

and members of the public; State and local governments; and Tribal governments and individual Indian mineral owners. Federal members of the Committee will include representatives of the Office of Natural Resources Revenue, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Department of the Treasury, the Department of State, and the Department of Energy. The Committee will consist of approximately 21—but no more than 27—members to represent a range of interests concerned with implementation of EITI. In addition to honoring the EITI principle of self-selection within stakeholder sectors (industry, civil society, and government), the following criteria will be considered in making final selections:

(1) Understanding of and commitment to the EITI process.

(2) Ability to collaborate and operate in a multi-stakeholder setting.

(3) Access to and support from a relevant stakeholder constituency and authority to make decisions on its behalf.

(4) Basic understanding of the extractive industry and/or revenue collection or willingness to be educated on such matters.

(5) Ability to represent U.S.-based constituents, organizations, and institutions, or companies with significant operations in the U.S.

No individual who is currently registered as a Federal lobbyist is eligible to serve as a member of the Committee.

The Committee will meet quarterly or at the request of the Designated Federal Officer. Members of the Committee will serve without compensation. However, we may pay the travel and per diem expenses of Non-Federal Committee members, if appropriate, under the Federal Travel Regulations.

Background: In September 2011, President Barack Obama announced the United States' commitment to participate in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative. EITI is a signature initiative of the U.S. National Action Plan for the international Open Government Partnership and offers a voluntary framework for governments and companies to publicly disclose, in parallel, the revenues paid and received for extraction of oil, gas, and minerals that belong to the government.

Each framework is country-specific, and is the result of a multi-year, consensus-based process by a multi-stakeholder group comprised of government, industry, and civil society representatives. On October 25, 2011, President Obama named Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar as the U.S. Senior

Official responsible for implementing USEITI. In response, Secretary Salazar posted an entry on a White House blog that same day committing to work with industry and civil society to implement USEITI. To ensure the best possible job of stakeholder outreach, we retained an independent facilitator, the Consensus Building Institute (CBI), to conduct a stakeholder assessment as part of the USEITI implementation process.

On February 24, 2012 (74 FR 11151), we published a notice in the **Federal Register** seeking public comment on formation of a multi-stakeholder group to implement USEITI. In that notice, we committed to a series of public listening sessions to provide additional opportunities for public comment. In March 2012, we conducted listening sessions in St. Louis, Missouri; Denver, Colorado; Houston, Texas; and Washington, DC. CBI analyzed the input from these four public listening sessions, interviews with potential stakeholders, and written comments submitted to Interior. The input formed the basis of CBI's draft stakeholder assessment and findings regarding options for establishing the United States' multi-stakeholder group.

On May 3, 2012 (77 FR 26315), we published a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing a second public comment period, from May 18 through June 29, 2012, seeking feedback on CBI's draft stakeholder assessment and the recommended options for establishing the United States' multi-stakeholder group, which was published on May 18, 2012. As part of the second comment period, we held three public listening sessions in Anchorage, Alaska; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and New Orleans, Louisiana; a public webinar; and a USEITI public workshop on June 22, 2012, in Washington, DC.

CBI analyzed the input from these public listening sessions, written comments submitted to Interior, and comments and issues raised by stakeholders at the June 22, 2012, USEITI public workshop. This input formed the basis of CBI's final stakeholder assessment and findings regarding establishment of the United States' multi-stakeholder group.

On July 11, 2012 (77 FR 40893), we published a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing publication of CBI's final assessment regarding options for forming a United States' multi-stakeholder group that will be responsible for determining the implementation of USEITI. The assessment stated that the two viable and preferred options for standing up the MSG were a non-federal entity or a new federal advisory committee. Based

on the results of the assessment and input received at the June 22, 2012 USEITI public workshop, Interior decided to form a new federal advisory committee to serve as the initial form of the MSG. A new federal advisory committee would have the benefit of following a frequently-used procedure within the U.S. government's legal framework, and would allow the U.S. government to satisfy its convening responsibilities, while providing a forum for the MSG to serve its role in overseeing USEITI implementation.

Certification Statement: I hereby certify that the U.S. Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (USEITI) Advisory Committee is necessary, is in the public interest, and is established under the authority of the Secretary of the Interior, in support of the Open Government Partnership and the commitment in the United States' National Action Plan to implement the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative.

Dated: July 24, 2012.

Ken Salazar,

Secretary, Department of the Interior.

[FR Doc. 2012-18432 Filed 7-26-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-MR-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-HQ-IA-2012-N178;
FXIA1671090000P5-123-FF09A30000]

Endangered Species; Marine Mammals; Receipt of Applications for Permit

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of applications for permit.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, invite the public to comment on the following applications to conduct certain activities with endangered species, marine mammals, or both. With some exceptions, the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) prohibit activities with listed species unless Federal authorization is acquired that allows such activities.

