status	Project benefits	Does the project support goals of a specific Recovery Plan? List plan and goal.

(6) Benefits to fish: What are benefits to anadromous, interjurisdictional, and other important species?

Common name	Scientific name	Project benefits	Does the project help meet specific management goals? List plan and goal.

(7) Coastal-dependent or migratory birds: What are the benefits to specific coastal-dependent or migratory species?

Common name	Scientific name	Benefits	Does project help meet the goals of a specific management plan? List plan and goal.

(8) Prevent or reduce contamination: What are the contaminants benefits?

Contaminant	Benefits	Does project help meet the goals of a specific management plan? List plan and goal.

(9) Catalyst for future conservation: What other conservation efforts that would benefit from this project?

Projects	Benefits

(10) Partners in conservation: What are the sources and amounts of financial support being provided by partners?

Organizations/individuals providing match	Monetary value of support

(11) Federal share reduced: Is the Federal match share reduced by contributions from State and other non-Federal sources? To what extent? (See instructions for guidance on the calculation.)

Total project costs	
Required State match	
Additional cash contribution	
* Percent increase over required match	

(12) Education/outreach or wildlife-oriented recreation: What site-specific educational or outreach programs or wildlife-oriented recreation programs or products are made possible by this project?

Site-specific programs or products	Audience/Participants	Estimated size of audience/participants

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(13) Other factors: What other benefits does the project provide?

Other factors	How the project addresses them

Other considerations/tie-breakers:

1) Is the habitat imminently threatened?

Yes ___ No ___

Threat(s)	Severity

2. Does the site have unique and significant diversity?

Yes ___ No ___

Unique biodiversity	Supportive evidence

3) What are the costs per acre? (Lesser costs would be preferable, all other factors being equal).

Habitat conservation approach	Costs per acre
Acquisition	
Easements	
Restoration	

4a) Are there new sources of funds, lands, or services are being applied to this project? (As opposed to lands already owned by the State or third party that are being offered as match).

Yes ___ No ___

(4b) What percentage of the funds, lands, or services is new? _____ percent.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUMMARY INFORMATION FOR RANKING
NATIONAL COASTAL WETLANDS CONSERVATION GRANT PROGRAM PROPOSALS

- A. Prepare your grant proposal and transfer the information from the proposal to this form.
- B. Guidance and examples for calculation for question #11.

NOTE TO APPLICANTS AND REVIEWERS: *The purpose of this criteria is to increase the amount of match dollars from non-Federal sources. This decreases the need for Federal match dollars, so that Federal dollars can help more projects.*

Documentation of each partner's financial commitment must accompany the proposal to receive points.

If the State itself provides the excess match they should receive credit for reducing the Federal share.

Each 5 percent above the required match would be approximately equal to 1 point.

The following two examples, using both a 50 and 75 percent Federal match share, define a 10 percent increase in a State's match amount.

EXAMPLE 1 - 50 Percent Federal Match

If the total project costs are:	\$ 100,000
Then the required State match share is:	\$ 50,000
If the State or a partner provides an additional cash contribution equal to 10 percent of the \$50,000*:	\$5,000

This is defined as a 10 percent increase in the State match

EXAMPLE 2 - 75 Percent Federal Match

If the total project costs are:	\$ 100,000
Then the required State match share is:	\$ 25,000
If the State or a partner provides an additional cash contribution equal to 10 percent of the \$25,000*:	\$2,500

This is defined as a 10 percent increase in the State match.

* *From sources other than Federal agencies. Natural Resource Damage Assessment funds may in some cases be defined as "non-Federal." See discussion under 50 CFR 84.46 "What are the cost sharing requirements?"*

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 350 1) and the Privacy Act of 1974 (U.S.C. 552), please be advised that:

The gathering of information from applicants to gain benefits is authorized under the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 777-777k) and the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669-669i). Information from this form will be used to formalize and execute Grant Agreements and Amendment to Grant Agreements issued under these and other Acts. Your participation in completing this form is required to obtain benefits. Once submitted this form becomes public information and is not protected under the Privacy Act. The public reporting burden for this form is estimated at one hour per response, including time for gathering information, completing, reviewing and obtaining signature. Direct comments to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS 222-ARLSQ, 1849 C Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240, and the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Attention Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior, (1018-XXXX), 725 17th Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20503.

