

# OPERATING COST ADJUSTMENT FACTORS FOR 2019—Continued

State	OCAF (%)
Ohio .....	2.7
Oklahoma .....	2.7
Oregon .....	2.6
Pacific Islands .....	3.2
Pennsylvania .....	2.9
Puerto Rico .....	2.6
Rhode Island .....	2.5
South Carolina .....	2.7
South Dakota .....	2.8
Tennessee .....	2.7
Texas .....	2.9
Utah .....	2.6
Vermont .....	0.9
Virgin Islands .....	2.5
Virginia .....	2.6
Washington .....	2.7
West Virginia .....	2.6
Wisconsin .....	3.0
Wyoming .....	2.7
U.S. ....	2.9

[FR Doc. 2018–25440 Filed 11–21–18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210–67–P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS–HQ–ES–2018–N145; MO# 300030113;  
OMB Control Number 1018–0119]

#### Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Policy for Evaluation of Conservation Efforts When Making Listing Decisions (PECE)

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

**ACTION:** Notice of information collection;  
request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the  
Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, we,  
the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, are  
proposing to renew an information  
collection with revisions.

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to  
submit comments on or before  
December 24, 2018.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments on  
this information collection request (ICR)  
to the Office of Management and  
Budget's Desk Officer for the  
Department of the Interior by email at  
[OIRA\\_Submission@omb.eop.gov](mailto:OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov); or via  
facsimile to (202) 395–5806. Please  
provide a copy of your comments to the  
Service Information Collection  
Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and  
Wildlife Service, MS: BPHC, 5275  
Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041–  
3803 (mail); or by email to [Info\\_Coll@fws.gov](mailto:Info_Coll@fws.gov). Please reference OMB Control

Number 1018–0119 in the subject line of  
your comments.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** To  
request additional information about  
this ICR, contact Madonna L. Baucum,  
Service Information Collection  
Clearance Officer, by email at [Info\\_Coll@fws.gov](mailto:Info_Coll@fws.gov), or by telephone at (703)  
358–2503. You may also view the ICR  
at <http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In  
accordance with the Paperwork  
Reduction Act of 1995, we provide the  
general public and other Federal  
agencies with an opportunity to  
comment on new, proposed, revised,  
and continuing collections of  
information. This helps us assess the  
impact of our information collection  
requirements and minimize the public's  
reporting burden. It also helps the  
public understand our information  
collection requirements and provide the  
requested data in the desired format.

A **Federal Register** notice with a 60-  
day public comment period soliciting  
comments on this collection of  
information was published on February  
28, 2018 (83 FR 8698). The following  
comments were received:

*Comment 1:* Letter dated April 30,  
2018, from Myles P. Culhane, Assistant  
General Counsel, Occidental Petroleum  
Corporation. Received via email on  
April 30, 2018.

Occidental Petroleum Corporation  
provided comments on whether PECE is  
necessary to the proper functions of the  
Service, whether we will use the  
information in a timely manner, and  
how to enhance the information being  
collected. They stated that PECE is very  
important to encourage voluntary  
conservation efforts prior to listing  
decisions such that listing may not be  
necessary. They offered three  
suggestions to improve information  
collection in the context of specific  
listing decisions:

(1) Ensure that we are collecting the  
right types of information by  
considering what will be useful in  
predicting future conservation actions  
and results, and articulating the factors  
we think will inform such predictions,  
(2) Ensure that we have the ability to  
update our listing decisions up until the  
last minute regarding current  
information about conservation efforts, and

(3) Ensure that PECE analyses are  
cumulative and include all qualifying  
conservation efforts together rather than  
in isolation.

*FWS Response to Comment 1:* The  
Service appreciates this comment and  
does consider the best available

scientific and commercial information  
received through the public comment  
period, information solicitation, or other  
means related to conservation efforts  
when making listing determinations.  
The Service maintains that in every  
proposed or final listing decision, we  
articulate the species' needs, the threats  
to the species and its response to those  
threats, and any actions that may  
ameliorate or exacerbate those threats.  
Each particular situation is unique, but  
in the Service's final PECE, we  
articulated the non-exhaustive list of  
criteria that we would use to evaluate  
each conservation effort that did not  
have a track record of implementation  
or effectiveness. The Service is required  
to consider best available scientific and  
commercial information in making  
listing decisions, including information  
on conservation efforts that do not have  
a track record of implementation or  
effectiveness. The Service evaluates the  
certainty of implementation and  
effectiveness by considering the criteria  
in the PECE, and those efforts that meet  
the PECE standard of sufficiently certain  
to be implemented and effective are  
then evaluated in the status assessment  
for the species. The Service understands  
that stakeholders want a transparent and  
flexible process, and the Service is open  
to communication and collaboration  
with these stakeholders which will  
encourage conservation of species.

