

implemented and the allocation of such taxes. It recommends that the issuance of labels on wildlife and its products be subjected to the payment of such a tax.

While being supportive of biodiversity conservation and the sustainable use of wildlife, the United States intends to oppose adoption of this resolution. The United States opposes the establishment of an international tax on wildlife use. The text of CITES neither obligates or authorizes Parties to levy any tax, whether direct or indirect, on the trade in animal or plant species that are included in the Appendices to the Convention. Nor is there a mechanism provided in CITES that would administer any funds generated from a tax on trade in a manner that would ensure sustainable trade and habitat conservation.

Because the text of the Convention does not address the issue of taxation, the United States must oppose the draft resolution on Constitutional grounds. The Congress of the United States, which has exclusive jurisdiction over the passage of any legislation that would levy taxes on United States entities engaged in international trade, has not authorized such taxes to be imposed as part of the implementation of CITES.

46. Development of an Information Management Strategy [Doc. 10.82]

The development of an information management strategy by the Secretariat was an item of discussion at the 37th meeting of the Standing Committee. The Secretariat presented a document for consideration by the Committee and described its proposal which involved the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC). The United States supported the Secretariat's efforts to develop a better communication system between its offices and the Parties to facilitate the distribution of Notifications to the Parties and other pertinent information. At the Standing Committee meeting, the United States requested that the Secretariat prepare a list of Parties and their computer needs to assist developing countries in obtaining the necessary computer equipment for an information management system to be put in place.

No documents have yet been received from the Secretariat. However, the Secretariat has indicated that it will be preparing a document for COP10 which will include the financial implications of putting this system into place.

47. Inclusion of Higher Taxa [Doc. 10.83]

This resolution, submitted by Namibia, recommends that the listing of

higher taxa on the Appendices to the Convention not be made without considering negative consequences to geographically distinct populations. It also recommends the use of annotations on the Appendices to the Convention so that generalized indicators would be presented according to the conservation status and most appropriate management program for each listed species.

The United States proposes to oppose this resolution, but hopes that some of the issues raised can be addressed in the Nomenclature Committee. The United States believes that this resolution presents a system which would lead to a proliferation of confusing split-listings, a provision which is only occasionally appropriate for CITES species. There is already adequate flexibility in the Convention for Parties to make decisions as to how they manage populations of native species listed on the Appendices. In addition Conf. 9.24, Annex 3 (the new listing criteria) already adequately addresses the issues associated with split-listings, and in general, discourages their use. This subject was addressed at COP9 through this resolution, and the submission of this newer resolution does not allow for a fair amount of time for the Parties to implement the terms of 9.24. The subject should not be reconsidered so soon, as the Parties agreed at COP9 that reconsideration of the listing criteria should not occur until COP12, so that there is adequate experience gained with the use of the new listing criteria in 9.24.

48. Proposals Concerning Export Quotas for Specimens of Appendix I or II Species [Doc. 10.84]

No document has yet been received. When relevant documentation is received from the Secretariat, the United States will evaluate it and formulate a policy position.

XV. Consideration of Proposals for Amendment of Appendices I and II (This Item Consists of Four Subitems)

1. Proposals Submitted Pursuant to Resolution on Ranching [Doc. 10.85]
2. Proposals Resulting from Reviews by the Animals and Plants Committees [Doc. 10.86]
3. Proposals Concerning Export Quotas for Specimens of Appendix I or II Species [Doc. 10.87]
4. Other Proposals [Doc. 10.88]

Proposal to amend the appendices have been received, and tentative U.S. negotiating positions on these proposals

are presented in a separate **Federal Register** notice.

XVI. Conclusion of the Meeting

1. Determination of the Time and Venue of the Next Regular Meeting of the Conference of the Parties [Doc. 10.89]

No documents have been received from the Secretariat regarding candidates as host government for COP11. The United States favors holding COP11 in a country where all Parties and observers will be admitted without political difficulties. The United States proposes to support the holding of COPs on a biennial basis, or, as in the case of COP10, after an interval of approximately two and one half years.

2. Closing remarks

Request for Information and Comments

With this notice, the Service invites information and comments on the proposed negotiating position on COP10 agenda items. (Comments on amendments to the Appendices of the Convention should be based on the **Federal Register** notice of the same date as this notice). Information and comments on this present notice should be submitted to the Service no later than May 9, 1997. Interested Parties can also make verbal or submit written comments to the Service at the Public Meeting of April 25, 1997 (See Public Meeting, above).

Authors: This notice was prepared by Bruce J. Weissgold and Dr. Susan S. Lieberman, Office of Management Authority, United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

Dated: April 11, 1997.