DATES: We must receive comments or requests for documents on or before August 27, 2012. We must receive requests for marine mammal permit public hearings, in writing, at the address shown in the **ADDRESSES** section by August 27, 2012.

ADDRESSES: Brenda Tapia, Division of Management Authority, U.S. Fish and

Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 212, Arlington, VA 22203; fax (703) 358-2280; or email DMAFR@fws.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brenda Tapia, (703) 358-2104 (telephone); (703) 358-2280 (fax); DMAFR@fws.gov (email).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Public Comment Procedures

A. How do I request copies of applications or comment on submitted applications?

Send your request for copies of applications or comments and materials concerning any of the applications to the contact listed under **ADDRESSES**. Please include the **Federal Register** notice publication date, the PRT-number, and the name of the applicant in your request or submission. We will not consider requests or comments sent to an email or address not listed under **ADDRESSES**. If you provide an email address in your request for copies of applications, we will attempt to respond to your request electronically.

Please make your requests or comments as specific as possible. Please confine your comments to issues for which we seek comments in this notice, and explain the basis for your comments. Include sufficient information with your comments to allow us to authenticate any scientific or commercial data you include.

The comments and recommendations that will be most useful and likely to influence agency decisions are: (1) Those supported by quantitative information or studies; and (2) Those that include citations to, and analyses of, the applicable laws and regulations. We will not consider or include in our administrative record comments we receive after the close of the comment period (see **DATES**) or comments delivered to an address other than those listed above (see **ADDRESSES**).

B. May I review comments submitted by others?

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the street address listed under **ADDRESSES**. The public may review documents and other information applicants have sent in support of the application unless our allowing viewing would violate the Privacy Act or Freedom of Information Act. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may

be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

II. Background

To help us carry out our conservation responsibilities for affected species, and in consideration of section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), along with Executive Order 13576, “Delivering an Efficient, Effective, and Accountable Government,” and the President’s Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies of January 21, 2009—Transparency and Open Government (74 FR 4685; January 26, 2009), which call on all Federal agencies to promote openness and transparency in Government by disclosing information to the public, we invite public comment on these permit applications before final action is taken. Under the MMPA, you may request a hearing on any MMPA application received. If you request a hearing, give specific reasons why a hearing would be appropriate. The holding of such a hearing is at the discretion of the Service Director.

III. Permit Applications

A. Endangered Species

Applicant: Knoxville Zoological Gardens, Knoxville, TN; PRT-678490

The applicant requests renewal and amendment of their captive-bred wildlife registration under 50 CFR 17.21(g) for the following families and species, to enhance their propagation or survival. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

Families: Bovidae, Cercopithecidae, Felidae (does not include jaguar, margay or ocelot), Hominidae, Hylobatidae, Lemnidae, Tapiridae, Boidae.

Species: Jackass penguin (*Spheniscus demersus*), Bali starling (*Leucopsar rothschildi*), White-naped crane (*Grus vipio*).

Applicant: Andy Nguyen, Garden Grove, CA; PRT-79469A

The applicant requests a captive-bred wildlife registration under 50 CFR 17.21(g) for the radiated tortoise (*Astrochelys radiata*) to enhance their propagation or survival. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

Applicant: Ay Sao, El Cajon, CA; PRT-79772A

The applicant requests a captive-bred wildlife registration under 50 CFR 17.21(g) for the radiated tortoise (*Astrochelys radiata*) to enhance their propagation or survival. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

Applicant: Robert Blome, Florence, AZ; PRT-785246

The applicant requests renewal and amendment of their captive-bred wildlife registration under 50 CFR 17.21(g) for Galapagos tortoise (*Chelonoidis nigra*), radiated tortoise (*Astrochelys radiata*), and San Esteban Island chuckwalla (*Sauromalus varius*) to enhance their propagation or survival. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

Applicant: Species Survival Fund, Goddard, KS; PRT-724896

The applicant requests renewal and amendment of their captive-bred wildlife registration under 50 CFR 17.21(g) for the following families, genera, and species, to enhance their propagation or survival. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

Families: Bovidae, Equidae, Felidae, Rhinocerotidae.

Genus: *Saguinus*.

Species: Ring-tailed lemur (*Lemur catta*), Ruffed lemur (*Varecia variegata*), Lar gibbon (*Hylobates lar*), Siamang (*Symphalangus syndactylus*), Mandrill (*Mandrillus sphinx*), Jackass penguin (*Spheniscus demersus*).

