

Total Estimated Burden Hours:
21,019.

Status: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Authority: Section 3507 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 35, as amended.

Dated: November 17, 2008.

Lillian L. Deitzer,

*Departmental Paperwork Reduction Act
Officer, Office of the Chief Information
Officer.*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R9-ES-2008-N0308] [92210-1111-0000-B3]

Proposed Information Collection; OMB Control Number 1018-0119; Policy for Evaluation of Conservation Efforts When Making Listing Decisions (PECE)

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We (Fish and Wildlife Service) will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve the information collection (IC) described below. As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 and as part of our continuing efforts to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, we invite the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on this IC. This IC is scheduled to expire on January 31, 2009. We 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.

DATES: Your comments must be received on or before January 23, 2009.

ADDRESSES: Send your comments on the IC to Hope Grey, Information Collection Clearance Officer, Fish and Wildlife Service, MS 222-ARLSQ, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22203 (mail), or hope_grey@fws.gov (e-mail).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request additional information about this ICR, contact Hope Grey by mail or e-mail (see ADDRESSES) or by telephone at (703) 358-2482.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

Section 4 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) specifies the process by which we can list species as threatened or endangered. When we consider

whether or not to list a species, the ESA requires us to take into account the efforts being made by any State or any political subdivision of a State to protect such species. We also take into account the efforts being made by other entities. States or other entities often formalize conservation efforts in conservation agreements, conservation plans, management plans, or similar documents. The conservation efforts recommended or called for in such documents could prevent some species from becoming so imperiled that they meet the definition of a threatened or endangered species under the ESA.

The Policy for Evaluation of Conservation Efforts When Making Listing Decisions (PECE) encourages the development of conservation agreements/plans and provides certainty about the standard that an individual conservation effort must meet for us to consider whether it contributes to forming a basis for making a decision about the listing of a species. PECE applies to "formalized conservation efforts" that have not been implemented or have been implemented but have not yet demonstrated if they are effective at the time of a listing decision.

Under PECE, formalized conservation efforts are defined as conservation efforts (specific actions, activities, or programs designed to eliminate or reduce threats or otherwise improve the status of a species) identified in a conservation agreement, conservation plan, management plan, or similar document (68 FR 15100). The development of such agreements/plans is voluntary. There is no requirement that the individual conservation efforts included in such documents be designed to meet the standard in PECE.

PECE specifies that to consider if a formalized conservation effort(s) contributes to forming a basis for making a listing decision, we must find that the effort is sufficiently certain to be implemented and effective so as to have contributed to the elimination or adequate reduction of one or more threats to the species identified through our analysis of listing factors specified in section 4(a)(1) of the ESA. To gauge whether or not this standard has been met, PECE includes criteria for evaluating the certainty of implementation and the certainty of effectiveness of individual conservation efforts.

One criterion is whether provisions for monitoring and reporting progress on implementation and effectiveness of the effort are included in the plan or agreement. Also, if we use a conservation effort(s) that satisfies the PECE standard as part of the basis for a

decision not to list a species or to list the species as threatened rather than endangered, we must:

(1) Track the status of the effort(s), including the progress of its implementation and effectiveness and

(2) If necessary, reevaluate the status of the species and consider whether or not initiating the listing process is necessary.

The nature and frequency of the monitoring and reporting will vary according to the species addressed, land ownership, specific conservation efforts, expertise of participants, and other factors. Generally, monitoring and reporting occurs annually for several years as the conservation efforts are implemented and their effectiveness is evaluated. The information collected through monitoring is invaluable to the Service, the States, and other entities involved in agreements and plans, and to others concerned about the welfare of the species covered by the agreements/plans.

Agreements/plans developed with the intent of influencing a listing decision and with involvement of the Service constitute an information collection that requires OMB approval under the Paperwork Reduction Act. Estimating the hours associated with developing a conservation agreement or plan is difficult because:

(1) Development and associated monitoring of conservation efforts are completely voluntary, and we cannot predict who will decide to develop these efforts, how many entities they might involve, or the type and extent of the planning, monitoring, and reporting processes they might use.

(2) We cannot predict which species are certain to become the subjects of conservation efforts, and, therefore, we cannot predict the number, nature, and extent of conservation efforts and monitoring that might be included in conservation agreements/plans designed with the intent of influencing a decision regarding listing a species.

