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Section A. Order of Succession

Subject to the provisions of the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, during any period when, by reason of absence, disability, or vacancy in office, the Secretary is not available to exercise the powers or perform the duties of the Secretary, the following are hereby designated to exercise all powers, functions and duties assigned to or vested in the Secretary. However, no official shall act as Secretary until all of the appointees listed before such official's title in this designation are unable to act by reason of absence, disability, or vacancy in office:

- (1) Deputy Secretary
- (2) General Counsel
- (3) Assistant Secretary for Housing-Federal Housing Commissioner
- (4) Assistant Secretary for Community, Planning and Development
- (5) Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing
- (6) Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research
- (7) Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity
- (8) Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations
- (9) Assistant Secretary for Administration
- (10) Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs.

In the event of a national security or other emergency and none of the officials named above is able to act, appointees to the positions listed below are authorized to exercise all powers, functions, and duties assigned to or vested in the Secretary. Executive Order No. 12656, 53 FR 47491 (published November 23, 1988), as amended at 63 FR 7277 (February 12, 1998). However, no official shall act as Secretary until, all of the appointees listed before such official's title in this designation are unable to act by reason of absence, disability, or vacancy in office:

1. President, Government National Mortgage Association
2. Chief Financial Officer
3. Director, Office of Federal Enterprise Oversight
4. Secretary's Representative, New England (Boston)
5. Secretary's Representative, New York/New Jersey (New York)
6. Secretary's Representative, Mid-Atlantic (Philadelphia)
7. Secretary's Representative, Southeast/Caribbean (Atlantic)
8. Secretary's Representative, Midwest (Chicago)
9. Secretary's Representative, Southwest (Fort Worth)

10. Secretary's Representative, Great Plains (Kansas City)
11. Secretary's Representative, Rocky Mountains (Denver)
12. Secretary's Representative, Pacific/Hawaii (San Francisco)
13. Secretary's Representative, Northwest/Alaska (Seattle)

Section B. Authority Superseded

This Order of Succession supersedes the Order of Succession of the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, published at 54 FR 50823 (December 11, 1989).

Authority: Executive Order 11274, 5 U.S.C. 3347; sec. 7(d), Department of Housing and Urban Development Act (42 U.S.C. 3535(d)); Executive Order 12656, 53 FR 47491 (November 23, 1988), as amended at 63 FR 7277 (February 12, 1998); Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345-3349d.

Dated: November 30, 2000.

Andrew Cuomo,

Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

[FR Doc. 00-31504 Filed 12-11-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Information Collection Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Approval under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA)

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: New information collection—NEPA compliance checklist.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has submitted the collection of information requirement described below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for approval under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA). You may obtain copies of the collection requirement and related forms and explanatory material by contacting the Service's Information Collection Clearance Officer at the phone number listed below. The Service is soliciting comment and suggestions on the requirement as described below.

DATES: Consideration will be given to all comments received on or before January 11, 2001. OMB has up to 60 days to approve or disapprove an information collection, but may respond after 30 days. Therefore to ensure maximum consideration, OMB should receive public comments by the above referenced date.

ADDRESSES: Interested parties should send comments and suggestions on the requirement to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Attn: Interior Desk Officer (1018-XXXX), New Executive Office Building, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503 and they should send a copy of the comments to: Rebecca A. Mullin, Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 222, Arlington, VA 22203. (703) 358-2278 or Rebecca_Mullin@fws.gov E-mail.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jack Hicks, (703) 358-1851, fax (703) 358-1837, or Jack_Hicks@fws.gov E-mail.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The OMB regulations at 5 CFR 1320, which implement the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13), require that interested members of the public have the opportunity to comment on information and record keeping activities.

On September 1, 2000 the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service signed Director's Order No. 127 establishing policy and procedures for the preparation of an administrative record for complying with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) by Service personnel who administer Federal financial assistance programs. This record was developed in the form 3-2185 adopted by the Service as the NEPA Compliance Checklist.

On September 12, 2000 the Service published in the **Federal Register** (FR Vol. 65, No. 177, p55032) a 60 day notice and request for public comment on this information collection. That comment period ended on November 13, 2000. We received the following comments from this earlier notice.

1. One private individual E-mailed asking where she could get copies of the form and supporting information.

Response: She was referred by return E-mail to the Service's Home Page with directions for navigation to the Director's Order. A sample of the new form was attached to the E-mail response.

2. A State employee E-mailed the following comments.

A. The wording on Item 6 is so broad that almost anything could be categorically excluded (2 examples were included with the comment), please remove this Item.

B. Categorical exclusions are classes of actions which do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment. The wording for Item 6 carries this to a new level that

will cause confusion and unnecessary writing of EA's.

