

other forms of information technology collection methods.

All responses to this notice will become a matter of public record and be summarized in the request for OMB approval.

Signed at Washington, DC, November 5, 2024.

**Joseph J. Prusacki,**

*Associate Administrator.*

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BILLING CODE 3410-20-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS-2024-0052]

#### Notice of Request for Approval of an Information Collection; Study of Human Behavior and Attitudes Linked to Human-Deer Transmission of SARS-CoV-2

**AGENCY:** Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** New information collection; comment request.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's intention to request an approval of a new information collection associated with a study to understand human behavior and attitudes linked to human-deer transmission of SARS-CoV-2.

**DATES:** We will consider all comments that we receive on or before January 28, 2025.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments by either of the following methods:

- **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** Go to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). Enter APHIS-2024-0052 in the Search field. Select the Documents tab, then select the Comment button in the list of documents.

- **Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:** Send your comment to Docket No. APHIS-2024-0052, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 2C-10.16, 4700 River Road, Unit 25, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238.

Supporting documents and any comments we receive on this docket may be viewed at [regulations.gov](http://regulations.gov) or in our reading room, which is located in Room 1620 of the USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC. Normal reading room hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 799-7039 before coming.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For information on this human-deer transmission of SARS-CoV-2 study, contact Dr. Keith Carlisle, Supervisory Social Scientist/Human Dimensions Unit Leader, National Wildlife Research Center, WS, APHIS, 4101 La Porte Ave, Fort Collins, CO 80521; (970) 266-6047; email: [keith.m.carlisle@usda.gov](mailto:keith.m.carlisle@usda.gov). For more information on the information collection process, contact Mr. Joseph Moxey, APHIS' Paperwork Reduction Act Coordinator; (301) 851-2533; email [joseph.moxey@usda.gov](mailto:joseph.moxey@usda.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Title:** Study of Human Behavior and Attitudes Linked to Human-Deer Transmission of SARS-CoV-2.

**OMB Control Number:** 0579-XXXX.

**Type of Request:** Approval of a new information collection.

**Abstract:** Under the Act of March 2, 1931 (7 U.S.C. 8351), the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to conduct a program of wildlife services with respect to injurious animal species and take any action the Secretary considers necessary in conducting the program. Additionally, the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to conduct activities to control nuisance mammals and birds (except for urban rodent control) and those mammals and bird species that are reservoirs for zoonotic disease. This authority has been delegated to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS') Wildlife Services (WS). Two responsibilities of the Deputy Administrator of WS are to assist Federal, State, local, and foreign agencies and individuals with regard to wildlife damage and control and conduct research to develop wildlife damage management methods (7 CFR 371.6).

There has been spillover and sustained transmission of SARS-CoV-2 (SCV2) among animal populations, and this has raised significant questions regarding the potential establishment of disease reservoirs among wildlife species. SCV2 infection has been observed in white-tailed deer (WTD) populations across much of the United States, suggesting that deer may serve as a vector and potential reservoir for the disease. While experts suggest human-to-deer transmission is likely, the activities or factors that facilitate transmission have yet to be identified.

Experts suggest that human behaviors likely contribute to the direct and indirect transmission pathways between humans and WTD. Previous research highlights direct contact (feeding or touching) or aerosol transmission (interacting in close proximity) as likely

routes of spillover. However, indirect transmission through fomites (use of attractants, leaving out feed for wildlife, trash/refuse) or environmental contamination (waste, septic or wastewater overflow) cannot be dismissed.

Little research has been done to explore the nuances of human-deer interactions relevant to SCV2 transmission. Understanding the perceptions, attitudes, and behaviors of community groups relevant to SCV2 spillover and spillback is a pivotal aspect of managing and mitigating current and future threats. While previous research has explored human dimensions aspects related to deer management, it is often done in the context of rural communities or through the lens of consumptive use, such as hunting. Further exploration of human-deer interactions among a larger diversity of stakeholders and within the specific context of disease management is needed.

For this study, APHIS has established a cooperative agreement with the University of Minnesota to administer quantitative surveys among members of the public in five States (Illinois, Minnesota, New York, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee). The survey will collect data concerning the values, beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors associated with humans' interactions with WTD. This information will provide critical data to inform future disease surveillance, mitigation strategies, and policies aimed at curtailing SCV2 transmission between humans and WTD. This information will be useful for informing future disease surveillance and management efforts by providing in-depth analysis of the social and cognitive drivers of human-deer interactions.

The information collection activity associated with this study consists of a multi-item questionnaire administered to members of the public with primary residence in the States of Illinois, Minnesota, New York, Pennsylvania, or Tennessee.

We are asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve our use of this information collection activity for 3 years.

