

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service**

[FWS-HQ-NWRS-2020-N055;
FXRS1263090000-190-FF09R81000; OMB
Control Number 1018-0102]

**Agency Information Collection
Activities; Submission to the Office of
Management and Budget for Review
and Approval; National Wildlife Refuge
Special Use Permit Applications and
Reports**

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service,
Interior.

ACTION: Notice of information collection;
request for comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the
Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, we,
the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
(Service), are proposing to renew an
information collection with revisions.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to
submit comments on or before
September 2, 2020.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and
recommendations for the proposed
information collection should be sent
within 30 days of publication of this
notice to [www.reginfo.gov/public/do/
PRAMain](http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain). Find this particular
information collection by selecting
“Currently under 30-day Review—Open
for Public Comments” or by using the
search function. Please provide a copy
of your comments to the Service
Information Collection Clearance
Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
MS: PRB (JAO/3W), 5275 Leesburg Pike,
Falls Church, VA 22041-3803 (mail); or
by email to Info_Coll@fws.gov. Please
reference OMB Control 1018-0102 in
the subject line of your comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Madonna L. Baucum, Service
Information Collection Clearance
Officer, by email at Info_Coll@fws.gov,
or by telephone at (703) 358-2503.
Individuals who are hearing or speech
impaired may call the Federal Relay
Service at 1-800-877-8339 for TTY
assistance. You may also view the ICR
at [http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/
PRAMain](http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In
accordance with the PRA and 5 CFR
1320.8(d)(1), we provide the general
public and other Federal agencies with
an opportunity to comment on new,
proposed, revised, and continuing
collections of information. This helps us

assess the impact of our information
collection requirements and minimize
the public's reporting burden. It also
helps the public understand our
information collection requirements and
provide the requested data in the
desired format.

On September 13, 2019, we published
a notice in the **Federal Register** (84 FR
48368) announcing our intent to request
renewal of this information collection.
We solicited public comment for 60
days, ending on November 12, 2019. We
received one comment in response to
the notice; however, the commenter did
not address the information collection
requirements. No response is required.

As part of our continuing effort to
reduce paperwork and respondent
burdens, we are again soliciting
comments from the public and other
Federal agencies on the proposed ICR
that is described below. We are
especially interested in public comment
addressing the following:

(1) Whether or not the collection of
information is necessary for the proper
performance of the functions of the
agency, including whether or not the
information will have practical utility;

(2) The accuracy of our estimate of the
burden for this 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) How might the agency minimize
the burden of the collection of
information on those who are to
respond, including through the use of
appropriate automated, electronic,
mechanical, or other technological
collection techniques or other forms of
information technology, e.g., permitting
electronic submission of response.

Comments that you submit in
response to this notice are a matter of
public record. Before including your
address, phone number, email address,
or other personal identifying
information in your comment, you
should be aware that your entire
comment—including your personal
identifying information—may be made
publicly available at any time. While
you can ask us in your comment to
withhold your personal identifying
information from public review, we
cannot guarantee that we will be able to
do so.

Abstract: The National Wildlife
Refuge System Administration Act of
1966 (Administration Act, 16 U.S.C.

668dd-668ee), as amended by the
National Wildlife Refuge System
Improvement Act of 1997, consolidated
all refuge units into a single National
Wildlife Refuge System (System). It also
authorized us to offer visitor and public
programs, including those facilitated by
commercial visitor and management
support services, on lands of the System
when we find that the activities are
appropriate and compatible with the
purpose(s) for which the refuge was
established and the System's mission.
The Refuge Recreation Act of 1962
(Recreation Act, 16 U.S.C. 460k-460k-4)
allows the use of refuges for public
recreation when it is not inconsistent or
does not interfere with the primary
purpose(s) of the refuge. The Alaska
National Interest Lands Conservation
Act (ANILCA, 16 U.S.C. 3101 *et seq.*)
provides specific authorization and
guidance for the administration and
management of national wildlife refuges
within the State of Alaska. Its provisions
provide for the issuance of permits
under certain circumstances.

