

	Number of respondents	×	Frequency of response	×	Hours per response	=	Burden hours
Reporting Burden .....	569		2		1		1,138

*Total Estimated Burden Hours:* 1,138.  
*Status:* Reinstatement, without change.

**Authority:** Section 3507 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 35, as amended.

Dated: July 20, 2001.

**Wayne Eddins,**

*Departmental Reports Management Officer,  
Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

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**BILLING CODE 4210-72-M**

## 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:** Information collection; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, have submitted the collection of information described below to OMB for approval under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. Copies of specific information collection requirements and explanatory materials may be obtained by contacting our Information Collection Officer at the address or phone number listed below.

**DATES:** You must submit comments on or before August 29, 2001.

**ADDRESSES:** Send your comments and suggestions on specific requirements to the Office of Management and Budget, Office of Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Department of the Interior Desk Officer, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503, and to Rebecca Mullin, Information Collection Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS 222-ARLSQ, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22203.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jeffrey L. Horwath, Division of Fish and Wildlife Management Assistance and Habitat Restoration, Arlington, Virginia, at 703/358-1718.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** We have submitted the following information collection clearance requirements to the OMB for review and approval under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995,

Public Law 104-13. The OMB has up to 60 days to approve or disapprove information collection, but they may respond after 30 days. Therefore, for your comments and suggestions to receive maximum consideration, the OMB should receive your input by August 29, 2001.

Currently, we have approval from the OMB to collect this information under OMB control number 1018-0070. This approval expires on October 31, 2001. We may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless we display a currently valid OMB control number.

On February 14, 2001, we published in the **Federal Register** (66 FR 10311) a 60-day notice of our intention to request information collection authority from the OMB; our notice solicited public comments. We received no comments in response to that notice.

As with our 60-day notice, this 30-day notice invites you to comment on: (1) Whether this collection of information is necessary for us to properly perform our functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of our estimate of burden, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions we used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information we propose to collect; and (4) ways for us to minimize the burden of the collection of information on people who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Section 101(a)(5)(A) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 authorizes us to allow the incidental, unintentional take of small numbers of marine mammals during a specified activity (other than commercial fishing) in a specified geographic region. Prior to allowing these takes, however, we must find that the total of such taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stocks, and will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stocks for subsistence uses by Alaska Natives.

The information that we propose to collect will be used to evaluate applications for specific incidental take regulations to determine whether such regulations, and subsequent Letters of

Authorization (LOA), should be issued; the information is needed to establish the scope of specific incidental take regulations. The information is also required to evaluate the impacts of the activities on the species or stocks of the marine mammals and on their availability for subsistence uses by Alaska Natives. It will ensure that all available means for minimizing the incidental take associated with a specific activity are considered by applicants.

We estimate that the burden associated with the request will be a total of 3,140 hours for the full 3-year period of OMB authorization. Two hundred hours will be required to complete the request for specific procedural regulations. For each LOA expected to be requested by you, and issued by us subsequent to issuance of specific procedural regulations, we estimate that 20 hours will be invested: eight hours will be required to complete each request for a LOA, four hours will be required for on-site monitoring activities, and eight hours will be required to complete each final monitoring report. We estimate that seven companies will be requesting LOAs and submitting monitoring reports annually for each of seven sites in the region covered by the specific regulations.

*Title:* Marine Mammals: Incidental Take During Specified Activities.

*Bureau form number:* None.

*Frequency of collection:* Biannually.

*Description of respondents:* Oil and gas industry companies.

*Number of respondents:* Seven for each of seven active sites per year (49).

*Estimated completion time:* For the one time application to request promulgation of the procedural rule, we estimate a 200-hour burden. Annually for three years, 8 hours per LOA, 4 hours for on-site monitoring, and 8 hours per final monitoring report are estimated for each requesting company for seven active sites (20 hours × 7 companies × sites = 980 hours × three years = 2,940 + 200 + 3,140 hours burden for three years).

*Burden estimate:* 3,140 hours.

Dated: April 25, 2001.

**Rebecca A. Mullin,**

*Information Collection Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*

[FR Doc. 01-18867 Filed 7-27-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-55-M**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Bureau of Land Management****[CA-610-01-1610-DL]****Lower Chemehuevi Valley, San Bernardino County, CA****AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.**ACTION:** Proposed order for temporary closure of selected routes of travel in the Lower Chemehuevi Valley of San Bernardino County, California and notice of availability of environmental assessment and draft finding of no significant impact on the proposed closures.