Response to both: The language in item 6 in the NEPA Compliance Checklist is not new to the Service. It has been a requirement in the Council on Environmental Quality regulations since 1978, and in the Departmental Manual (516 DM 2, App 2.6) since (at least) September 26, 1984. This requirement has been referenced in the Service's NEPA Manual since 1984. The intent is clear, Federal Agencies must address cumulative impacts of their actions. Your concern is how broadly (or how stringently) this is interpreted, particularly when it exists as an exception to a categorical exclusion. The Service has no absolute requirement as to when a categorical exclusion or an exception apply, it is not possible due to the complexity of our programs. In the past our application of this requirement and the interpretation by the courts of our decisions have been based on a rule of reason. Item 6 stays in the document, but as always, will be applied reasonably to more complex issues. The Service will continue to take a reasonable approach, consistent with NEPA, when determining when to prepare an EA or EIS.

3. A State wrote that they thought the new language was more restrictive than they have been using in the past and explained a process they use currently.

Response: The items on the checklist are the minimum thresholds for initiating either an Environmental Assessment or and Environmental Impact Statement. The process you currently use, the memorandum of understanding between your agency and the State Historic Preservation Office, is not endorsed by the FWS, DOI, or CEQ.

4. Another State wrote that the Service should delay implementation of

this checklist until after the Department has issued new manual chapters regarding DOI policy on NEPA.

Response: The checklist spells out the current minimum requirements for NEPA and will be changed to include the new items that may be added to the list by the Department of Interiors policy development process currently underway. What we are doing with the checklist now will gain approval from OMB for use of the checklist and ensure that everyone knows what the current minimum requirements are for NEPA consideration.

No other comments were received.

Description and Use: The Service administers several grant programs authorized by the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act, the Anadromous Fish Conservation Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Vessel Act, the Sportfishing and Boating Safety Act, North American Wetlands Conservation Act, the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act, and through other Acts and authorities. The Service uses the information collected to make a determination as to National Environmental Policy Act compliance. The State or other grantee uses the checklist as a guide to general NEPA requirements and it becomes an administrative record to meet their assurances requirements for receiving a grant. Grant applicants provide the information requested in the NEPA Compliance Checklist in order to qualify to receive benefits in the form of grants for purposes outlined in the applicable law. This form is designed to cause the minimum impact in the form of hourly burden on grant applicants and still get all the required information. Only about 3 percent of the Service's applicants for either a new grant or for an amendment

to an existing grant will meet the criteria, and need to complete the NEPA Compliance Checklist.

Title of Form: NEPA Compliance Checklist

FWS Form Number: 3-2185

OMB Control Number: 1018-XXXX
The Service will receive a control number from OMB prior to collecting any information. An agency 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.

Supplemental Information: The Service has submitted the following information collection requirements to OMB for review and approval under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Comments are invited 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 the agency's estimates of 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 collection of information on respondents, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Frequency: Generally annually.

Description of Respondents: State Government, territorial (the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, the Virgin Islands, and American Samoa), local governments, and others receiving grant funds.

COMPLETION TIME AND ANNUAL RESPONSE AND BURDEN ESTIMATE

Form name	Completion time per checklist	Annual response	Annual burden
NEPA Compliance Checklist	1/2 Hour	160	80

NEPA COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST

OMB Control Number 1018-XXXX

Expires: xx/xx/xxxx

State: Federal Financial Assistance Grant/Agreement/Amendment Number:

Grant/Project Name:

This proposal is/is not completely covered by categorical exclusion No(s) 516 DM 6 Appendix 1. (check (✓) one) (Review proposed activities. An appropriate categorical exclusion must be identified before completing the remainder of the Checklist. If a categorical exclusion cannot be identified, or the proposal cannot meet the qualifying criteria in the categorical exclusion, an EA must be prepared.)

Exceptions:

Will This Proposal (check (✓) yes or no for each item below):

- Yes No 1. Have significant adverse effects on public health or safety. 2. Have adverse effects on such unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources, park, recreation or refuge lands, wilderness areas, wild or scenic rivers, sole or principal drinking water aquifers, prime farmlands, wetlands, floodplains, or ecologically significant or critical areas, including those listed on the Department's National Register of Natural Landmarks. 3. Have highly controversial environmental effects. 4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks. 5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects. 6. Be directly related to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant environmental effects. 7. Have adverse effects on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. 8. Have adverse effects on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have adverse effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species. 9. Have material adverse effects on resources requiring compliance with Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), or the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. 10. Threaten to violate a Federal, State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.