An agency may not conduct and a person is not required to complete a collection of information unless a currently valid OMB control number is displayed.

Completion Time and Annual Response and Burden Estimate:

Form name	Completion time per form	Annual response	Annual burden
Summary Information for Ranking National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program Proposals.	½ hour	35 Forms	17½ Hours.

While the summary form is five pages long, the ½ hour estimated burden is accurate. Agencies applying for grants will have all of the information readily available in the proposals they have prepared.

Dated: June 15, 2000.
Rebecca Mullin,
Service Information Collection Officer.
 [FR Doc. 00-16678 Filed 7-5-00; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310-55-C

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Extension of Approved Information Collection, OMB Number 1018-0093, on Permit Applications

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is announcing its intention to request renewal of its existing approval to collect certain information from applicants who wish to obtain a permit to conduct activities under a number of wildlife conservation laws, treaties and regulations. We will submit the collection of information listed below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for approval under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. If you wish to obtain copies of the proposed information collection requirement, related forms, and explanatory material, contact the Collection Clearance Officer at the address listed below.

DATES: You must submit comments on or before September 5, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Send your comments and suggestions on specific requirements to the Collection Clearance Officer, U.S.

Fish and Wildlife Service, MS 222-ARLSQ; 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22203.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request a copy of the information collection request, explanatory information and related forms, contact Rebecca A. Mullin, Collection Clearance Officer at 703-358-2287, or electronically to rmullin@fws.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: OMB regulations at 5 CFR 1320, which implement provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13), require that interested members of the public and affected agencies have an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping activities [see 5 CFR 1320.8(d)]. We plan to submit a request to OMB to renew its approval of the collection of information for the Service's license/permit application form number 3-200-19 through 3-200-25 and 3-200-27 through 3-200-53. We are requesting a 3-year term of approval for this information collection activity.

We modified the format of the first page of the application form so that the information fields on the form correspond to the data fields in our Service-wide permits issuance and tracking computer system. We also modified the format and content of the supplemental page(s) of the application forms for clarity and to be less burdensome to complete.

We invite comments concerning this renewal on: (1) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden, (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4)

ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond. The information collections in this program are part of a system of record covered by the Privacy Act [5 U.S.C. 552 (a)].

The information on the application and the attachments will be used by the Service to review permit applications and allow the Service to make an assessment according to criteria established in various Federal wildlife conservation laws, treaties and regulations, on the issuance, suspension, revocation or denial of permits.

Federal agencies may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB control number for this collection of information is 1018-0093.

The information collection requirements in this submission implement the regulatory requirements of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1539), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (15 U.S.C. 704), the Lacey Act (18 U.S.C. 42-44), the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), (27 UST 108), the Marine Mammal Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1361-1407), and Wild Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4901-4916), and are contained in Service regulations in Chapter I, Subchapter B of Title 50 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). Common permit application and record keeping requirements have been consolidated in 50 CFR 13, and unique requirements of the various statutes in the applicable part as described in the table.

Permit No.	Activity	Total number of respondents	Estimated time (in hours)	Total annual burden hours	Regulation
3-200-19	Import of Sport-Hunted Trophies of Southern African Leopard, African Elephant, and Namibian Southern White Rhinoceros.	1,000	1.333	333	50 CFR 17.40(e), 17.40(f), 23.11, 23.12 and 23.15.
3-200-20	Import of Sport-Hunted Trophies (Appendix I of CITES and/or ESA).	30	1	30	50 CFR 17.21, 17.22, 17.31, 17.32, 23.11, 23.12 and 23.15.
3-200-21	Import of Sport-Hunted Trophies of Argali	50	4.750	37.5	50 CFR 17.31, 17.32 and 17.40(j).
3-200-22	Import of Sport-Hunted Bontebok Trophies ..	60	.333	20	50 CFR 17.21 and 17.22.