**SUMMARY:** Selected routes of travel located in the lower Chemehuevi Valley, California are proposed to be temporarily closed to vehicle use pursuant to 43 CFR 8364.1. The proposed closure is intended to protect public lands and resources by minimizing potential adverse impacts to sensitive resources, including the desert tortoise and its habitat from motorized vehicle use. This is an interim protection measure pending designation of routes as "open", "closed", or "limited" through an amendment to the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan of 1980, as amended. By taking this interim action as allowed under 43 CFR 8364.1, the Bureau of Land Management contributes to the conservation of the threatened and endangered desert tortoise in accordance with section 7(a)(1) of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1536(a)(1). BLM also avoids making any irreversible or irretrievable commitment of resources which would foreclose any reasonable and prudent alternatives which might be required as a result of the consultation on the CDCA plan in accordance with section 7(d) of the ESA, 16 U.S.C. 1536(d). We anticipate that this closure will remain in effect until September 1, 2002, when a record of decision is signed for the amendment to the California Desert Conservation Area Plan for the Northern and Eastern Colorado Desert, the subject of the consultation.

Exceptions to the vehicle closure include Bureau of Land Management (BLM) operation and maintenance vehicles, law enforcement and fire vehicles, and other emergency vehicles. In addition, on certain specified routes in the lower Chemehuevi Valley, valid mining claim holders are exempt from the closure for purposes of gaining access to their claims.

The Environmental Assessment concerning this closure is available for

a 15 day review period. Interested parties should contact the Field Office Manager at the address below for a copy and review schedule. The documents are also available for review on the BLM Needles Field Office web site ([www.ca.blm.gov/needles](http://www.ca.blm.gov/needles)). Written comments may be sent to the address listed below in this notice.

The Order for closure will be posted in the California BLM Needles Field Office and the Arizona BLM Lake Havasu Field Office, and at places near and/or within the area to which the closure applies.

**DATES:** No sooner than 30 days after publication of this notice, a final closure determination will be published.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments may be sent to the Needles Field Office, Attn: Planning and Environmental Coordinator, at 101 W. Spikes Road, Needles, California 92363.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On March 16, 2000, the Center for Biological Diversity, and others (Center) filed for injunctive relief in U.S. District Court, Northern District of California (Court) against the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) alleging that the BLM was in violation of section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1536(ESA) by failing to enter into formal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) on the effects of adoption of the California Desert Conservation Area Plan (CDCA Plan), as amended, upon threatened and endangered species. On August 25, 2000, the BLM acknowledged through a court stipulation that activities authorized, permitted, or allowed under the CDCA Plan may adversely affect threatened and endangered species, and that the BLM is required to consult with the FWS to insure that adoption and implementation of the CDCA Plan is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of threatened and endangered species or to result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat of listed species.

Although BLM has received biological opinions on selected activities, consultation on the overall CDCA Plan is necessary to address the cumulative effects of *all* the activities authorized by the CDCA Plan. Consultation on the overall Plan is complex and the completion date is uncertain. Absent consultation on the entire Plan, the impacts of individual activities, when added together with the impacts of other activities in the desert, are not known. The BLM entered into negotiations with plaintiffs regarding interim actions to be taken to provide protection for endangered and threatened species

pending completion of the consultation on the CDCA Plan. Agreement on these interim actions avoided litigation of plaintiffs' request for injunctive relief and the threat of an injunction prohibiting all activities authorized under the Plan. These interim agreements have allowed BLM to continue to authorize appropriate levels of activities throughout the planning area during the lengthy consultation process while providing appropriate protection to the desert tortoise and other listed species in the short term. By taking interim actions as allowed under 43 CFR Subpart 8364, BLM contributes to the conservation of endangered and threatened species in accordance with section 7(a)(1) of the ESA, 16 U.S.C. 1536(a)(1). BLM also avoids making any irreversible or irretrievable commitment of resources which would foreclose any reasonable and prudent alternative measures which might be required as a result of the consultation on the CDCA plan in accordance with section 7(d) of the ESA, 16 U.S.C. 1536(d). In January 2001, the parties signed the Stipulation and Proposed Order Concerning All Further Injunctive Relief providing for closures described in this Notice.

All existing routes in the subject areas are being or will be evaluated and proposed for designation as Open, Closed, or Limited through the land use planning process as amendments to the California Desert Conservation Area Plan. These designations will be based on criteria identified in 43 CFR 8342.1. Management of routes proposed for closure will minimize the potential for any adverse effects pending designation.

The proposed closure in the lower Chemehuevi Valley is necessary to minimize potential adverse impacts to the desert tortoise and its habitat. The proposed project area lies adjacent to and partially within the desert tortoise Chemehuevi Critical Habitat Unit. The closure will reduce the extent of motorized vehicle use in desert tortoise habitat and help prevent mortality of desert tortoise and other species.

The lower Chemehuevi Valley closure is described as follows: The closed routes are located south of Havasu Lake Road, one-mile west of the border of the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe Reservation, north of the northern boundary of the Whipple Mountains Wilderness Area and the East Mojave Heritage Trail, and east of U.S. Highway 95, San Bernardino County, California. Specifically, this order closes dirt routes identified in the Northern and Eastern Colorado Desert Plan in the following areas:

Route #690517, Township 4 North, Range 24 East, Sections 6, 7, 8, 10