Applicant: Mitchell Strickling, Midland, TX; PRT-80316A

The applicant requests a permit to import a sport-hunted trophy of one male bontebok (*Damaliscus pygargus pygargus*) culled from a captive herd maintained under the management program of the Republic of South Africa, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

B. Endangered Marine Mammals and Marine Mammals

Applicant: Darlene Ketten, Ph.D., Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, Woods Hole, MA; PRT-130062

The applicant requests renewal of the permit to authorize import, export, and acquisition of biological samples from marine otter (*Lontra felina*), all sea otters (*Enhydra lutris*), walrus (*Odobenus rosmarus*), polar bear (*Ursus*

maritimus), all manatee species (*Trichechus* spp.), and dugongs (*Dugong dugon*) to create cell lines for the purpose of scientific research. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

Applicant: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Marine Mammals Management, Anchorage, AK; PRT-039386

The applicant requests renewal of the permit to take up to 6000 walrus (*Odobenus rosmarus*) annually by biopsy darting and up to 50 walrus annually for tagging; to collect unlimited number of specimens from dead animals; to conduct aerial surveys; and to import unlimited number of biological specimens for the purpose of scientific research. The permit was issued on July 15, 2011, for 1 year, prior to the close of the comment period for the notice published June 23, 2011. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over the next 4 years.

Concurrent with publishing this notice in the **Federal Register**, we are forwarding copies of the above applications to the Marine Mammal Commission and the Committee of Scientific Advisors for their review.

Brenda Tapia,

Program Analyst/Data Administrator, Branch of Permits, Division of Management Authority.

[FR Doc. 2012-18353 Filed 7-26-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

U.S. Geological Survey

[USGS-GX12GL00DT70500]

Agency Information Collection

Activities: National Geological and Geophysical Data Preservation Program (NGGDPP)

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

ACTION: Notice of an extension of an existing information collection (1028-0087).

SUMMARY: To comply with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), we are notifying the public that we have submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) a new information collection request (ICR) for the extension of the paperwork requirements for the National Geological and Geophysical Data Preservation Program (NGGDPP). This notice provides the public and other Federal agencies an opportunity to comment on

the nature of this collection which is scheduled to expire on July 31, 2012.

DATES: You must submit comments on or before August 27, 2012.

ADDRESSES: Please submit comments on this information collection directly to the Office of Management and Budget, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior, via email (*OIRA_DOCKET@omb.eop.gov*) or fax 202-395-5806; and identify your submission as 1028-0087.

Please submit a copy of your comments to the USGS Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Geological Survey, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive MS 807, Reston, VA 20192 (mail); 703-648-7199 (fax); or *smbaloch@usgs.gov* (email). Please reference Information Collection 1028-0087.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Betty M. Adrian at (303) 202-4828 or by mail at U.S. Geological Survey, Box 25046, Mail Stop 975, Denver, CO 80225. You may also find this information collection request as submitted to OMB at *www.reginfo.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

This notice concerns the collection of information that is sufficient and relevant to evaluate and select proposals for funding under the NCGDPP. We will accept proposals from State geological surveys requesting funds to inventory and assess the condition of current collections and data preservation needs. Financial assistance will be awarded annually on a competitive basis following the evaluation and ranking of State proposals by a review panel composed of representatives from the Department of the Interior, State geological surveys, academic institutions, and the private sector. To submit a proposal, respondents must complete a project narrative and submit the application via *www.grants.gov*. Grant recipients must complete a final technical report at the end of the project period. Narrative and report guidance is available through *http://datapreservation.usgs.gov/* and at *www.grants.gov*.

II. Data

OMB Control Number: 1028-0087.

Title: National Geological and Geophysical Data Preservation Program (NGGDPP).

Respondent Obligation: Required to obtain or retain a benefit.

Frequency of Collection: Annually.

Estimated Number and Description of Respondents: 62 State Geological Surveys.

Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 62 (34 applications and 28 reports).

Estimated Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping "Hour" Burden: 1,266 hours. We expect to receive approximately 34 applications. It takes each applicant approximately 36 hours to complete the narrative and to present supporting documents. This includes the time for project conception and development, proposal writing and reviewing, and submitting the proposal application through *Grants.gov* (totaling 1,224 burden hours). We anticipate awarding 28 grants per year. The award recipients must submit a final report. We estimate that it will take approximately 1.5 hours to complete the requirement for the reports (totaling 42 hours).

Estimated Reporting and Recordkeeping "Non-Hour Cost" Burden: There are no "non-hour cost" burdens associated with this collection of information.

III. Request for Comments

On March 2, 2012 we published a **Federal Register** notice (77 FR 12871) announcing that we would submit this information collection to OMB for approval. The notice provided a 60-day public comment period ending on May 1, 2012. We did not receive any comments in response to that notice.

We again invite comments concerning this ICR on: (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) ways to minimize the burden on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. Before including your address, phone number, email address or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment including your personal identifying information, may be made publically available at anytime. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.