We issue special use permits for a
specific period as determined by the
type and location of the management
activity or visitor service provided.
These permits authorize activities such
as:

- Agricultural activities (haying and
grazing, 50 CFR 29.1 and 29.2).
- Beneficial management tools that
we use to provide the best habitat
possible on some refuges (50 CFR 30.11,
31.14, 31.16, and 36.41).
- Special events, group visits, and
other one-time events (50 CFR 25.41,
25.61, 26.36, and 36.41).
- Recreational visitor service
operations (50 CFR 25.41, 25.61, and
36.41).
- Guiding for fishing, hunting,
wildlife education, and interpretation
(50 CFR 25.41 and 36.41).
- Commercial filming (43 CFR 5, 50
CFR 27.71) and other commercial
activities (50 CFR 29.1 and 36.41).
- Building and using cabins to
support subsistence or commercial
activities (in Alaska) (50 CFR 26.35 and
36.41).
- Research, inventory and
monitoring, and other noncommercial
activities (50 CFR 26.36 and 36.41).

We use three forms to collect
applicant information:

- FWS Form 3-1383-G (General
Activities Special Use Application).

- FWS Form 3–1383–C (Commercial Activities Special Use Application).
- FWS Form 3–1383–R (Research and Monitoring Special Use Application).

The information we collect helps ensure that: (1) Applicants are aware of the types of information that may be needed for permit issuance; (2) requested activities are appropriate and compatible with the purpose(s) for which the refuge was established and the System’s mission; and (3) the applicant is eligible or is the most qualified applicant to receive the special use permit.

We may collect the necessary information in a non-form format (through discussions in person or over the phone, over the internet, by email, or by letter). In some instances, respondents will be able to provide information verbally. Often, a simple email or letter describing the activity will suffice. For activities that might have a large impact on refuge resources (e.g., commercial visitor services, research, etc.), we may require applicants to provide more detail on operations, techniques, and locations. Because of the span of activities covered by special use permits and the different management needs and resources at each refuge, respondents may not be required to answer all questions. Depending on the requested activity, refuge managers have the discretion to ask for less information than appears on the forms. However, refuge managers must not ask for more or different information.

We issue permits for a specific period as determined by the type and location

of the use or service provided. We use these permits to ensure that the applicant is aware of the requirements of the permit and his/her legal rights. Refuge-specific special conditions may be required for the permit. We identify conditions as an addendum to the permit. Most of the special conditions pertain to how a permitted activity may be conducted and do not require the collection of information. However, some special conditions, such as activity reports, before and after site photographs, or data sharing, would qualify as an information collection, and we have included the associated burden below.

Proposed Revision

We are proposing to revise this collection to request OMB approval of a new form, FWS Form 3–1384, “Bid Sheet—National Wildlife Refuge System.” We developed this form to streamline collection of the necessary pre-award information from applicants during bidding processes to conduct economic uses on Service lands, such as livestock, harvesting hay and stock feed, or removing timber (50 CFR 29.21). This form will simplify the pre-award selection/bidding process for bidders and for refuge staff.

Currently, the only form approved for collection of this information is the Commercial Activities Special Use Permit Application (FWS Form 3–1383–C), which bidders and refuge staff alike find confusing and complicated; this hampers the Service’s ability to collect the basic information necessary to determine which applicants will be

awarded economic use privileges. The proposed Bid Sheet will be much clearer for bidders, better enabling them to understand what information the refuge needs in order to select bids for economic use, and, therefore, reducing the time and burden for the public and Service staff in the pre-award selection bidding process. This form is also easily customizable to the individual economic use being awarded. We will continue to use the Commercial Special Use Permit as the actual award document that will outline the terms and conditions of the economic use on Service lands.

Title of Collection: National Wildlife Refuge Special Use Permit Applications and Reports, 50 CFR 25, 26, 27, 29, 30, 31, 32, & 36.

OMB Control Number: 1018–0102.

Form Number: FWS Forms 3–1383–G, 3–1383–C, 3–1383–R, and 3–1384.

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Respondents/Affected Public: Individuals and households; businesses and other for-profit organizations; nonprofit organizations; farms; and State, local, or tribal governments.

Respondent’s Obligation: Required to obtain or retain a benefit.

Frequency of Collection: On occasion for applications; annually or on occasion for reports.

Total Estimated Annual Nonhour Burden Cost: \$259,500 for fees associated with applications for commercial use activities (\$100.00 x an estimated 2,595 applications (individuals and private sector respondents only)).

