

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to: Ms. Judy McClendon, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 24385 State Highway 51, Puxico, Missouri 63960. Telephone: Toll-free 800/686-8339; or 573/222-6001. Individuals with speech or hearing impairments may call the Missouri Relay Services at 800/735-2966 (TTY). Fax: 573/222-6150. E-Mail: R3planning@fws.gov or judy_mcclendon@fws.mail.gov

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Judy McClendon at the address, phone number, or E-Mail above. Individuals wishing copies of this Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for review should immediately contact the above individual. Copies of the EIS or Summary have been sent to all agencies and individuals who participated in the scoping process and to all others who have already requested copies.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Ms. Judy McClendon, Wildlife Biologist, is the primary author of this document. The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), Department of the Interior, has prepared a final EIS on the proposal to expand the Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge in Missouri from its currently authorized 16,628 acres to a total of 60,000 acres.

The Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge expansion would be accomplished by acquiring from willing sellers an additional 43,372 acres along the 20-county Missouri River floodplain from Kansas City, Missouri, to St. Louis, Missouri, and the lower 10 miles of major tributaries. Acquisition could include methods such as fee title purchase, easements or agreements with landowners, partnerships, or donations. Selection criteria, such as willing sellers, presence of remnant floodplain ecosystems, and potential ecosystem restoration capabilities, will be used to determine specific sites for acquisition. Management goals of the Big Muddy project are to restore acquired acreage to a natural floodplain condition which could include restoring bottomland forests, improve and restore wetland values, improve fishery and wildlife resources, and provide additional public use areas for fish and wildlife dependent recreation.

This action is designed to preserve and restore the natural river floodplain ecosystem, allow for management of viable and diverse fish and wildlife habitats, and provide for compatible fish and wildlife dependent recreation.

The major alternatives under consideration that were analyzed and evaluated during planning are: (A) No Action. The Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge would not be

expanded beyond the currently authorized 16,628 acres. This acreage figure amounts to 2.7 percent of the 800,000 acre floodplain in this reach of the Missouri River and is insufficient to protect the health of the Missouri River floodplain ecosystem; (B) Expand the Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge to 60,000 acres by acquisition of 43,372 acres dispersed along the Missouri River corridor from its confluence with the Kansas River, near Kansas City, to its confluence with the Mississippi River, near St. Louis, Missouri. Expansion under Alternative B (Preferred) would allow approximately 8 percent of riverine habitat losses of the Missouri River and its floodplain from Kansas City to St. Louis, Missouri to be restored. This amount of floodplain ecosystem preservation, along with a combined 30,000 acres to be acquired by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Missouri Department of Conservation, will equal about 12 percent of the subject floodplain. Natural resource managers in the Midwest recommend preserving 10 to 20 percent of the floodplain.

Three other alternatives were considered but not analyzed. They include: (C) seek permanent protection of fish, wildlife, and habitats through cooperative agreements with landowners and other agencies with no acquisition of lands; (D) encourage private land programs to preserve or restore fish, wildlife, and their habitats without further acquisition; and (E) acquire the entire Missouri River floodplain from Kansas City to St. Louis, Missouri, about 800,000 acres.

Alternatives, C, D, and E were rejected because they did not have the capacity to address the Service's mandated responsibilities, did not provide permanent resource protection and restoration opportunities, failed to meet the purpose and need for which the Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge was established, or were considered to be impractical and cost-prohibitive.

Other governmental agencies and members of the general public contributed to the planning and evaluation of the proposal and to the preparation of the EIS. The Notice of Intent to prepare the EIS was published in the **Federal Register** on November 28, 1995. Public open house meetings to receive comments on the Draft EIS were held in five locations in November 1997; a 90-day public comment period began in November 1997, and closed February 17, 1998. Over 500 comments were received and considered during preparation of the Final EIS. The

Service gave presentations to county officials, conservation groups, other interested parties and the media, and informed the public through intermittent distribution of the *Big Muddy Update*. The Service's mailing list has over 1,800 names.

All comments received by May 3, 1999, will be considered in preparation of the Record of Decision for this proposed action.

Dated: March 22, 1999.

William F. Hartwig,

Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 99-7870 Filed 3-30-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Geological Survey

Biological Resources Division; Request for Public Comments on Information Collection To Be Submitted to OMB for Review Under the Paperwork Reduction Act

A request extending the 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.

