

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the Refuge Improvement Act of 1997, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has published the Fort Niobrara Wildlife Refuge Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment and the Valentine National Wildlife Refuge Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment. These Plans describes how the FWS intends to manage both the Fort Niobrara and Valentine NWRs for the next 10–15 years.

**ADDRESSES:** A copy of either of the Plans may be obtained by writing to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Fort Niobrara/ Valentine NWR Complex, HC 14, Box 67, Valentine, NE 69201.

The Plans can also be obtained electronically through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Region 6 Land Acquisition and Refuge Planning HomePage. The Internet address to access the Plans is as follows: <http://www.r6.fws.gov/larp>. Follow the link to "CCP Status in Region 6," click on Nebraska on the Region 6 map, and look under the "Refuge" column for links to both the Fort Niobrara and Valentine Draft CCPs.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Bernardo Garza, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 25486 DFG, Denver, CO 80225, 303/236–8145 extension 672; fax 303/236–4792.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** For Niobrara and Valentine NWRs are located in north central Nebraska. These Plans and their supporting documents outline a vision for the management of each of these Refuges and specify how one of the largest contiguous blocks of federally owned Nebraska Sandhills grass-stabilized regions can be managed to conserve indigenous wildlife and provide enjoyment to people. Opportunities for compatible wildlife-dependent recreation will continue to be provided.

The comment period for these documents will be reopened until August 19, 1999. All comments need to be addressed to: Bernardo Garza, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, Land Acquisition and Refuge Planning, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 25486 DFC, Denver, Colorado 80225.

Dated: July 9, 1999.

**Terry T. Terrell,**

*Regional Director, Denver, Colorado.*

[FR Doc. 99–18020 Filed 7–14–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–55–M

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Geological Survey

#### Request for Public Comments on Proposed Information Collection To Be Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for Review Under the Paperwork Reduction Act

The proposed information collection described below will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for approval under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). Copies of the proposed collection of information may be obtained by contacting the Bureau's clearance officer at the phone number listed below. Comments and suggestions on the proposal should be made within 60 days directly to the Bureau clearance officer, U.S. Geological Survey, 807 National Center, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, 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 on the bureaus, including whether the information will have practical utility;
2. The accuracy of the bureau's 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 of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other forms of information technology.

**Title:** Public knowledge and perception of Black Tailed Prairie Dogs in the Midwest region of the United States.

**OMB Approval No:** New collection.

**Abstract:** The ability to identify knowledge gaps in the public's understanding of the issues concerning Black-tailed Prairie Dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*) is necessary while conservation efforts involving this species are in the early planning stages. The object of this study is to provide information that is needed to understand the complexities of wildlife/human interactions and current land use and management practices. Any additional information about this species can provide data that can help determine if the species needs to be included on the Federal list of threatened and endangered wildlife and plants. As a result of rapidly declining populations, increased pressure to

develop habitats, and controversies about disease vectors associated with prairie dog communities attention has focused in the past few years on the status of this species. The issue of listing Prairie Dog as threatened or endangered species has become a very important subject for fish and wildlife managers, political leaders, and community groups in a 10 state area of the Midwest (Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Arizona, Utah, Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska). Although the subject has achieved wide attention, no studies have been conducted that evaluate public knowledge, perception, or economic value of prairie dog communities and management practices in these area. Understanding public knowledge, perception, and values is a vital component of wildlife management. Improved understanding will guide future management practices.

**Bureau Form No:** None.

**Frequency:** One time.

**Description of Respondents:** Individual or households.

**Estimated Completion Time:** 12 minutes per respondent (approximate).  
**Number of Respondents:** 2880 (3,600 mail surveys).

**Burden hours:** 576 hours. (the burden estimates are based on 12 minutes to complete each questionnaire and an 80% return rate.)

All comments concerning this notice should be addressed to Berton Lee Lamb, Supervisory Administrative Analyst, 970–226–9314; or Phadrea Ponds, Wildlife Biologist, 970–226–9445, U.S. Geological Survey, Biological Resources Division, Social, Economic and Institutional Analysis Section, 4512 McMurry Avenue, Fort Collins, CO 80525–3400.

For Additional Information Please Contact: Phadrea Ponds, (970) 226–9445, [phadrea\\_ponds@usgs.gov](mailto:phadrea_ponds@usgs.gov)  
Bureau clearance officer: John Cordyack (703) 648–7313.

Dated: July 21, 1999.

**Dennis B. Fenn,**

*Chief Biologist.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[CO–932–1430–01; COC–60906]

#### Public Land Order No. 7399; Withdrawal of Public Lands for Recreation Sites; Colorado

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.