

Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered fish and wildlife (50 CFR 222.23).

Dr. Kuperman (PHF# 801-1365) requests a permit to conduct acoustic research to determine its effect on a variety of marine mammal species. The specific purposes are to: localize and track marine mammals in three dimensions (azimuth, range and depth) by listening to their natural call behavior; evaluate the effect of low frequency manmade noise on baleen whales; estimate the actual source signature emitted by the animals themselves; use the vocalizations as loud sources of opportunity to determine properties of the ocean environment; and investigate the use of underwater acoustic recordings in marine mammal census studies. These activities will occur in California waters.

Dr. Braham (PHF# 782-1384) requests authorization to take gray whales (*Eschrichtius robustus*), over a 5-year period, in the following manner: biopsy sample up to 100; radio tag up to 100; tag with short-term visual tags up to 150. Additionally, inadvertently harass up to up to 50 animals annually. The objectives are to determine: seasonal distribution in Washington State waters; habitat utilization in the Strait of Juan de Fuca and the northern Washington coast; duration of their stay in Washington and the timing of their departure for the southbound migration; and the level of organochlorine pollutants in whales.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), an initial determination has been made that the activity proposed is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Dated: June 23, 1997.

Art Jeffers,

Acting Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resource, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 97-16958 Filed 6-27-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Proposed Collection: Comment Request

June 25, 1997.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a preclearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA95) (44 U.S.C. § 3508(c)(2)(A)). This program helps to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirement on respondents can be properly assessed. Currently, the Corporation for National and Community Service is soliciting comments concerning its proposed revision of its Voucher and Payment Request Form. Copies of the form can be obtained by contacting the office listed below in the address section of this notice.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the addresses section on or before August 24, 1997.

The Corporation for National and Community Service is particularly interested in comments which:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Corporation, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- Enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submissions of responses.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Levon Buller, National Service Trust, Corporation for National and Community Service, Mail Stop 7200, 1201 New York Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C., 20525.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Levon Buller, (202) 606-5000, ext. 383.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

After AmeriCorps participants complete periods of national service, they receive "education awards" that can be used to pay against qualified student loans or pay for post secondary educational expenses. This award is an amount of money set aside in their "account" in the National Service Trust Fund. They have seven years in which to draw against any unused balance.

The Voucher and Payment Request Form is the document that an AmeriCorps participant uses to authorize and request that a payment be made from his or her account. The form serves three purposes: (1) the AmeriCorps participant uses it to request that a specific payment be made from the participant's account, (2) the school or loan company uses it to indicate the amount for which the individual is eligible, and (3) the school or loan company and participant use it to certify that the payment meets various legislative requirements. When the Corporation receives a voucher, it is processed and a payment is issued by the U.S. Treasury to the loan holder or school on behalf of the participant.

The form was designed and has been in use since the summer of 1994. During that time, CNCS has learned, through experience, the strengths and weaknesses of the form. The revisions are being proposed to rectify the weaknesses.

II. Current Action

The purposes of the revisions are to (1) eliminate unnecessary responses contained in the original form, (2) clarify instructions for completing the form, (3) simplify technical language on the original form, and (4) put onto one document space for signatures and the statements for which the signatories indicate affirmation. Regarding this last point, the current form refers those who complete the form to certain statements contained in a separate document. It is assumed that, by signing the form, the signatories are verifying agreement with those statements. On the proposed revised form, the statements and the signatures will be on one document. This will clearly bind the statements to the affirming signatures.

The Corporation for National and Community Service seeks to continue using this particular form, albeit in a revised version, to request and authorize payments from an AmeriCorps participant's account. The current Voucher and Payment Request Form is due to expire July 31, 1997. CNCS has asked for a 60-day extension to use the

existing form until a revised form is approved.

Type of Review: Renewal.

Agency: Corporation for National and Community Service.

Title: Voucher and Payment Request Form.

OMB Number: 3045-0014.

Agency Number: N/A.

Affected Public: AmeriCorps participants and the loan holders or schools to which they wish to make payments.

Total Respondents: 35,000 annually.

Frequency: Average of once per year.

Average Time Per Response: Two minutes (1/4 minute for AmeriCorps participants and 1 3/4 minute for school/loan holder).

Estimated Total Burden Hours: 1,167 hours.

Total Burden Cost (capital/startup): N/A.

Total Burden Cost (operating/maintenance): N/A.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the information collection request; they will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: June 25, 1997.

David Spevacek,

Director, Financial Operations.

[FR Doc. 97-16991 Filed 6-27-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6050-28-P

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

June 25, 1997.

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), has submitted the following public information collection requests (ICRs) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13, (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). Copies of these individual ICRs, with applicable supporting documentation, may be obtained by calling the Corporation for National and Community Service, Alice Burke (202) 606-5000, Extension 225. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TTY/TDD) may call (202) 565-2799 between the hours of 8:30 AM and 5:00 PM Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

Comments should be sent to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attn: OMB Desk Officer for the Corporation for National and

Community Service, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10235, Washington, D.C., 20503. (202) 395-7316, within 30 days from the date of this publication in the **Federal Register**.

The OMB is particularly interested in comments which:

Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Corporation, including whether the information will have practical utility;

Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

Enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and

Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submissions of responses.

AGENCY: Corporation for National and Community Service.

Title: VISTA Alumni Locator Card

OMB Number: 3100-0134.

Frequency: One time.

Affected Public: Individuals and households.

Number of Respondents: 6,000.

Estimated Time Per Respondent: 2 minutes.

Total Burden Hours: 200 hrs.

Total Annualized capital/startup costs: \$300.00

Total Annual Cost: \$4,500.00

Description: The Corporation for National and Community Service proposes to send out AmeriCorps*VISTA Locator Cards to former AmeriCorps*VISTA members' home addresses. The card will be used by Corporation personnel and VISTA groups (only with explicit written permission of the respondent). The purpose of the card is to enhance communications between the Corporation and former VISTA members to provide them with information on Corporation activities and to assist in volunteer recruitment activities.

Dated: June 23, 1997.

Diana B. London Date,

*Director, AmeriCorps*VISTA.*

[FR Doc. 97-16992 Filed 6-27-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6050-28-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Meeting of the Task Force on Defense Reform

AGENCY: Department of Defense, Task Force on Defense Reform.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Task Force on Defense Reform will meet in closed sessions on July 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, 17, 22, 24, 29, and 31, 1997.

The task force was recently established to make recommendations to the Secretary of Defense and Deputy Secretary of Defense on alternatives for organizational reforms, reductions in management overhead, and streamlined business practices in the Department of Defense (DoD), with emphasis on the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Defense Agencies and the DoD Field Activities, and the Military Departments.

In accordance with Section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92-463, as amended, 5 U.S.C., Appendix II, it has been determined that matters affecting national security, as covered by 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(1)(1988), will be presented throughout the meetings, and that, accordingly, these meetings will be closed to the public.

This notice is less than the customary 15 days for the meetings on July 1 and 3, 1997, since it is critical that the task force meet as soon as possible to meet the priority objectives of the Secretary of Defense and to ensure that findings and recommendations are cognizant of and coordinated with the Quadrennial Defense Review process and the proceedings of the National Defense Panel.

Dated: June 24, 1997.

L.M. Bynum,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 97-17000 Filed 6-27-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5000-04-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Privacy Act of 1974; System of Records

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, DoD.

ACTION: Notice to add a system of records.

SUMMARY: The Office of the Secretary proposes to add a system of records notice to its existing inventory of record