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public (as well as affected agencies) concerning our information collection. These comments will help us:

- (1) Evaluate 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) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the burden of the collection

of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, through use, as appropriate, of automated, electronic, mechanical, and other collection technologies; *e.g.*, permitting electronic submission of responses.

**Estimate of burden:** The public burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.075 hours per response.

**Respondents:** Members of the public whose primary residence is in the States of Illinois, Minnesota, New York, Pennsylvania, or Tennessee.

**Estimated annual number of respondents:** 60,000.

**Estimated annual number of responses per respondent:** 2.

**Estimated annual number of responses:** 105,000.

**Estimated total annual burden on respondents:** 7,868 hours. (Due to averaging, the total annual burden hours may not equal the product of the annual number of responses multiplied by the reporting burden per response.)

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Done in Washington, DC, this 22nd day of November 2024.

**Michael Watson,**

*Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

[FR Doc. 2024–28049 Filed 11–27–24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410–34–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Information Collection; National Visitor Use Monitoring

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, Agriculture (USDA).

**ACTION:** Notice; request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Forest Service (Forest Service or Agency) is requesting public comment on reapproval and proposed revisions of an approved information collection request (ICR), 0596–0110, National Visitor Use Monitoring.

**DATES:** Comments on reapproval and the proposed revisions of the ICR must be received in writing by January 28, 2025.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments may be sent to Dr. Sarah Cline, Mail Stop 1125, Forest

Service, USDA, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, DC 20090–6090.

Comments also may be submitted via email to [sarah.cline@usda.gov](mailto:sarah.cline@usda.gov).

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be available to the public through relevant websites and upon request. Therefore, do not include confidential information, such as sensitive personal information or proprietary information. An email address associated with a comment will be included with the comment when it is made publicly available online.

The public may inspect the supporting statements for the ICR and comments received at 201 14th Street SW, Washington, DC 20250, Suite 2nd Floor Southwest, on business days between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Visitors are encouraged to call ahead at 202–205–0444 to facilitate entry into the building. The public may request an electronic copy of the supporting statements and comments via return email. Requests should be emailed to [sarah.cline@usda.gov](mailto:sarah.cline@usda.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Sarah Cline, Recreation, Heritage, and Volunteer Resources staff, at 202–734–9686 or [sarah.cline@usda.gov](mailto:sarah.cline@usda.gov).

Individuals who use telecommunications devices for the deaf and hard of hearing may call 711 to reach the Telecommunications Relay Service, 24 hours a day, every day of the year, including holidays.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Title:** National Visitor Use Monitoring.

**OMB Number:** 0596–0110.

**Expiration Date of Approval:** February 28, 2025.

**Type of Request:** Reapproval and proposed revisions of an approved ICR.

**Abstract:** The Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 requires that Federal agencies establish measurable goals and monitor their success at meeting those goals. Two of the items the Forest Service must measure are (1) the number of visits that occur on National Forest System lands for recreation and other purposes; and (2) the views and satisfaction levels of recreation visitors to National Forest System lands regarding the recreational services, facilities, and settings they experience. The Agency receives requests for this kind of information from a variety of organizations, including Congressional staffs, newspapers, magazines, and recreation trade organizations.

The data from this ICR provide vital information for strategic planning efforts, decisions regarding allocation of resources, and revisions of Forest

Service land management plans. The data provide managers with reliable estimates of the number of visitors recreating in an Agency administrative unit, recreational activities conducted by those visitors, visitor satisfaction, and visitor needs, trends, and desires. The information obtained from the ICR helps identify recreation markets, as well as the contributions made to local economies by visitors' spending on recreational activities on National Forest System lands. The information is collected over a five-year to align with Agency land management planning and other data collection and reporting.

At developed recreation sites or access points, Agency personnel or contractors conduct interviews with visitors as they complete their visit. Interviewers ask about the purpose and length of the visit, the origin of the trip, the composition of the visitor's party, and the visitor's annual visitation rates, activities during the visit, trip-related spending patterns, use of recreational facilities, and satisfaction with Agency services and facilities. Primary analysis of the information collected is performed by staff in the Agency's Washington Office and by scientists in one or more of the Agency's research stations. The Forest Service is proposing to revise the list of survey questions to reflect recently updated Office of Management and Budget guidance on questions related to race, ethnicity, and gender identity. The Agency is also proposing to add questions about veteran and retirement status and special uses. The Forest Service is also proposing to provide a full Spanish translation of the survey.

**Estimated Annual Burden per Response:** 10 minutes.

**Type of Respondents:** Visitors to National Forest System lands.

**Estimated Annual Number of Respondents:** 45,000.

**Estimated Annual Number of Responses per Respondent:** 1.

**Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:** 5,870 hours.

Comment is invited on (1) whether the collection of information is necessary for the stated purposes and the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information will have practical or scientific utility; (2) the accuracy of the Agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (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 respondents, including the use of