(3) Many agreements/plans are developed to satisfy requirements of other laws or for other purposes. We cannot predict whether or the extent to which some of these plans may be expanded to attempt to make listing unnecessary.

II. Data

OMB Control Number: 1018-0119.

Title: Policy for Evaluation of Conservation Efforts When Making Listing Decisions (PECE).

Service Form Number(s): None.

Type of Request: Extension of currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Individuals; States, tribes, local governments; and not-for-profit institutions.

Respondent's Obligation: Required to obtain or retain a benefit.
Frequency of Collection: On occasion.

Activity	Number of annual respondents	Number of annual responses	Completion time per response	Annual burden hours
Original Agreement	4	4	2,000 hours	8,000
Monitoring	7	7	600 hours	4,200
Reporting	7	7	120 hours	840
Totals	18	18	13,040

III. Request for Comments

We invite comments concerning this IC on:

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

(2) The accuracy of our estimate of the burden for this 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 the collection of information on respondents.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. We will include and/or summarize each comment in our request to OMB to approve this IC. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail 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.

Dated: October 9, 2008.

Hope Grey,

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

FR Doc. E8-27831 Filed 11-21-08; 8:45 am

BILLING CODE 4310-55-S

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

U.S. Geological Survey

Agency Information Collection Activities: Submitted for Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Review; Comment Request on Extension of Existing Information Collection

AGENCY: U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Interior.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We (U.S. Geological Survey) have sent an Information Collection Request (ICR) to OMB for review and approval. The ICR, which is summarized below, describes the nature of the collection and the estimated burden and cost. This ICR is scheduled to expire on November 14, 2008. We 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. However, under OMB regulations, we may continue to conduct or sponsor this information collection while it is pending at OMB.

DATE: You must submit comments on or before December 24, 2008.

ADDRESSES: Send your comments on this information collection directly to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior via OMB e-mail: (OIRA_DOCKET@omb.eop.gov); or by fax (202) 395-6566; and identify your submission with #1028-0048.

Please submit a copy of your comments to the Phadrea Ponds, Information Collections, U.S. Geological Survey, 2150-C Center Avenue, Fort Collins, CO 80525 (mail); (970) 226-9230 (fax); or FAX: pponds@usgs.gov (e-mail). Use Information Collection Number 1028-0048 in the subject line.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request additional information about this ICR, contact Jim Dewey at (303) 274-8419.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

OMB Control Number: 1028-0048.

Title: USGS Earthquake Report.

Type of Request: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: General Public.

Respondent Obligation: Voluntary.

Frequency of Collection: On occasion, after an earthquake.

Estimated Completion Time: 6 minutes.

Estimated Annual Number of Respondents: 200,000.

Note: We have recalculated our estimated number of responses requested in our 60 day

FR notice (73 FR 53267) from 100,000 to 200,000 responses. This recalculation is based on our experience with the data compiled over the three year period (2005-2008), during which we had many more responses than we anticipated in 2005.

Estimated Annual Burden Hours: 20,000 hours.

Note: We have recalculated our estimated number of responses requested in our 60 day FR notice (73 FR 53267) from 10,000 to 20,000 hours. Assuming that 200,000 respondents will each spend 6 minutes responding to the proposed information collection the total adjusted hour burden will be 20,000 hours.

Abstract: The collection of information applies to a World-Wide Web site questionnaire that permits individuals to report on the effects of the shaking from an earthquake—on themselves personally, buildings, other man-made structures, and ground effects such as faulting or landslides. The USGS may use the information to provide qualitative, quantitative, or graphical descriptions of earthquake damage.

We will protect information from respondents considered proprietary under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and implementing regulations (43 CFR part 2), and under regulations at 30 CFR 250.197, "Data and information to be made available to the public or for limited inspection." Responses are voluntary. No questions of a "sensitive" nature are asked. We will release data collected on these forms only in a summary format that is not company-specific.

Comments: To comply with the public consultation process, on September 14, 2008, we published a **Federal Register** notice (73 FR 53267) announcing our intent to submit this information collection to OMB for approval. In that notice we solicited public comments for 60 days, ending on November 14, 2008. We did not receive any comments concerning the notice.

We again invite comments concerning this information collection on:

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