

Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27709, telephone (919) 541-3971, FAX (919) 541-0295, will have available an agenda with times and a roster of Committee members prior to the meeting and summary minutes subsequent to the meeting.

Dated: June 17, 1998.

**Samuel H. Wilson,**

*Deputy Director, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.*

[FR Doc. 98-20041 Filed 7-27-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-M

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Public Health Service

#### **National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences; National Toxicology Program; Request for Comments on Test Methods Undergoing Review by the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM) and the National Toxicology Program Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Methods**

#### **Background**

The Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM), with participation by 14 Federal regulatory and research agencies and programs, was established in 1997 to facilitate cross-agency communication and coordination on issues relating to validation, acceptance, and national/international harmonization of toxicological test methods. The Committee seeks to promote the scientific validation and regulatory acceptance of toxicological test methods that will enhance agencies' ability to assess risks and make decision, and that will refine, reduce, and replace animal use whenever possible. The National Toxicology Program Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods (Center), in collaboration with ICCVAM, carries out related activities such as independent peer reviews and workshops for test methods of interest to Federal agencies. Peer review panels are convened to develop scientific consensus on the usefulness of test methods to generate information for specific human health and/or ecological risk assessment purposes. Expert workshops are convened as needed to evaluate the adequacy of current methods for assessing specific toxicities, to identify areas in need of improved or new methods, to evaluate proposed

validation studies, and to evaluate the validation status of methods. Following the peer review of proposed test methods, the ICCVAM forwards recommendations regarding their usefulness to appropriate agencies for their consideration. Federal agencies then determine the regulatory acceptability of a method according to their mandates.

Additional information on the activities and functions of the ICCVAM can be found in the publication: Validation on Regulatory Acceptance of Toxicological Test Methods, a Report of the ad hoc Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (NIH Publication 97-3981, March 1997). This report was prepared in response to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Revitalization Act of 1993 (Pub. L. 103-43), which required the NIEHS to develop criteria and recommended processes for the validation and regulatory acceptance of alternative toxicological test methods. The report is available on the internet at <http://ntp-server.niehs.nih.gov/htdocs/ICCVAM/ICCVAM.html>, or may be requested from the NTP Center address listed below.

#### **Request for Comments**

Interested parties are encouraged to submit information and data that would be helpful in evaluating the usefulness of two test methods for which upcoming independent scientific peer review meetings are being planned. The methods are: (1) *Corrositex*<sup>®</sup>, an in vitro method proposed for assessing the dermal corrosivity potential of chemicals and products; and (2) the Frog Embryo Teratogenesis Assay in *Xenopus* (FETAX), a method for demonstrating developmental toxicity. Potential regulatory applications of FETAX to human health developmental toxicity assessments include screening and prioritizing compounds for further testing, evaluating complex mixtures in environmental samples, and as supplemental information in a weight-of-evidence evaluation of human developmental toxicity hazards.

The Center would welcome receiving information and data from completed, ongoing, or planned studies using or evaluating these test methods. Data and information submitted should address one or more of the criteria for validation and regulatory acceptance as provided in NIH publication 97-3981, "Validation and Regulatory Acceptance of Toxicological Test Methods: A Report of the AD Hoc Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods". Where possible, data and information should adhere to

the guidance provided in the document "Evaluation of the Validation Status of Toxicological Methods: General Guidelines for Submissions to ICCVAM", which is available on request from the NTP Center at the address provided below. Relevant information submitted in response to this request will be used to prepare test methods background review documents for use by peer review and expert panels. Peer review meetings and/or workshops for these methods will be announced in future notices as they are scheduled.

Information on these test methods should sent by mail, fax, or e-mail to the NTP Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods within 45 days of the appearance of this notice. The NTP Center mailing address, phone, fax, and e-mail are as follows: MD EC-17, P.O. Box 12233, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709; 919-541-3398 (phone); 919-541-0947 (FAX); ICCVAM@niehs.nih.gov (e-mail). Additional information can be obtained from: Dr. William S. Stokes, NTP Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods, Environmental Toxicology Program, NIEHS/NTP, P.O. Box 12233, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27709, telephone (919) 541-3398, FAX (919) 541-0947, [emailstokes@niehs.nih.gov](mailto:emailstokes@niehs.nih.gov).

Dated: July 17, 1998.

**Samuel H. Wilson,**

*Deputy Director, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.*

[FR Doc. 98-20040 Filed 7-27-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-M

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### **Information Collection Renewal To be Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Approval Under the Paperwork Reduction Act**

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

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

**SUMMARY:** The collection of information listed below has been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for renewal under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act. Copies of the specific information collection requirements, related forms, and explanatory material may be obtained by contacting the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer at the address listed below.

**DATES:** Consideration will be given to all comments received on or before August 27, 1998. OMB has up to 60 days to approve or disapprove information collection but may respond after 30 days. Therefore, to ensure maximum consideration OMB should receive public comments by August 27, 1998.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** To request a copy of the information collection request, explanatory information and related forms, contact Rebecca A. Mullin at (703) 358-2287, or electronically to [rmullin@fws.gov](mailto:rmullin@fws.gov).

