

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Information Collection To Be Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Approval Under the Paperwork Reduction Act

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will submit the collection of information listed below to OMB for approval under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act. A copy of the information collection requirement is included in this notice. If you wish to obtain copies of the proposed information collection requirement, related forms, and explanatory material, contact the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer at the address listed below.

DATES: You must submit comments on or before April 19, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Send your comments on the requirement to the Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, ms 222-ARLSQ, 1849 C Street NW., Washington, DC 20204.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request a copy of the information collection request, explanatory information and related forms, contact Rebecca A. Mullin at (703) 358-2287, or electronically to rmullin@fws.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR 1320, which implement provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13), 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)). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (We) plan to submit a request to OMB to renew its approval of the collection of information for the Mourning Dove Call-Count Survey. We are requesting a 3-year term of approval for this information collection activity.

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. The OMB control number for this collection of information is 1018-0010.

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703-711) and Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742d) designate the Department of the Interior as the key agency responsible for the wise management of migratory bird

populations frequenting the United States and for the setting of hunting regulations that allow appropriate harvests that are within the guidelines that will allow for those populations' well being. These responsibilities dictate the gathering of accurate data on various characteristics of migratory bird populations. The Mourning Dove Call-Count Survey is an essential part of the migratory bird management program. The survey is a cooperative effort between us and State wildlife agencies. It is conducted each spring by State and Service biologists to provide the necessary data to determine the population status of the mourning dove. The survey results are then used to help guide us and the States in the annual promulgation of regulations for hunting mourning doves. Survey data are also used to plan and evaluate dove management programs and provide specific information necessary for dove research. If this survey were not used, there would be no way to determine the population status of mourning doves prior to setting regulations.

Title: Mourning Dove Call-Count Survey.

Approval Number: 1018-0010.

Service Form Number: 3-159.

Frequency of Collection: Annually.

Description of Respondents: State, local, tribal, provincial, or Federal employees.

Total Annual Burden Hours: The reporting burden is estimated to average 2.5 hours per respondent. The Total Annual Burden hours is 2,655 hours.

Total Annual Responses: About 1,062 individuals are expected to participate in the survey.

We invite comments concerning this renewal on: (1) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of our migratory bird management functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of our estimate of the burden of the 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. The information collections in this program are part of a system of record covered by the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552(a)).

Dated: February 9, 1999.

Paul R. Schmidt,

Acting Assistant Director for Refuges and Wildlife.

[FR Doc. 99-3654 Filed 2-12-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

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AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will submit the collection of information listed below to OMB for approval under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act. A copy of the information collection requirement is included in this notice. If you wish to obtain copies of the proposed information collection requirement, related forms, and explanatory material, contact the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer at the address listed below.

DATES: You must submit comments on or before April 19, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Send your comments and suggestions on the requirement to the Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, ms 222-ARLSQ, 1849 C Street NW., Washington, DC 20204.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request a copy of the information collection request, explanatory information and related forms, contact Rebecca A. Mullin at (703) 358-2287, or electronically to rmullin@fws.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR 1320, which implement provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13), 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)). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (We) plan to submit a request to OMB to renew its approval of the collection of information for the North American Woodcock Singing Ground Survey. We are requesting a 3-year term of approval for this information collection activity.

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. The OMB control number for this collection of information is 1018-0019.

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703-711) and Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742d) designate the Department of the Interior as the key agency responsible for the wise

management of migratory bird populations frequenting the United States and for the setting of hunting regulations that allow appropriate harvests that are within the guidelines that will allow for those populations' well being. These responsibilities dictate the gathering of accurate data on various characteristics of migratory bird populations. The North American Woodcock Singing-Ground Survey is an essential part of the migratory bird management program. This survey is conducted annually by State and Federal conservation agencies to provide the necessary data to determine the population status of the woodcock. In addition, the information is vital in assessing the relative changes in the geographic distribution of the woodcock. The information is used primarily by us to develop recommendations for hunting regulations. It is also used by us, State conservation agencies, University associates and other interested parties for various research and management projects. Without information on the population's status, we might promulgate hunting regulations that were too liberal thus causing harm to the woodcock population, or too conservative, thus unduly restricting recreational opportunities afforded by woodcock hunting.