*Comment 2:* Letter dated April 27,  
2018, from Steve Wright, General  
Manager, Public Utility District No. 1 of  
Chelan County, WA. Received via email  
on May, 7, 2018.

Chelan Public Utility District No. 1  
commented that it finds PECE useful  
because it encourages aggregation of  
information about conservation efforts,  
which can provide notice to permit  
applicants and other entities possibly  
affected by a listing, both of the listing  
and the efforts. It can also encourage  
entities to participate in conservation  
efforts, which can be meaningful for  
species. It finds that encouraging  
conservation efforts is consistent with  
the ESA and benefits species.

*FWS Response to Comment 2:* The  
Service appreciates the District's  
comments about the utility and benefits  
of PECE.

We are again soliciting comments on  
the proposed ICR that is described  
below. We are especially interested in  
public comment addressing the  
following issues: (1) Is the collection  
necessary to the proper functions of the  
Service; (2) will this information be  
processed and used in a timely manner;  
(3) is the estimate of burden accurate;  
(4) how might the Service enhance the  
quality, utility, and clarity of the

information to be collected; and (5) how might the Service minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use 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 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.

**Abstract:** Section 4 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) outlines the process by which we can list a species as a threatened species or an endangered species. When we consider whether to list a species, the ESA requires us to take into account the efforts made by any State or any political subdivision of a State to protect such species. We also take into account the efforts made by other entities. States or other entities often formalize conservation efforts in conservation agreements, conservation plans, management plans, or similar documents. The conservation efforts recommended or described in such documents could prevent some species from becoming so imperiled that they meet the definition of a threatened

species or an endangered species under the ESA.

The Policy for Evaluation of Conservation Efforts When Making Listing Decisions (PECE) (68 FR 15100, March 28, 2003) encourages the development of conservation agreements or plans and provides certainty about the standard that an individual conservation effort must meet in order for us to consider whether it is likely to make a difference in a species' status. PECE applies to "formalized conservation efforts" that have not been implemented or have been implemented but have not yet demonstrated if they are effective at the time of a listing decision.

Under PECE, formalized conservation efforts are defined as conservation efforts (specific actions, activities, or programs designed to eliminate or reduce threats or otherwise improve the status of a species) identified in a conservation agreement, conservation plan, management plan, or similar document. To assist us in evaluating a formalized conservation effort under PECE, we collect information such as conservation plans, monitoring results, and progress reports. The development of any agreement or plan is voluntary. There is no requirement that the individual conservation efforts included in such documents be designed to meet the standard in PECE. The PECE policy is posted on our Candidate Conservation website at <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/PECE-final.pdf>.

We are not reporting an increase in burden with this renewal, although we revised the collection to include burden for individuals, businesses, and not-for-profit organizations who may develop agreements/plans or may agree to implement certain conservation efforts identified in a State agreement or plan. Previously, we reported all burden estimates as government, although it was possible to receive submissions from individuals and private sector respondents. This submission breaks their burden out separately, with a placeholder of one submission for each category, to account for the rare occasion that we may receive a submission from these additional respondent categories.

**Title of Collection:** Policy for Evaluation of Conservation Efforts When Making Listing Decisions (PECE).

**OMB Control Number:** 1018–0119.

**Form Number:** None.

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

**Respondents/Affected Public:** Primarily State, local, or Tribal governments. However, individuals, businesses, and not-for-profit organizations could develop agreements/plans or may agree to implement certain conservation efforts identified in a State agreement or plan.

**Respondent's Obligation:** Required to Obtain or Retain a Benefit.

**Frequency of Collection:** On occasion.

**Total Estimated Annual Nonhour Burden Cost:** None.

Activity	Estimated number of annual respondents	Average number of submissions each	Estimated number of annual responses	Completion time per response (hours)	Estimated annual burden hours
<b>PECE—Reporting</b>					
Individuals .....	1	1	1	120	120
Private Sector .....	1	1	1	120	120
Government .....	5	1	5	120	600
<b>PECE—Monitoring</b>					
Individuals .....	1	1	1	600	600
Private Sector .....	1	1	1	600	600
Government .....	5	1	5	600	3,000
<b>PECE—Development of Conservation Plan/Agreement (One-Time Burden)</b>					
Individuals .....	1	1	1	2,000	2,000
Private Sector .....	1	1	1	2,000	2,000
Government .....	2	1	2	2,000	4,000
<b>Totals .....</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>13,040</b>

An agency 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 authority for this action is the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

Dated: November 16, 2018.

