

Dated: November 3, 2005.

Darcy Bingham,

*Branch Chief, Information Resources
Management Branch, Information
Technology Services Division.*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Information Collection Renewal Sent to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Approval Under the Paperwork Reduction Act; 1018-0113; Information Collection in Support of Grants Programs Authorized by the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (Pub. L. 106-247, 14 Stat. 593)

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We (Fish and Wildlife Service, Service) have sent a request to OMB to renew approval for our information collection associated with the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA) grants program. The current OMB control number for this information collection is 1018-0113, which expires November 30, 2005. We have requested that OMB renew approval of this information collection for a 3-year term.

DATES: You must submit comments on or before December 23, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Send your comments and suggestions on this information collection renewal to the Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior at OMB-OIRA at (202) 395-6566 (fax) or *OIRA_DOCKET@OMB.eop.gov* (e-mail). Please provide a copy of your comments to Hope Grey, Information Collection Clearance Officer, Fish and Wildlife Service, MS 222-ARLSQ, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22203 (mail); (703) 358-2269 (fax); or *hope_grey@fws.gov* (e-mail).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request a copy of the information collection requirements or explanatory information, contact Hope Grey, Information Collection Clearance Officer, at the above addresses or by telephone at (703) 358-2482.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: OMB regulations at 5 CFR 1320, which implement the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), 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)). 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.

On July 29, 2005, we published in the **Federal Register** (70 FR 43900) a 60-day notice of our intent to request renewal of this information collection authority from OMB. In that notice, we solicited public comments for 60 days ending September 27, 2005. We did not receive any comments regarding this notice.

The NMBCA establishes a matching grants program to fund projects that promote the conservation of neotropical migratory birds in the United States, Latin America, and the Caribbean. The purposes of NMBCA are to: (1) Perpetuate healthy populations of neotropical migratory birds; (2) assist in the conservation of these birds by supporting conservation initiatives in the United States, Latin America, and the Caribbean; and (3) provide financial resources and foster international cooperation for those initiatives. Principal conservation actions supported by NMBCA are protection and management of neotropical migratory bird populations; maintenance, management, protection, and restoration of neotropical migratory bird habitat; research and monitoring; law enforcement; and community outreach and education.

Competing for grant funds involves applications from partnerships that describe in substantial detail project locations, project resources, future benefits, and other characteristics, to meet the standards established by the Fish and Wildlife Service and the requirements of NMBCA. The information collection for this program is part of a system of records covered by the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552(a)).

Materials that describe the program and assist applicants in formulating project proposals are available on our Web site at <http://www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/>. Persons who do not have access to the website may obtain instructional materials by mail by contacting the Service's Division of Bird Habitat Conservation. There has been little change in the scope and general nature of these instructions since OMB first approved this information collection in 2002. Instructions assist applicants in formulating detailed project proposals for consideration by a panel of reviewers from the Fish and Wildlife Service. These instructional materials are the basis for this information collection request.

We publish notices of funding availability annually on the Grants.gov Web site (<http://www.grants.gov>) as well as in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (<http://cfda.gov>). We use information collected under this program to respond to such needs as audits, program planning and management, program evaluation, Government Performance and Results Act reporting, Standard Form 424 (Application for Federal Assistance), assistance awards, budget reports and justifications, public and private requests for information, data provided to other programs for databases on similar programs, congressional inquiries, and reports required by NMBCA.

If the information were not collected, we would have to eliminate the program because it would not be possible to determine eligibility and the relative worth of the proposed projects. Reducing the frequency of collection would only reduce the frequency of grant opportunities as the information collected is unique to each project proposal. Discontinuation of the program is not a viable option.

Title: Information Collection in Support of Grants Programs Authorized by the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (Pub. L. 106-247; 14 Stat. 593).

OMB Control Number: 1018-0113.

Form Number(s): None.

Frequency of Collection: Occasional.

This grants program has one project proposal submission per year. Annual reports are due 90 days after the anniversary date of the grant agreement. Final reports are due 90 days after the end of the project period. The project period is up to 2 years.

Description of Respondents: (1) An individual, corporation, partnership, trust, association, or other private entity; (2) an officer, employee, agent, department, or instrumentality of the Federal Government, of any State, municipality, or political subdivision of a State, or of any foreign government; (3) a State, municipality, or political subdivision of a State; (4) any other entity subject to the jurisdiction of the United States or of any foreign country; and (5) an international organization.