Title: North American Woodcock Singing Ground Survey.

Approval Number: 1018-0019.

Service Form Number: 3-156.

Frequency of Collection: Annually.

Description of Respondents: State, local, tribal, provincial, or Federal employees.

Total Annual Burden Hours: The reporting burden is estimated to average 0.67 hours per respondent. The Total Annual Burden hours is 500 hours.

Total Annual Responses: About 750 individuals are expected to participate in the survey.

We invite comments concerning this renewal on: (1) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of our migratory bird management functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of our estimate of the burden of the 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. The information collections in this program are part of a system of record covered by the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552(a)).

Dated: February 9, 1999.

Paul R. Schmidt,

Acting Assistant Director for Refuges and Wildlife.

[FR Doc. 99-3655 Filed 2-12-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Information Collection Request Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Renewal Under the Paperwork Reduction Act

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service or we) will submit the collection of information described below to OMB for renewal under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. You may obtain copies of specific information collection requirements, related forms and explanatory material by contacting the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer at the address and/or phone numbers listed below.

DATES: Submit comments on or before April 19, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Send comments and suggestions on specific requirements to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS 222 ARLSQ 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20240.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Doug Staller, Chief, Branch of Visitor Services, Division in Refuges, 703/358-2029 or Dr. Jonathan G. Taylor, Research Social Scientist, U.S. Geological Survey, Fort Collins, CO 970/226-9438.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: We propose to submit the following information collection clearance requirements to OMB for renewal under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. We invite comments on: (1) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of our estimate of burden 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) ways to 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.

Congress authorized a recreation fee demonstration program in Pub. L. 104-134. We were one of the four agencies mandated to implement the program and evaluate its impact on the visiting public. This study will scientifically evaluate visitor reactions and impact of the fees on visitation to the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS). The U.S. Geological Survey, Biological Resources Division, Social Economic and Institutional Analysis Section in Fort Collins, Colorado will conduct the study under a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Although we planned to end this survey on December 15, 1998 with a joint report issued on March 31, 1999, a November, 1998 GAO report (GAO-RCED-99-7) recommended that only one year of data collection for the recreation fee demonstration program was insufficient. GAO concluded that this collection should continue for further evaluation. Section 328 of H.R. 4193 (subsequently in FY 1999 Interior appropriations) authorized extension of the program through FY 2001.

To represent the various types of fee changes, as well as fee demonstration refuges, six distinct fee programs and nine refuges were selected for inclusion in the study. These include: (1) New entrance fees (Sacramento NWR, CA and Aransas NWR, TX); (2) increased entrance fees (Dungeness NWR, WA); (3) new annual passes (Chincoteague NWR, VA and Crab Orchard NWR, IL); (4) new hunt fees (St. Catherine's Creek NWR, MS and Balcones Canyonlands NWR, TX); (5) non-hunt use permits (Buenos Aires NWR, AZ) and (6) non-fee adjustments (Piedmont NWR, GA). We will survey random samples of individuals using these refuges. We plan to use as part of the evaluation process a survey questionnaire to assess the different fee programs. We will distribute an on-site questionnaire during the peak season to a random sample of the visiting public and obtain a minimum of 400 completed surveys for each fee type. We will obtain additional information from Sacramento NWR to allow for examination of credit card entrances as well as new entrance fees in general. We will ask no questions of the participants, simply note payment by credit card. Overall, this will result in a total sample of 2,400 respondents. The margin of error for each fee type is $\pm 5\%$ at the 95% confidence level. The information gained from this survey will provide a viability of the fee program among the visiting public. The lead project officer is Dr. Jonathan G. Taylor,