**Madonna Baucum,**

*Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*

[FR Doc. 2018-25454 Filed 11-21-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4333-15-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Geological Survey

[GX19EE000101100]

#### Public Meeting of the National Geospatial Advisory Committee

**AGENCY:** U.S. Geological Survey, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is publishing this notice to announce that a Federal Advisory Committee meeting of the National Geospatial Advisory Committee will take place.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Thursday, December 6, 2018 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time).

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held via web conference and teleconference. Send your comments to Group Federal Officer by email to [gs-faca-mail@usgs.gov](mailto:gs-faca-mail@usgs.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. John Mahoney, Federal Geographic Data Committee, U.S. Geological Survey, 909 First Avenue, Suite 800, Seattle, WA 98104; by email at [jmahoney@usgs.gov](mailto:jmahoney@usgs.gov); or by telephone at (206) 220-4621.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This meeting is being held under the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (5 U.S.C., Appendix, as amended), the Government in the Sunshine Act of 1976 (5 U.S.C. 552B, as amended), and 41 CFR 102-3.140 and 102-3.150.

**Purpose of the Meeting:** The National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) provides advice and recommendations related to management of Federal and national geospatial programs, the development of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI), and the implementation of Office of

Management and Budget Circular A-16. The NGAC reviews and comments on geospatial policy and management issues and provides a forum to convey views representative of non-federal stakeholders in the geospatial community. The NGAC meeting is one of the primary ways that the FGDC collaborates with its broad network of partners. Additional information about the NGAC meeting is available at: [www.fgdc.gov/ngac](http://www.fgdc.gov/ngac).

#### Agenda Topics:

- FGDC Update
- Geospatial Data as Services
- Cultural and Historical Geospatial Resources
- Geospatial Infrastructure
- NSDI Strategic Plan
- Landsat Advisory Group

**Meeting Accessibility/Special Accommodations:** The webinar meeting is open to the public from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on December 6, 2018. Members of the public wishing to attend the meeting should contact Ms. Lucia Foulkes by email at [lfoulkes@usgs.gov](mailto:lfoulkes@usgs.gov) to register no later than Monday, December 3, 2018. Webinar/conference line instructions will be provided to registered attendees prior to the meeting. Individuals requiring special accommodations to access the public meeting should contact Ms. Lucia Foulkes at the email stated above or by telephone at 703-648-4142 no later than Friday, November 30, 2018 so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

**Public Disclosure of Comments:** Time will be allowed at the meeting for any individual or organization wishing to make formal oral comments. To allow for full consideration of information by the NGAC members at the meeting, written comments must be provided to Ms. Lucia Foulkes, Federal Geographic Data Committee, U.S. Geological Survey, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, MS-590, Reston, VA 20192; by email at [lfoulkes@usgs.gov](mailto:lfoulkes@usgs.gov); or by telephone at 703-648-4142, no later than Monday, December 3, 2018. Any written comments received will be provided to the NGAC members.

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 may 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.

**James Sayer,**

*Federal Advisory Committee, GPO, Information Management and Delivery, USGS.*

[FR Doc. 2018-25561 Filed 11-21-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4338-11-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Indian Affairs

[190A2100DD/AAKC001030/A0A501010.999900 253G; OMB Control Number 1076-NEW]

#### Agency Information Collection Activities; Human Capital Management Strengths and Needs Assessment

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of information collection; request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, we, the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) are proposing a new information collection to gain an understanding of processes and practices within BIE schools.

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before January 22, 2019.

**ADDRESSES:** Send your comments on this information collection request (ICR) by mail to The Bureau of Indian Education, 1011 Indian School Road NW, Suite 332, Albuquerque, NM 87104; or by email to [Veronica.Lane@bie.edu](mailto:Veronica.Lane@bie.edu). Please reference OMB Control Number 1076-NEW in the subject line of your comments.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** To request additional information about this ICR, contact Veronica Lane by email at [Veronica.Lane@bie.edu](mailto:Veronica.Lane@bie.edu), or by telephone at 505-563-5279.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, we provide the general public and other Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on new, proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. It also helps the public understand our information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format.

We are soliciting comments on the proposed ICR that is described below. We are especially interested in public comment addressing the following