Number of Respondents: 160 submit grant applications; 60 submit required reports.

Annual Burden: 70 hours per application; 30 hours per report.

Total Annual Burden Hours: 13,000.

We again invite your comments on: (1) Whether or not the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the NMBCA grants programs, including whether or not in

the opinion of the respondent the information has practical utility; (2) the accuracy of our estimate of the annual hour burden of information requested; (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.

Dated: November 17, 2005.

Hope Grey,

*Information Collection Clearance Officer,
Fish and Wildlife Service.*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Information Collection Renewal To Be Sent to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Approval Under the Paperwork Reduction Act; OMB Control Number 1018-0120; Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council Member Application/ Nomination and Interview Forms

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We (Fish and Wildlife Service) plan to request that OMB renew approval for our information collection associated with the recruitment of Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council members. The current OMB control number for this information collection is 1018-0120, which expires February 28, 2006. We will request that OMB renew approval of this information collection for a 3-year term.

DATES: You must submit comments on or before January 23, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Send your comments on the information collection to Hope Grey, Information Collection Clearance Officer, Fish and Wildlife Service, MS 222-ARLSQ, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22203 (mail); *hope_grey@fws.gov* (e-mail); or (703) 358-2269 (fax).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request a copy of the information collection requirement, explanatory information, or related forms, contact Hope Grey at the addresses above or by telephone at (703) 358-2482.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: OMB regulations at 5 CFR part 1320, which implement provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), require that interested members of the public and affected agencies have an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping activities (see CFR 1320.8(d)). 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.

Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3101 *et seq.*) designates the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture as the key agencies responsible for implementing the subsistence priority on Federal public lands for rural Alaska residents. These responsibilities include the establishment of Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils (Regional Councils) with members from each region who are knowledgeable about the

region and subsistence uses of the public lands. Membership on the Regional Councils includes subsistence use and sport/commercial use representatives and is one way for the public to become involved in the Federal regulatory process.

Based upon recommendations of the Federal Subsistence Board, the Secretary of the Interior, with the concurrence of the Secretary of Agriculture, appoints members to the Regional Councils. One-third of the seats on the Regional Councils become vacant each year. Additional vacancies may occur due to resignations or deaths of sitting members. We recruit and screen applicants to help the Federal Subsistence Board develop a list of recommended appointments for consideration by the Secretary of the Interior. We use three forms to collect information during the recruitment process: FWS Form 3-2321 (Regional Council Membership Application/ Nomination), FWS Form 3-2322 (Regional Council Candidate Interview), and FWS Form 3-2323 (Regional Council Reference/Key Contact Interview). We no longer use Form 7-FW5 (Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council Membership Nomination).

Title: Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council Member Application/ Nomination and Interview Forms.

OMB Control Number: 1018-0120.

Form Numbers: FWS Form 3-2321, FWS Form 3-2322, and FWS Form 3-2323.

Frequency of Collection: Annually.

Description of Respondents: Alaska residents.

Form No.	Number of annual responses	Average burden hour per response	Total annual burden hours
FWS Form 3-2321	100	2	200
FWS Form 3-2322	100	.5	50
FWS Form 3-2323	400	.25	100
Total	600		350

Each person desiring to serve on a Regional Council must complete FWS Form 3-2321. Persons nominating other individuals for membership must also complete this form. Applicants provide information on (1) their knowledge of fish and wildlife resources as well as subsistence and other uses of the resources; (2) their service on working groups, conservation committees, etc.; (3) how they would represent the people in the region; and (4) their willingness

to travel and attend meetings. In addition, applicants must provide three references.

Federal staff use FWS Form 3-2322 to conduct applicant interviews by telephone. Respondents do not see the printed form. Interviewers will ask questions regarding the applicant's willingness to serve on the Regional Council and will ask applicants to explain information provided on FWS Form 3-2321.

Federal staff use FWS Form 3-2323 (Regional Council Reference/Key Contact Interview Form) to conduct interviews of references/key contacts for prospective Regional Council members. We conduct all interviews by telephone and the respondents do not see the printed form. Interviewers will ask questions about the applicant's (1) knowledge of fish and wildlife resources as well as subsistence practices and commercial/sport activities; (2)