

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS–HQ–MB–2015–N204; 91100–3740–GRNT 7C]

Announcement of Meetings: North American Wetlands Conservation Council; Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Advisory Group

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meetings.

SUMMARY: The North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Council) will meet to select North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant proposals for recommendation to the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission (Commission). This meeting is open to the public. The Advisory Group for the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA) grants program (Advisory Group) also will meet. This meeting is also open to the public, and interested persons may present oral or written statements.

DATES:

Council: Meeting is December 2, 2015, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Council will consider Canadian, Mexican, and U.S. Standard grant proposals. If you are interested in presenting information at this public meeting, contact the Council Coordinator no later than November 25, 2015.

Advisory Group: Meeting is December 1, 2015, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Advisory Group will discuss the strategic direction and management of the NMBCA program. If you are interested in presenting information at this public meeting, contact the Council

Coordinator no later than November 25, 2015.

ADDRESSES: The Council and Advisory Group meetings will take place at Francis Marion Hotel, 387 King Street, Charleston, South Carolina 29403.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sarah Mott, Council Coordinator, by phone at 703–358–1784; by email at dbhc@fws.gov; or by U.S. mail at U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 5275 Leesburg Pike MS: MB, Falls Church, Virginia 22041.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Council) will meet to select North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant proposals for recommendation to the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission (Commission). This meeting is open to the public. The Advisory Group for the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA) grants program (Advisory Group) also will meet. This meeting is also open to the public, and interested persons may present oral or written statements.

About the Council

In accordance with NAWCA (Pub. L. 101–233, 103 Stat. 1968, December 13, 1989, as amended), the State-private-Federal Council meets to consider wetland acquisition, restoration, enhancement, and management projects for recommendation to, and final funding approval by, the Commission.

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act of 1989 provides matching grants to organizations and individuals who have developed partnerships to carry out wetlands conservation projects in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. These

projects must involve long-term protection, restoration, and/or enhancement of wetlands and associated uplands habitats for the benefit of all wetlands-associated migratory birds. Project proposal due dates, application instructions, and eligibility requirements are available on the NAWCA Web site at www.fws.gov/birds/grants/north-american-wetland-conservation-act.php.

About the Advisory Group

In accordance with NMBCA (Pub. L. 106–247, 114 Stat. 593, July 20, 2000), the Advisory Group will hold its meeting to discuss the strategic direction and management of the NMBCA program and provide advice to the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 2000 promotes long-term conservation of Neotropical migratory birds and their habitats through a competitive grants program by promoting partnerships, encouraging local conservation efforts, and achieving habitat protection in 36 countries. The goals of the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act include perpetuating healthy bird populations, providing financial resources for bird conservation, and fostering international cooperation. Because the greatest need is south of the U.S. border, at least 75 percent of NMBCA funding supports projects outside the United States.

Project proposal due dates, application instructions, and eligibility requirements are available on the NMBCA Web site at <http://www.fws.gov/birds/grants/neotropical-migratory-bird-conservation-act.php>.

Public Input

If you wish to:	You must contact the Council Coordinator (see FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT) no later than
(1) Attend the Council or Advisory Group meeting	November 25, 2015.
(2) Submit written information or questions before the Council or Advisory Group meeting for consideration during the meeting.	November 25, 2015.

Submitting Written Information or Questions

Interested members of the public may submit relevant information or questions to be considered during the public meetings. If you wish to submit a written statement, so that the information may be made available to the Council or Advisory Group for their consideration prior to the meetings, you must contact the Council Coordinator by the date in Public Input. Written statements must be supplied to the

Council Coordinator in both of the following formats: One hard copy with original signature, and one electronic copy via email (acceptable file formats are Adobe Acrobat PDF, MS Word, MS PowerPoint, or rich text file).

Giving an Oral Presentation

Individuals or groups requesting to make an oral presentation at the meetings will be limited to 2 minutes per speaker, with no more than a total of 30 minutes for all speakers. Interested

parties should contact the Council Coordinator by the date above, in writing (preferably via email; see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**), to be placed on the public speaker list for either of these meetings. Nonregistered public speakers will not be considered during the Council meeting. Registered speakers who wish to expand upon their oral statements, or those who had wished to speak but could not be accommodated on the agenda, are invited to submit written statements to

the Council within 30 days following the meeting.

