

*Name and Number of Animals:*  
Manatee (*Trichechus manatus*), up to 20.

*Summary of Activity to be Authorized:* The applicant requests amendment of PRT-766146 to provide two new researchers authorization to work under the permit to take captive manatees at facilities in Florida for the purpose of scientific research.

*Source of Marine Mammals:* Captive manatees at facilities in Florida.

*Period of Activity:* Up to 5 years from issuance date of permit, if issued.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, the Office of Management Authority is forwarding copies of this application to the Marine Mammal Commission and the Committee of Scientific Advisors for their review.

Written data or comments, requests for copies of the complete application, or requests for a public hearing on this application should be sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203, telephone 703/358-2104 or fax 703/358-2281 and must be received within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice. Anyone requesting a hearing should give specific reasons why a hearing would be appropriate. The holding of such a hearing is at the discretion of the Director.

Documents and other information submitted with these applications are available for review, *subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act*, by any party who submits a written request for a copy of such documents to the following office within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203. Phone: (703/358-2104); FAX: (703/358-2281).

Dated: July 24, 1998.

**Karen Anderson,**

*Acting Chief, Branch of Permits, Office of Management Authority.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Geological Survey

#### **Request for Public Comments on Proposed Three-Year Program of Customer Satisfaction Information Collection—to be Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for Review Under the Paperwork Reduction Act**

A plan for the three-year proposed information collection program described herein will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for approval under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). Copies of the proposed information collection plan may be obtained by contacting the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) Clearance Officer at the phone number listed below or e-mail [customer@www.usgs.gov](mailto:customer@www.usgs.gov). Comments and suggestions on the plan are encouraged and should be made within 60 days directly to the Bureau Clearance Officer, USGS, National Center, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, M.S. 807, Reston, Virginia 20192. Telephone 703/648-7313.

Specific Public comments are requested as to:

1. Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the USGS, including whether the information will have practical utility;
2. The accuracy of the USGS estimate of the burden of the collection of 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 at the collection of information on those who respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other forms of information technology.

*Title:* "Three-Year Program of Voluntary Customer Satisfaction Information Collections in Accordance with Executive Order 12862, 'Setting Customer Service Standards,' Within the U.S. Geological Survey."

*OMB approval number:* New collection.

*Abstract:* The USGS provides science for a changing world by delivering reliable and impartial information that describes the Earth, its natural processes, and its natural species. Much of this information is used to minimize the loss of life and property from natural disasters; manage water, biological, energy, and mineral resources; enhance and protect quality of life; and to

contribute to wise societal, economic, and physical development. The USGS recognizes that excellent customer service is a key component of good government and that its interface with customers reflects the effectiveness of its organization. USGS is committed to engaging customers in a dialog to identify customer needs and satisfaction levels, and to deliver USGS products, information and services to customers in a timely and accurate manner.

Under the proposed three year information collection program, voluntary customer surveys will be conducted to ascertain customer satisfaction with the products, information and services of the USGS. Measures such as timeliness, accessibility, accuracy, availability, product and service quality, service responsiveness, and courtesy of service will serve as the focus of these surveys. The surveys will involve individuals who interact directly with the USGS to use or to request its products, information and/or services. Over the three-year period, the USGS will focus on encouraging and obtaining satisfaction feedback from customers involved in three areas of effort: partnerships and cooperative agreements, technical assistance, and public inquiries and requests for publications, information, services, maps, and/or other products. This last area will also include a survey of our web-page customers to ensure that our web pages are useful and easy to access and read. For the partnerships and cooperative agreements area, the USGS will ask its partners and cooperators (many of them work for State government agencies) for feedback about our service and whether or not we are meeting their needs. For the technical assistance area, USGS will ask customers who have requested scientific technical assistance if this assistance has been provided in a timely manner, with courtesy, and whether or not the assistance met the customer's expectations. In the public inquiries and requests for information, products, and services area, customers of USGS web pages, Information Centers, and map sales centers will be asked if the service was satisfactory and if the product was delivered in a timely manner.

To minimize burden on respondents, the surveys will be conducted using a variety of mechanisms ranging from questionnaires, comment cards, electronic queries and web-based feedback systems to focus groups. Customer information gathered from the surveys will be used to evaluate and improve satisfaction levels and to better meet customer needs. The average

burden per response for these activities is estimated to range from 5 minutes for a simple card to 1 hour for a focus group. Summarized results of customer satisfaction surveys will be published annually by the USGS in a *Report to Customers*, which will be made available to customers through USGS information centers and through its web pages.

*Bureau form number:* None.

*Frequency:* An estimated 10–20 surveys (ranging from comment cards, web-based and electronic surveys, and mail-out questionnaires) and 5–10 focus groups per year to evaluate customer satisfaction with specific products, information and services.