As required by OMB regulations at 5 CFR 1320.8(d)(1), the U.S. Geological Survey solicits specific public comments as to:

1. Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of 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: Frogwatch USA.

Current OMB Approval Number: 1028-0072.

Summary: The collection of information referred to herein applies to a World-Wide Web site that permits individuals to submit records of the number of calling amphibians at wetlands. The Web site is termed Frogwatch USA. Information will be used by scientists and federal, state, and local agencies to identify wetlands showing significant declines in populations of amphibians.

Estimated Annual Number of Respondents: 500.

Estimated Annual Burden Hours: 3,625 hours.

Affected Public: Primarily U.S. residents.

For Further Information Contact: To obtain copies of the survey, contact the Bureau clearance officer, U.S. Geological Survey, 807 National Center, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, Virginia, 20192, telephone (703) 648-7313, or see the website at www.mp2-pwrc.usgs.gov/frogwatch/.

Dated: March 23, 1999.

Susan Haseltine,

Assistant Chief Biologist for Science.

[FR Doc. 99-7795 Filed 3-30-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-Y7-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Information Collection Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for Review under the Paperwork Reduction Act

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of reinstatement.

SUMMARY: This notice announces that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has submitted the information collection request, OMB No. 1076-0017, for reinstatement under the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*). On June 5, 1998, the BIA published a Notice in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 30771) requesting comments on Application for Assistance/Services under the Financial Assistance and Social Services Program, the information collection proposed for reinstatement. One public comment was received during the 60-day comment period. The respondent recommended that the application form be divided into two separate forms, enlarging the print, and that Self-Governance Tribes be provided flexibility to develop their own forms. In response to the suggestions, the BIA stated that prior to 1992, there were two separate application forms. Based on the

recommendations of a majority of tribes for brevity and ease of application, the forms were combined. The print is small because of the volume of information requested, but has been determined readable by users and caseworkers alike. Therefore, one comment was not sufficient to change the format. In response to the recommendation that the Self-Governance Tribes not be required to use the form, the BIA agrees that there is no statutory requirement for the Self-Governance Tribes to use the form. However, if the Tribes choose a different form, comparable data should be collected so that the information can be used for reporting and budget preparation purposes.

DATES: OMB is required to respond to this request within 60 days after publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, but may respond after 30 days; therefore, your comments should be submitted to OMB by April 30, 1999 to assure maximum consideration.

ADDRESSES: Your comments and suggestions on the requirements should be made directly to the Attention: Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10102, 725 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20503. Please provide a copy to Mr. Larry Blair, Office of Tribal Services, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW, MS-4603-MIB, Washington, D.C. 20240.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Copies of the collection of information may be obtained by contacting Larry Blair, Office of Tribal Services, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW, MS-4603-MIB, Washington, D.C. 20240. Telephone: (202) 208-2479.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The information collection is in compliance with 25 CFR Part 20. The information is used to determine eligibility for services and funding of welfare assistance funds which includes general assistance, child welfare assistance, and miscellaneous assistance. In addition, the BIA uses this data to measure program performance and for gathering data to prepare the annual program budget justification.

II. Request for Comments

We specifically request your comments be submitted to OMB as directed in the addresses section. Please send a copy to the BIA. Comments should be submitted within 30 days concerning the following:

1. Is the collection of information necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the BIA; does the information have practical utility;

2. Is BIA's estimate of the burden of the information collection accurate; are the methodology and assumptions used valid;

3. Can the quality, utility and clarity of the information collected be improved, and,

4. Can the burden of the information collection be minimized for those who are to respond; is the use of appropriate automated electronic, mechanical or other forms of information technology considered.

III. Data

Title of the Collection of Information: Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Application for Financial Assistance and Social Services Program.

OMB Number: 1076-0017.

Affected Entities: Members of Indian tribes and their members who are living on a reservation or near-reservation.

Frequency of Response: Annual.

Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 200,000 applicants.

Estimated Time per Application: 15 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 50,000 hours.

Dated: March 25, 1999.

Kevin Gover,

Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CA-670-1430-00; CACA-40068]

Notice of Realty Action; Leasing of Public Lands for Compromise Settlement of Litigation

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposes to offer a 20-year lease on a parcel of public land located in sections 10 and 15 of T. 17 S., R. 7 E., San Bernardino Meridian. This non-competitive lease is being offered as part of a court stipulation and order for compromise settlement of long standing litigation. The land has been examined and found suitable for leasing under the provision of Section 302 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, and 43 CFR Part 2920.