Requirement	Annual number of respondents	Total annual responses	Completion time per response (hours)	Total annual burden hours *
General Special Use Application (Form 3–1383–G)				
Individuals	2,285	2,285	0.5	1,143
Private Sector	1,219	1,219	0.5	610
Government	305	305	0.5	153
Commercial Activities Special Use Application (Form 3–1383–C)				
Individuals	1,595	1,595	4	6,380
Private Sector	1,000	1,000	4	4,000
Government	108	108	4	432
Research and Monitoring Special Use Application (Form 3–1383–R)				
Individuals	209	209	5	1,045
Private Sector	403	403	5	2,015
Government	135	135	5	675
Bid Sheet—National Wildlife Refuge System (Form 3–1384)				
Private Sector	250	250	1	250

Requirement	Annual number of respondents	Total annual responses	Completion time per response (hours)	Total annual burden hours *
Activity Reports				
Individuals	40	40	0.5	20
Private Sector	466	466	0.5	233
Government	100	100	0.5	50
Totals	8,115	8,115	17,006

* Rounded.

An agency 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 authority for this action is the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

Dated: July 29, 2020.

Madonna Baucum,

Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[Docket No. FWS-HQ-IA-2020-0081; FXIA16710900000-201-FF09A30000]

Foreign Endangered Species Receipt of Permit Applications

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of permit applications; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, invite the public to comment on an application to conduct certain activities with foreign species that are listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). With some exceptions, the ESA prohibits activities with listed species unless Federal authorization is issued that allows such activities. The ESA also requires that we invite public comment before issuing permits for any activity otherwise prohibited by the ESA with respect to any endangered species.

DATES: We must receive comments by September 2, 2020.

ADDRESSES: *Obtaining Documents:* The applications, application supporting materials, and any comments and other materials that we receive will be available for public inspection at <http://www.regulations.gov> in Docket No. FWS-HQ-IA-2020-0081.

Submitting Comments: When submitting comments, please specify the name of the applicant and the permit number at the beginning of your comment. You may submit comments by one of the following methods:

- *Internet:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Search for and submit comments on Docket No. FWS-HQ-IA-2020-0081.
- *U.S. mail or hand-delivery:* Public Comments Processing, Attn: Docket No. FWS-HQ-IA-2020-0081; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Headquarters, MS: PRB/3W; 5275 Leesburg Pike; Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.

For more information, see Public Comment Procedures under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brenda Tapia, by phone at 703-358-2185, via email at DMAFR@fws.gov, or via the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Public Comment Procedures

A. How do I comment on submitted applications?

We invite the public and local, State, Tribal, and Federal agencies to comment on these applications. Before issuing any of the requested permits, we will take into consideration any information that we receive during the public comment period.

You may submit your comments and materials by one of the methods in **ADDRESSES.** We will not consider comments sent by email or fax, or to an address not in **ADDRESSES.** We will not consider or include in our administrative record comments we receive after the close of the comment period (see **DATES**).

When submitting comments, please specify the name of the applicant and the permit number at the beginning of your comment. Provide sufficient information to allow us to authenticate any scientific or commercial data you include. The comments and recommendations that will be most useful and likely to influence agency

decisions are: (1) Those supported by quantitative information or studies; and (2) those that include citations to, and analyses of, the applicable laws and regulations.

B. May I review comments submitted by others?

You may view and comment on others' public comments at <http://www.regulations.gov>, unless our allowing so would violate the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a) or Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552).

C. Who will see my comments?

If you submit a comment at <http://www.regulations.gov>, your entire comment, including any personal identifying information, will be posted on the website. If you submit a hardcopy comment that includes personal identifying information, such as your address, phone number, or email address, you may request at the top of your document that we withhold this information from public review. However, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Moreover, all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public disclosure in their entirety.

II. Background

To help us carry out our conservation responsibilities for affected species, and in consideration of section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), we invite public comments on permit applications before final action is taken. With some exceptions, the ESA prohibits certain activities with listed species unless Federal authorization is issued that allows such activities. Permits issued under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA allow otherwise prohibited activities for scientific purposes or to enhance the propagation or survival of the affected species. Service regulations regarding prohibited activities with