(If any of the above exceptions receive a "Yes" check (✓), an EA must be prepared.)

Concurrences/Approvals:

Project Leader: Date:

State Authority Concurrence: Date: (with financial assistance signature authority, if applicable)

Within the spirit and intent of the Council of Environmental Quality's regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other statutes, orders, and policies that protect fish and wildlife resources, I have established the following administrative record and have determined that the grant/agreement/amendment:

- is a categorical exclusion as provided by 516 DM 6, Appendix 1. No further NEPA documentation will therefore be made. is not completely covered by the categorical exclusion as provided by 516 DM 6, Appendix 1. An EA must be prepared. includes other attached information supporting the Checklist.

Service signature approval:

RO/WO Environmental Coordinator (if required): Date:

Staff Specialist, Division of Federal Aid: Date:

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 350 1) and the Privacy Act of 1974 (U.S.C. 552), please be advised that:

The gathering of information from applicants to gain benefits is authorized under the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 777-777k) and the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669-669i). Information from this form will be used to formalize and execute Grant Agreements and Amendment to Grant Agreements issued under these and other Acts.

Your participation in completing this form is required to obtain benefits. Once submitted this form becomes public information and is not protected under the Privacy Act. The public reporting burden for this form is estimated at one-half hour per response, including time for gathering information, completing, reviewing and obtaining signature. Direct comments to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, 1018-XXXX, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS 222-ARLSQ; 1849 C Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240.

An agency may not conduct and a person is not required to complete a collection of information unless a currently valid OMB control number is displayed.

Dated: November 17, 2000.

Rebecca A. Mullin,

*Fish and Wildlife Service Information
Collection Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. 00-31508 Filed 12-11-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-C

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[OR-958-6310-PF-01-24 1A]

Extension of Approved Information Collection, OMB Number 1004-0168

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management,
Interior.

ACTION: Notice and request for
comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is announcing its intention to request extension of an existing approval to collect certain information from private landowners which will allow BLM to determine road use and maintenance fees for logging road right-of-way permits issued under the O&C Logging Road Right-of-Way regulations (43 CFR 2812).

DATES: You must submit your comments to BLM at the appropriate address below on or before February 12, 2001. BLM will not necessarily consider any comments received after the above date.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to: Regulatory Affairs Group (630), Bureau of Land Management, 1849 C Street NW, Room 401LS, Washington, DC 20240.

Comments may be sent via Internet to: WOCComment@blm.gov. Please include "ATTN: 1004-0168" and your name and return address in your Internet message.

Comments may be hand-delivered to the Bureau of Land Management, Administrative Record, Room 401, 1620 L Street, NW., Washington, DC.

Comments will be available for public review at the L Street address during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.), Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Styduhar, BLM Oregon State Office, on (503) 952-6454 (Commercial or FTS). Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8330, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to contact Mr. Styduhar.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: 5 CFR 1320.12(a) requires BLM to provide 60-day notice in the **Federal Register** concerning a collection of information contained in regulations found in 43 CFR 2812 to solicit comments on (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) 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. BLM will receive and analyze any comments sent in response to this notice and include them with its request for approval from the Office of Management and Budget under 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*

Private landowners in western Oregon obtain authorization to transport their timber over BLM-controlled roads under Title V of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1761). The logging road right-of-way permits that BLM issues are subject to the requirements of the O&C Logging

Road Right-of-Way regulations (43 CFR Part 2812). As a condition of each right-of-way permit, a permittee must provide BLM with a certified statement containing the amount of timber removed, the lands from which the timber was removed, and the BLM roads used to transport the timber. BLM collects this information on a quarterly basis using the Form OR-2812-6, Report of Road Use.

The monies BLM receives for road use contribute to the recovery of costs incurred in the construction of forest access roads. Fees collected for road maintenance are reimbursements for services BLM provided to maintain roads the permittees use. If BLM did not require the collection of information included in the Report of Road Use Form, it would not be possible to determine payment amounts, ledger account status, or monitor a permittee's compliance with the terms of the permit. The costs for services BLM provides would not be collected in a timely manner if we reduce the frequency of reporting. This would have a direct effect on the ability of BLM to properly maintain its road system, protect the road investment, and provide safe and efficient access to the public lands.

Based on BLM's experience administering the activities described above, the public reporting burden for the information collected estimates to average 1 hour per response. The respondents include individuals, partnerships, and corporations engaged in the removal and transportation of timber and other forest products. The frequency of response is quarterly. The estimated number of responses per year totals 400. The estimated total annual burden is 1600 hours. BLM specifically requests your comments on its estimate of the amount of time that it takes to prepare a response.

BLM will summarize all responses to this notice and include them in the