Meeting Minutes

Summary minutes of the Council and Advisory Group meetings will be maintained by the Council Coordinator at the address under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. Meeting notes will be available by contacting the Council Coordinator within 30 days following the meeting. Personal copies may be purchased for the cost of duplication.

Jerome Ford,

Assistant Director, Migratory Birds.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

U.S. Geological Survey

[GX16BD009AV0100]

Agency Information Collection

Activities: Request for Comments

AGENCY: U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Interior.

ACTION: Notice of a new information collection: Assessment of Effects of Climate on Waterfowl.

SUMMARY: We (the U.S. Geological Survey) will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve the information collection (IC) described below. As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, and as part of our continuing efforts to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, we invite the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on this IC.

DATES: To ensure that your comments are considered, we must receive them on or before December 29, 2015.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments on this information collection to the Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Geological Survey, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive MS 807, Reston, VA 20192 (mail); (703) 648-7197 (fax); or *gs-info_collections@usgs.gov* (email). Please reference 'Information Collection 1028—Assessment of Effects of Climate on Waterfowl' in all correspondence.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brad Griffith, Leader, USGS, Alaska Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at (907) 474-5067 or *ffdbg@usgs.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The USGS National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center coordinates the research activities of 8 Regional Climate Science Centers. To increase efficiency of investigations, the relevance of research topics and the effectiveness of research it is critical to identify the types of information that are most critical for the development of a focused and integrated multi-regional research program. This is particularly true for wildlife species that migrate (e.g., waterfowl) among regions in which the direction and strength of climate effects on wildlife populations and their habitats are expected to be quite variable. This collection seeks to identify (1) the most important habitat and harvest factors that affect waterfowl population size on breeding, migratory and winter ranges, (2) the demographic traits (fecundity or survival) that are affected by these factors, (3) the likely direction and magnitude of climate effects on the most important waterfowl habitat and harvest factors that affect waterfowl population size and (4) the highest priority research needs on breeding, migratory and wintering ranges. We are collecting this information with a questionnaire survey of a sample of professional waterfowl researchers and managers because scientific papers that present this information are not available. The information we collect will identify the most important research topics within and among Regional Climate Science Centers in regard to climate effects on migratory waterfowl. We will (1) summarize the results, (2) present them at a workshop at a national scientific meeting, (3) use this presentation to facilitate further discussion among professional waterfowl researchers and managers who attend the workshop regarding research priorities and (4) publish the results of the survey and the workshop discussion in a refereed scientific publication. The only Personally Identifiable Information (PII) that we will collect will be the name and employer (State, Federal or Non-governmental Organization research or management) of the respondents to the survey. We will use these names to keep track of which questionnaire recipients have responded and to summarize the proportional composition of the types of employment of respondents. We will mail paper forms to all respondents and give them the option of filling out a web form if they prefer. We will not associate the names of recipients with summarized responses. All paper form responses received will be kept in a locked cabinet and web form responses

will be encrypted. After publication of the summarized results we will remove the name of respondents from both the paper forms and web forms.

II. Data

OMB Control Number: 1028—NEW.
Title: Assessment of Effects of Climate on Waterfowl.

Type of Request: New information collection.

Affected Public: Professional waterfowl researchers and managers that are employed by State or Federal government agencies or Non-governmental Organizations (NGO) such as the Migratory Bird Joint Ventures.

Respondent's Obligation: None, participation is voluntary.

Frequency of Collection: One time.

Estimated Annual Number of Respondents: 100; Public NGO 20, State and Local Govt. 20, Federal Govt. 60.

Estimated Total Number of Annual Responses: 100.

Estimated Time per Response: 60 minutes.

Estimated Annual Burden Hours: 100.

Estimated Reporting and Recordkeeping "Non-Hour Cost" Burden: None.

Public Disclosure Statement: The PRA (44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*) provides that an agency may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number and current expiration date.

III. Request for Comments

We are soliciting comments as to: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the agency to perform its duties, including whether the information is useful; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, usefulness, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) how to minimize the burden on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Please note that the comments submitted in response to this notice are a matter of public record. Before including your personal mailing address, phone number, email address, or other personally identifiable information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including your personally identifiable information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personally identifiable information from public view, we