

Year	Estimated number of respondents per year	Estimated average time required per report (in hours)	Average total annual burden (in hours)
2002 .....	95	2	190
2003 .....	110	2	220
2004 .....	135	2	270

Comments are invited on (1) whether the collection of information described in this notice is necessary for the proper performance of monitoring of recovered species as prescribed in section 4(g) of the ESA, 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 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; (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents. The information collections in this program will be part of a system of records covered by the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552(a)).

Dated: September 24, 2001.

**Rebecca A. Mullin,**

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

[FR Doc. 01-25391 Filed 10-9-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-55-P**

**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**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has submitted 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:** OMB has up to 60 days to approve or disapprove information

collection but may respond after 30 days. Therefore, to ensure maximum consideration, you must submit comments on or before the above referenced date.

**ADDRESSES:** Send your comments on the requirement to the Office of Management and Budget, 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, 1849 C Street, NW., Washington, DC 20240.

**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](mailto: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) has submitted a request to OMB for its approval of the collection of information for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Employee Exist Survey. We are requesting a 3-year term of approval for this information collection activity. A previous 60-day notice on this information collection requirement was published in the October 24, 2000 (65 FR 63617) **Federal Register** inviting public comment. No comments on the previous notice were received. This notice provides an additional 30 days in which to comment on the following information.

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 U.S. Fish and Wildlife form number for this collection of information is FWS 3-2186.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the Department of the Interior is the agency primarily responsible for fish, wildlife, and plant conservation. The Service helps protect a healthy

environment for people, fish and wildlife, and helps Americans conserve and enjoy the outdoors and our living treasures. To accomplish its mission, the Service employs around 7,500 of the country's best biologists, wildlife managers, engineers, realty specialists, educators, law enforcement agents, and others who work to save endangered and threatened species; conserve migratory birds and inland fisheries; restore habitats; provide expert conservation advice to other Federal agencies, industry, private citizens, and foreign governments; and manage millions of acres of wildlife lands. The Service Directorate has made it a high priority to recruit and retain these valued employees. As part of an active career development program, the Service has decided to institute an Employee Exit Survey to collect feedback from former Service employees so that we may discover relevant issues that impact retention. If this survey were not used, there would be no way the Service could analyze the reasons for employee separation.

*Title:* U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Employee Exit Survey.

*Service Form Number:* 3-2186.

*Frequency of Collection:* Annually.

*Description of Respondents:* Former U.S. Fish and Wildlife Employees.

*Total Annual Burden Hours:* The reporting burden is estimated to average 15 minutes per respondent. The Total Annual Burden hours is 100 hours.

*Total Annual Responses:* About 400 individuals are expected to participate in the survey. We invite comments concerning this submission on: (1) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of our career development 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: October 3, 2001.

**Rebecca A. Mullin,**

*Fish & Wildlife Service Collection Officer.*

[FR Doc. 01-25331 Filed 10-9-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Notice of Reopening the Comment Period for the Draft Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Recovery Plan for Review and Comment

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of document availability and reopening of comment period.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announces the reopening of the comment period for the draft Recovery Plan for the southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*). Reopening the comment period will allow all interested parties an additional opportunity to submit written comments on the draft plan, will allow further meetings with the six Implementation Subgroups associated with the recovery planning effort, and will allow the Service to schedule public meetings where needed.

The breeding range of this bird includes southern California, southern Nevada, southern Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, western Texas, southwestern Colorado, and possibly extreme northern portions of the Mexican states of Baja, California del Norte, Sonora, and Chihuahua. Within this region, the species breeds in dense riparian tree and shrub communities associated with rivers, swamps, and other wetlands including lakes (e.g., reservoirs). Most of these habitats are classified as forested wetlands or scrub-shrub wetlands. The Service solicits review and comment from the public on this draft plan.

**DATES:** Comments on the draft Recovery Plan must be received on or before December 10, 2001 to receive consideration by the Service.

**ADDRESSES:** Persons wishing to review the draft Recovery Plan may obtain a copy by contacting Greg Beatty, Arizona Ecological Services Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2321 West Royal Palm Road, Suite 103, Phoenix, Arizona, 85021-4951 (602/242-0210). Written comments and materials regarding the plan should be addressed to the Field Supervisor at this same address. Comments and materials received are available on request for public inspection, by appointment,

during normal business hours at the above address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Greg Beatty (see **ADDRESSES**).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

On June 6, 2001, the Service published the initial Notice of Availability of the Draft Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Recovery Plan for review and comment (66 FR 30477). The comment period encompassed by the initial Notice of Availability closed on October 4, 2001.

Restoring an endangered or threatened animal or plant species to the point where it is again a secure, self-sustaining member of its ecosystem is a primary goal of the Service's endangered species program. To help guide the recovery effort, the Service is working to prepare recovery plans for most of the listed species native to the United States. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for conservation of species, establish criteria for the recovery levels for downlisting or delisting them, and estimate time and cost for implementing the recovery measures needed.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), requires the development of recovery plans for listed species unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of a particular species. Section 4(f) of the Act, as amended in 1988, requires that public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment be provided during recovery plan development. The Service will consider all information presented during the public comment period prior to approval of each new or revised recovery plan. The Service and other Federal agencies will also take these comments into account in the course of implementing approved recovery plans.

The Draft Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Recovery Plan describes the status, current management, recovery objectives and criteria, and specific actions needed to reclassify the southwestern willow flycatcher from endangered to threatened, and to ultimately delist it. The draft Plan was developed by the Recovery Team. The team is comprised of technical specialists from the U.S. Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station, Albuquerque, New Mexico; the University of California, Santa Barbara, California; New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, New Mexico; USGS Western Ecological Research Center, San Diego State University, San Diego, California; The Nature

Conservancy, Tucson, Arizona; U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Phoenix, Arizona; USGS Forest and Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center, Colorado Plateau Field Station, Flagstaff, Arizona; Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona; California Department of Fish and Game, Santa Rosa, California; Southern Sierra Research Center, Weldon, California; New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Santa Fe, New Mexico; and geographically-based teams of stakeholders (Implementation Subgroups), which include representatives of Native American Tribes, State and local governments, ranchers, private land owners and managers, agency representatives, and others.

The southwestern willow flycatcher is known to currently breed in dense riparian vegetation in southern California, southern Nevada, southern Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, and southwestern Colorado. Although extreme northwestern Mexico and western Texas are considered part of its breeding range, no nesting birds are presently known to occur in these areas. The dense riparian vegetation that is needed for breeding was historically rare and sparsely distributed, and is now more rare. Destruction and modification of riparian habitats have been caused mainly by: reduction or elimination of surface and subsurface water due to diversion and groundwater pumping; changes in flood and fire regimes due to dams and stream channelization; clearing and controlling vegetation, livestock grazing; changes in water and soil chemistry due to disruption of natural hydrologic cycles; and establishment of non-native plants. Concurrent with habitat loss have been increases in brood parasitism by the brown-headed cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) and the presence of nest predation which inhibits reproductive success and further reduces population levels. Actions needed to recover the southwestern willow flycatcher are those that would increase and improve breeding habitat by restoring and/or re-creating natural physical and biotic processes that influence riparian ecosystems, and reducing other stresses on the flycatcher. Specific actions include: changing management of surface and groundwater, including fundamental changes in dam operations, and restoring flood cycles; reducing impacts of domestic livestock, wild burros, and native ungulates; improving metapopulation stability; securing long-term protection of breeding habitat; managing exotic plant species; reducing brood parasitism by brown-headed