Jay L. Gerst,

Acting Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 97-9925 Filed 4-16-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WO-350-1430-00; OMB Approval Number 1004-0011]

Information Collection Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for Review Under the Paperwork Reduction Act

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has submitted the proposed collection of information listed below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for approval under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*). On March

27, 1996, BLM published a notice in the **Federal Register** (61 FR 13515) requesting comment on this proposed collection. The comment period ended on May 28, 1996. BLM received no comments from the public in response to that notice. Copies of the proposed collection of information and related forms and explanatory material may be obtained by contacting the BLM clearance officer at the telephone number listed below.

OMB is required to respond to this request within 60 days but may respond after 30 days. For maximum consideration your comments and suggestions on the requirements should be made within 30 days directly to the Office of Management and Budget, Interior Department Desk Officer (1004-0011), Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Washington, D.C. 20503, telephone (202) 395-7340. Please provide a copy of your comments to the BLM Clearance Officer (WO-630), 1849 C Street NW, Mail Stop 401 LS, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Nature of Comments

We specifically request your comments on the following:

1. Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper functioning of the Bureau of Land Management, including whether the information will have practical utility;
2. The accuracy of BLM's estimate of the burden of collecting the information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
3. The quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
4. How to minimize the burden of collecting the information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated electronic, mechanical, or other forms of technology.

Title: Color-of-title Tax Levy and Payment Record (43 CFR 2540). OMB approval number: 1004-0011.

Abstract: The Bureau of Land Management is proposing to renew the approval of an information collection for an existing rule at 43 CFR 2540. That rule provides for the issuance of a land patent (deed) to eligible individuals, groups, or corporations who believe they have a valid claim to public lands under color-of-title. Respondents supply identifying information to be used by the agency to determine validity of a color-of-title claim and aid in the documentation of tax payments in support of the color-of-title application to public lands.

Bureau Form Number: 2540-3.

Frequency: Once.

Description of Respondents: Individuals applying for a color-of-title claim to public lands. Estimated completion time: 1 hour.

Annual Responses: 9.

Annual Burden Hours: 9.

Collection Clearance Officer: Carole Smith, 202-452-0367.

Dated: March 12, 1997.

Dr. Annetta L. Cheek,
Manager, Regulatory Affairs Group.
 [FR Doc. 97-9904 Filed 4-16-97; 8:45 am]
 BILLING CODE 4310-84-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WO-350-1430-01-24 1A; OMB Approval Number 1004-0004]

Information Collection Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for Review Under the Paperwork Reduction Act

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has submitted the proposed collection of information listed below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for approval under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) On March 28, 1996, BLM published a notice in the **Federal Register** (61 FR 13866) requesting comment on this proposed collection. The comment period ended on May 28, 1996. BLM received no comments from the public in response to that notice. Copies of the proposed collection of information and related forms and explanatory material may be obtained by contacting the BLM clearance officer at the telephone number listed below. (202) 452-0367.

OMB is required to respond to this request within 60 days but may respond after 30 days. For maximum consideration your comments and suggestions on the requirement should be made within 30 days directly to the Office of Management and Budget, Interior Department Desk Officer (1004-0004), Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Washington, D.C., 20503, telephone (202) 395-7340. Please provide a copy of your comments to the Bureau Clearance Officer (WO-630), 1849 C St., N.W., Mail Stop 401 LS, Washington, D. C. 20240.

Nature of Comments

We specifically request your comments on the following:

1. Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper functioning of the Bureau of Land Management, including whether the information will have practical utility;

2. The accuracy of BLM's estimate of the burden of collecting the information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

3. The quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and

4. How to minimize the burden of collecting the information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated electronic, mechanical, or other forms of information technology.

Title: Desert-Land Entry (43 CFR 2520). OMB approval number: 1004-0004.

Abstract: The Bureau of Land Management is proposing to renew the approval of an information collection for an existing rule at 43 CFR 2520. That rule provides guidelines and procedures for individuals to make desert-land entries to reclaim, irrigate, and cultivate arid and semiarid public lands of the Western United States under the Desert Land Act as amended (43 U.S.C. 231, 321-323, 325, 327-329).

Bureau Form Number: 2520-1.

Frequency: Once.

Description of Respondents: Respondents are individuals.

Estimated Completion Time: 1½ hours.

Annual Responses: 9.

Annual Burden Hours: 13½.

Collection Clearance Officer: Carole Smith, (202) 452-0367.

Dated: February 3, 1997.

Dr. Annetta L. Cheek,
Chief, Regulatory Affairs Group.
 [FR Doc. 97-9905 Filed 4-16-97; 8:45 am]
 BILLING CODE 4310-84-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WO-350-1430-01-24 1A; OMB Approval Number 1004-0012]

Information Collection Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for Review Under the Paperwork Reduction Act

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has submitted the proposed collection of information listed below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for approval under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) On March 22, 1996, BLM published a notice in the **Federal Register** (61 FR 11861) requesting comment on this proposed collection. The comment period ended on May 21, 1996. BLM received no comments from the public in response to that notice. Copies of the proposed