*Description of respondents:*

Representatives of state, local, and tribal government agencies; universities and schools; non-government and nonprofit natural resource organizations; and some private citizens.

*Estimated completion time:* Varies depending upon the mechanism used: approximately 5 minutes for a comment card to one hour for a focus group session.

*Annual responses:* Approximately 20 surveys each with 500 responses and 10 focus groups each with 25 responses.

*Annual burden hours:* 2250 hours. (20 surveys)(500 responses)(0.2 hours)+(10 focus groups)(25 responses)(1 hour)

*Bureau clearance officer:* John Cordyack, 703/648–7313.

Dated: July 23, 1998.

**Michael P. McDermott,**

*Chief, Office of Outreach.*

[FR Doc. 98–20291 Filed 7–29–98; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Bureau of Land Management**

[ES–930–08–1430–00 Michigan]

**Notice of Disclaimer of Interest**

**SUMMARY:** The purpose of this notice is to inform claimants, the State of Michigan, and the general public of a decision by the United States Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals affecting the processing of claims to certain islands under the Michigan Public Lands Improvement Act (MPLIA) of October 28, 1998, Pub. L. No. 100–537, 102 Stat. 2711. The court’s decision in the case of *Barbara W. Wolff and Janice Wheeler Tinker v. United States (Wheeler)*, 967 F. 2nd 222 (1992), held that, under Michigan law, title to islands which had been omitted from the original Federal survey passed to the littoral land owner when the littoral lands were patented. This is because the government did not survey the islands prior to the original conveyance, nor did the United States make any reservations of the islands in the patents for the littoral lands. Upon advice from the Department of the Interior’s Office of the Solicitor, in accordance with the above Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals decision, it has been determined that the United States has no claim or interest in the islands listed below.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Deputy State Director, Walter Rewinski, at (703) 440–1727, Eastern States, Division of Resources Planning, Use and Protection, 7450 Boston Boulevard, Springfield, VA 22153.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

Federal land policy has long held that lands, including islands, that were omitted from the original Federal survey remain the property of the United States

until the United States officially patents the lands out of Federal ownership. In 1988, the MPLIA was enacted to transfer unsurveyed islands in Michigan to the State of Michigan unless a valid claim by a private party to an island exists. Section 3 of the MPLIA allows islands to be sold by the Secretary of the Interior to parties who could demonstrate valid claims. The rights, title, and interest of the United States to any islands not purchased by claimants within 10 years after the date of enactment of the MPLIA would be transferred by the Secretary of the Interior to the State of Michigan under and subject to this Act. Following the passage of the MPLIA, the BLM received claims for a number of unsurveyed islands. In the early 1990’s, the BLM transferred ownership of all unsurveyed islands that did not receive claims to the State of Michigan in accordance to the MPLIA. The BLM then began adjudicating the claims filed under the MPLIA. Before adjudication could be completed, however, the Sixth Circuit decided *Wheeler*. The court held that under Michigan law, the unsurveyed islands had passed to the owners of the adjacent littoral land because the Government did not survey the island prior to the conveyance of the adjacent littoral lands, nor had the United States made any reservation of the islands in the patents for the littoral lands. According to *Wheeler*, the United States no longer has jurisdiction to sell islands to qualified claimants or to transfer islands to the State of Michigan. Therefore, the United States disclaims any interest in the islands listed below subject to *Wheeler*. Seventeen islands were surveyed by the United States after the MPLIA was enacted but before the *Wheeler* decision was made. These islands are subject to *Wheeler* and the United States disclaims interest in these islands also.

**UNSURVEYED ISLANDS SUBJECT TO WHEELER**

[All are in Michigan Meridian]

County	CCN	TNP	RNG	SEC	Acres	Location
Alpena .....	001	31N	6E	3	0.80	Island in Thunder Bay River.
	002	31N	6E	3	1.50	Island in Thunder Bay River.
	003	31N	6E	11	0.30	Island in Thunder Bay River.
	004	31N	6E	3	0.20	Island in Thunder Bay River.
	005	32N	6E	36	0.20	Island in Thunder Bay River.
	006	31N	8E	7	1.50	Island in Thunder Bay River.
	007	31N	8E	7	0.20	Island in Thunder Bay River.
	008	31N	8E	7	0.30	Island in Thunder Bay River.
	009	31N	8E	7	0.40	Island in Thunder Bay River.
	009	31N	8E	7	0.40	Island in Thunder Bay River.
Barry .....	010	31N	8E	18	0.30	Island in Thunder Bay River.
	004	1N	10W	7	1.30	Island In Pine Lake.
Berrien .....	005	1N	10W	15	2.80	Island In Crooked Lake.
	005	6S	18W	1	0.80	Island in St. Joseph River.
Branch .....	002	7S	5W	5	1.50	Island in Marble Lake.