

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-4909-N-02]

Notice of Proposed Information Collection for Public Comment on the Survey of Market Absorption of New Multifamily Units

AGENCY: Office of Policy Development and Research, HUD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The proposed information collection requirement described below will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for approval as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. The Department is soliciting public comments on the subject proposal.

DATES: *Comments Due Date:* April 12, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments regarding this proposal. Comments should refer to the proposal by name/or OMB Control Number and should be sent to: Reports Liaison Officer, Office of Policy Development and Research, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street, SW., Room 8226, Washington, DC 20410.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ronald J. Sepanik, Director, Housing and Demographic Analysis Division, Office of Policy Development and Research, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20410; (202) 708-1060, x5887. This is not a toll-free number. Copies of the proposed forms and other available documents submitted to OMB may be obtained from Mr. Sepanik.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department of Housing and Urban Development will submit the proposed information collection package to OMB for review as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35, as amended).

This Notice is soliciting comments from members of the public and affected agencies concerning the proposed collection of information to (1) Evaluate whether the proposed 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 the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (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; including the use of appropriate automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

This Notice also lists the following information:

Title of Proposal: Survey of Market Absorption of New Multifamily Units.

OMB Control Number: 2528-0013 (Expires 10/31/04).

Description of the need for the information and proposed use: The Survey of Market Absorption (SOMA) provides the data necessary to measure the rate at which new rental apartments and new condominium apartments are absorbed; that is, taken off the market, usually by being rented or sold, over the course of the first twelve months following completion of a building.

The data is collected at quarterly intervals until the twelve months conclude, or until the units in a building are completely absorbed. The survey also provides estimates of certain characteristics, i.e., asking rent/price, number of units, and number of bedrooms.

The survey provides a basis for analyzing the degree to which new apartment construction is meeting the present and future needs of the public. Additionally, beginning with new construction in 2002, the survey will attempt to ascertain the number and degree of services provided by "Assisted Living" type units.

Members of affected public: Rental Agents/Builders.

Estimation of the total numbers of hours needed to prepare the information collection including number of respondents, frequency of response, and hours of response:

Estimated Number of Respondents: 12,000 yearly (maximum).

Estimated Time Per Response: 20 minutes.

Frequency of Response: four times (maximum).

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 4,000 (12,000 × 20 minutes).

Estimated Total Annual Cost: The only cost to respondents is that of their time.

Authority: The survey is taken under Title 12, United States Code, Section 1701Z.

Dated: January 29, 2004.

Darlene F. Williams,
General Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research.

[FR Doc. 04-2770 Filed 2-9-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210-62-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Endangered and Threatened Species Permit Applications

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of applications.

SUMMARY: The following applicants have applied for permits to conduct certain activities with endangered species. This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531, *et seq.*).

DATES: Written data or comments should be submitted to the Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services, 1 Federal Drive, Fort Snelling, Minnesota 55111-4056, and must be received on or before March 11, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Peter Fasbender, (612) 713-5343.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Permit Number: TE081995.

Applicant: James P. Dunn, Allendale, Michigan.

The applicant requests a permit to take (collect) the Karner blue butterfly (*Lycaedes melissa samuelis*) in Michigan. The scientific research is aimed at enhancement of survival of the species in the wild.

Permit Number: TE0840524-1.

Applicant: Lynn W. Robbins, Springfield, Missouri.

The applicant requests a permit to take (collect) the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and gray bat (*M. grisescens*) throughout Iowa, Kansas, Ohio, and Nebraska. The scientific research is aimed at enhancement of survival of the species in the wild.

Permit Number: TE082167.

Applicant: Ozark Underground Laboratory, Protom, Missouri.

The applicant requests a permit to take (collect) the Illinois cave amphipod (*Gammarus acherondytes*) throughout Illinois. The scientific research is aimed at enhancement of survival of the species in the wild.

Permit Number: TE082499.

Applicant: Applied Science and Technology, Inc., Brighton, Michigan.

The applicant requests a permit to take (collect) Northern riffleshell mussel (*Epioblasma torulosa rangiana*) in Michigan. The scientific research is aimed at enhancement of survival of the species in the wild.

Permit Number: TE082500.

Applicant: Saint Louis Zoo, St. Louis, Missouri.

The applicant requests a permit to take (collect) the American burying beetle (*Nicrophorus americanus*) in Missouri. The scientific research is aimed at enhancement of survival of the species in the wild.

Dated: January 28, 2004.

Lynn M. Lewis,

Acting Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, Region 3, Fort Snelling, Minnesota.

[FR Doc. 04-2780 Filed 2-9-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Internal Law Enforcement Services Policies

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice publishes internal policies on Cross-Deputation Agreements, Memoranda of Understanding, Memoranda of Agreement, and Special Law Enforcement Commission Deputation Agreements. These policies apply to all Cross-Deputation Agreements, Memoranda of Understanding, Memoranda of Agreement, and Special Law Enforcement Commission Deputation Agreements.

