

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.*

[FR Doc. 2015-27699 Filed 10-29-15; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-55-P**

## 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

cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

**John Thompson,**

*Deputy Chief, U.S. Geological Survey, Cooperative Research Units.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**National Park Service**

[NPS-WASO-NRSS-SSB-19672; PPWONRADE2, PMP00E105.YP0000 (166)]

**Information Collection Request Sent to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Approval; Programmatic Clearance for NPS-Sponsored Public Surveys**

**AGENCY:** National Park Service, Interior.

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

**SUMMARY:** We (National Park Service, NPS) have sent an Information Collection Request (ICR) to OMB for review and approval. We summarize the ICR below and describe the nature of the collection and the estimated burden and cost. The National Park Service (NPS) sponsors public surveys to provide park managers with information needed for park planning, management, operations and evaluation of performance related to protecting park resources and meeting the needs of the public. In consultation with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Department of the Interior (DOI), the NPS has developed a Programmatic Clearance Process for NPS-sponsored public surveys. It significantly streamlines the information collection review process. To comply with the Paperwork Reduction Act 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 ICR.

**DATES:** You must submit comments on or before November 30, 2015.

**ADDRESSES:** Send your comments and suggestions on this information collection to the Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior at OMB—OIRA at (202) 395-5806 (fax) or *OIRA\_Submission@omb.eop.gov* (email) and identify your submission as 1024-0224. Please also send a copy of your comments to Phadrea Ponds, Information Collections Coordinator, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive, Fort Collins, CO 80525 (mail); or *pponds@nps.gov* (email). Please reference Information Collection 1024-

0224—Programmatic Clearance Renewal in the subject line.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

*Bret Meldrum@nps.gov* (email); or 970-267-7295 (phone) and Phadrea Ponds, Information Collection Coordinator, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive, Fort Collins, CO 80525 (mail); or *pponds@nps.gov* (email). Please reference Information Collection 1024-0224 Programmatic Clearance Renewal in the subject line. You may also access this ICR at *www.reginfo.gov*.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Abstract**

The Programmatic Clearance for NPS-Sponsored Public Surveys applies to surveys designed to furnish usable information to NPS managers and planners concerning park visitors, visitor services, potential park visitors, and residents of communities near parks. This information is intended to provide NPS managers with data that can be used to improve the quality and utility of agency programs, services, and planning efforts. Questions asked under the programmatic review process must show a clear tie to NPS management and planning needs. The programmatic review may only be used for non-controversial surveys that are unlikely to attract or include topics of significant public interest in the programmatic review process.

To qualify for the NPS generic programmatic review process, all information collections must be directly tied to an area managed by the NPS or research that will benefit NPS management efforts. All collections must be reviewed by the NPS and approved by OMB before the survey can be initiated.

**II. Data**

*OMB Control Number:* 1024-0224.

*Title:* Programmatic Clearance for NPS-Sponsored Public Surveys.

*Type of Request:* Revision of a currently approved collection.

*Description of Respondents:* Individual households and general public.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Voluntary.

*Frequency of Collection:* Occasionally, one time.

*Estimated Annual Number of Responses:* 41,500.

	Annual responses
On-site surveys .....	20,000
Mail-back surveys .....	10,000
All non-response surveys .....	6,500
Telephone surveys .....	1,000
Focus Groups/In person interviews .....	1,500

	Annual responses
Other .....	2,500
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>41,500</b>

*Estimated Completion Time per Response:* 15 minutes per mail back survey; 3 minutes per non response survey; 30 minutes per telephone survey; 60 minutes per focus group/interview 60 minutes; Other 15 minutes.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden*

*Hours:* 11,283 hours.

*Estimated Annual Non-hour Burden*

*Cost:* There are no non-hour burden costs associated with this collection.

**III. Comments**

On May 29, 2015, a 60-day **Federal Register** notice (80 FR 30720) was published announcing this information collection. Public comments were solicited for 60 days ending July 28, 2015. We received one public comment in response to that notice. The commenter did not support the renewal of the collection and stated that “once every 5 years is often enough to take these surveys.” In response to this comment, NPS contends that this renewal is not a single annual survey; rather it facilitates a set of independent surveys administered at multiples sites for a variety of NPS management needs. This process simplifies and streamlines the information collection requests to OMB in a manner that allows the NPS to submit more requests per year than we would through the regular submission route. Surveys are reviewed and approved in an expeditious manner allowing data collection to occur more frequently and in a timely manner—more specifically during the visitation season of interest. In the 16 years of the programmatic approval on average, 40 new surveys have been approved each year in support of NPS management and planning. This is nearly five times as many as we would expect going through the regular submission route.

We again invite comments concerning this information collection request on:

- Whether or not the collection of information is necessary, including whether or not the information will have practical utility;
- The accuracy of our estimate of the burden for this collection of information;
- Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of