DATES: These policies are effective February 10, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Peter Maybee, Executive Officer, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Law Enforcement Services Washington, DC Liaison Office, 1849 C Street, NW., Washington, DC 20240; Telephone No. (202) 208-4844.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Introduction

This notice is published in the exercise of authority under the Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act, 25 U.S.C. 2801 *et seq.*, 5 U.S.C. 552(a), 5 U.S.C. 301, 25 U.S.C. 2 and 9, 43 U.S.C. 1457, and under the exercise of authority delegated by the Secretary of the Interior to the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs by 209 Departmental Manual 8.

To clarify the existing policies of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Law Enforcement Services (OLES) regarding the authority and obligations of parties to Memoranda of Agreement (MOAs), Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs), Cross Deputation Agreements (CDAs), and in particular, Special Law Enforcement Commission (SLECs) Deputation Agreements, the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs (AS-IA) is publishing these policies. Questions

regarding the current policies have been raised by Federal, tribal, and local law enforcement; therefore, the AS-IA is making these policies public so the public may have a clearer understanding of the policies which have governed all these types of agreements.

An agency may clarify its policies, procedures, and implementation of its own regulations where these clarifications do not contradict or alter the regulations. These clarified policies do not change the law enforcement regulations. Rather, these clarifications restate to outside parties what has been and continues to be the practice and understanding of the BIA regarding such agreements. This **Federal Register** notice is to advise all parties to Indian country law enforcement agreements, as well as all other interested persons and organizations, of the BIA's policies, understandings, and expectations related to these agreements, though the issues raised here may not be exhaustive.

The Federal Government has an interest in promoting strong tribal governments with the ability to protect the health and welfare of their members. Inherent in this relationship is strong and effective law enforcement in Indian country. Due to variations in state policies, paired with Indian country crime rates well above the national average, there is a public health and safety need in Indian country that must be addressed. Another issue over the years has been lack of jurisdictional clarity, making state and local officials reluctant to either arrest or prosecute in Indian country. This lack of prosecution in Indian country has compounded the problem.

Under the Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act, 25 U.S.C. 2801-2809, and the corresponding regulations at 25 CFR part 12, the Secretary of the Interior, acting through BIA, is charged with providing, or assisting in the provision of, law enforcement in Indian country. This is true nationwide—throughout Indian country and in the areas near and adjacent to Indian country. To increase the effectiveness of law enforcement in Indian country, the authority and status of law enforcement officers, relationships among and between law enforcement departments, as well as potential liability and liability coverage, must be clear. Law enforcement officers are expected to appear a certain way, use certain equipment, and drive certain vehicles both for the safety of the officers and for the safety of the public. The BIA's internal policies prescribe all of these standards and recognize that officers maintain their status when they

are outside Indian country. The BIA's policy makes clear that although officers will not as a rule conduct investigations or make arrests outside Indian country, they maintain their law enforcement officers' responsibilities and certain authorities irrespective of whether they are located in Indian country.

To assist the AS-IA in fulfilling the BIA's duties to provide law enforcement in Indian country and to make clear important policies and working relationships, the BIA OLES enters into MOAs, MOUs, CDAs, and SLEC agreements (pursuant to which it grants special law enforcement commissions to tribal and local law enforcement officers). SLECs support the sovereignty of tribes by allowing tribal law enforcement officers to enforce Federal law, to investigate Federal crimes, and to protect the rights of people in Indian country, particularly against crimes perpetrated by non-Indians against tribal members. Without such commissions, tribal law enforcement in many jurisdictions is limited to restraining these perpetrators until a county, State, or Federal officer arrives. It is common for tribes to have difficulty getting local or State law enforcement to respond to crimes on the reservations. For example, it is difficult to get local law enforcement to respond to domestic violence calls and illegal disposal activities in Indian country. As a result, there is a critical void in law enforcement in Indian country that these SLECs fill.

Due to the nature of law enforcement in Indian country, SLEC officers will often have to respond to calls where it is unclear initially whether they are responding in their Federal or tribal capacity. The Federal Government has an interest in ensuring that Federal and federally commissioned officers are able to respond to calls immediately and with all of the necessary and recommended law enforcement tools. The Federal Government and the Department also have an interest in promoting strong tribal governments capable of effectively carrying out law enforcement in Indian country. The Government further has an interest in ensuring the tribes' sovereign rights to do so are respected and the boundaries of Indian country do not impede officers' travel, use of marked vehicles, emergency response, and other incidental aspects of their Indian country policing authority.

To ensure the SLEC tribal officers are fully qualified to enforce Federal law and to perform functions which would otherwise be performed by BIA officers, the BIA has established certain minimum standards and certification