**ADDRESSES:** Comments and suggestions on the requirement should be sent to the Office of Management and Budget, Attention: Department of the Interior Desk Officer, 725 17th Street, NW Washington, DC 20503, and to Rebecca Mullin, Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, ms 224-ARLSQ, 1849 C Street NW., Washington, DC 20240.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR 1320, which implement provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13), require that interested members of the public and affected agencies have an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping activities (see 5 CFR 1320.8(d)). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has submitted a request to OMB to renew its approval of the collection of information for the Migratory Bird Harvest Surveys (16 U.S.C. 703-711) and Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742d). The Service is requesting a 3-year term of approval for this information collection activity. A previous 60 day notice on this information collection requirement was published in the March 19, 1998 (63 FR 13421) **Federal Register** inviting public comment. No comments on the previous notice were received as of July 1, 1998. This notice provides an additional 30 days in which to comment on the following information.

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 OMB control number for this collection of information is listed in 5 CFR 1320.8(d) and 16 U.S.C. 742d, which is 1018-0015.

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703-711) and Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742d) designate the Department of the Interior as the key agency responsible for the wise management of migratory bird populations frequenting the United States and for the setting of hunting

regulations that allow appropriate harvests that are within the guidelines that will allow for those populations' well being. These responsibilities dictate the gathering of accurate data on various characteristics of migratory bird harvest of a geographic and temporal nature. Knowledge attained by determining harvests and harvest rates of migratory game birds is used to regulate populations (by promulgating hunting regulations) and to encourage hunting opportunity, especially where crop depredations are chronic and/or lightly harvested populations occur. Based on information from harvest surveys, hunting regulations can be adjusted as needed to optimize harvests at levels that provide a maximum of hunting recreation while keeping populations at desired levels.

This information collection approval request combines three sets of surveys (the Waterfowl Hunter Survey, the Migratory Bird Hunter Survey, OMB Approval 1018-0015, and the Parts Collection Survey, OMB Approval 1018-0009) and associated forms because they are interrelated and/or dependent upon each other.

The Waterfowl Hunter Survey, which estimates the harvest of ducks and geese, is based on Federal Duck Stamp sales. This survey asks people who purchase Federal Duck Stamps from randomly sampled Post Offices and other stamp vendors to complete and return a postcard (form 3-1823A) with their name and address. Hunters who complete and return the postcard are sent a postcard questionnaire (form 3-2056G) at the end of the hunting season, asking them to report their harvest of ducks and geese. Their responses provide estimates of the average harvest per hunter, which, combined with total Federal Duck Stamp sales, enables the Service to estimate the total harvest of ducks and geese.

The Migratory Bird Hunter Survey is based on the Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program, under which each State annually provides a list of all licensed migratory bird hunters in the State. Randomly selected migratory bird hunters are sent either a waterfowl questionnaire (form 3-2056J), a dove and band-tailed pigeon questionnaire (form 3-2056K), a woodcock questionnaire (form 3-2056L), or a snipe, rail, gallinule, and coot questionnaire (form 3-2056M) and are asked to report their harvest of those species. The resulting estimates of harvest per hunter are combined with the complete list of migratory bird hunters to provide estimates of the total harvest of those species. This survey will replace the Waterfowl Hunter

Survey after it has been fully implemented in all States and comparisons of results with Waterfowl Hunter Survey results have been completed.

The Parts Collection Survey estimates the species, sex, and age composition of the harvest, and the geographic and temporal distribution of the harvest. Randomly selected successful hunters who responded to the Waterfowl Hunter Survey or the Migratory Bird Hunter Survey the previous year are asked to complete and return a postcard (forms 3-165A and C) if they are willing to participate in the Parts Collection Survey. Respondents are provided postage-paid envelopes before the hunting season and asked to send in a wing or the tail feathers from each duck, goose, or coot (form 3-165) they harvest, or a wing from each woodcock, band-tailed pigeon, snipe, rail, or gallinule (form 3-165B) they harvest. The wings and tail feathers are used to identify the species, age, and sex of the harvested sample. Respondents are also asked to report on the envelope the date and location (state and county) of harvest for each bird. Results of this survey are combined with harvest estimates from the Waterfowl Hunter Survey and the Migratory Bird Hunter Survey to provide species-specific national harvest estimates.

The combined results of these surveys enable the Service to evaluate the effects of season length, season dates, and bag limits on the harvest of each species, and thus help determine appropriate hunting regulations.

*Title:* Migratory Bird Harvest Surveys.

*Approval Number:* 1018-0015.

*Service Form Number(s):* 3-1823A, 3-2056G, 3-165, 3-165A-C, 3-2056J-M.

*Frequency of Collection:* Annually.

*Description of Respondents:*

Individuals and households.

*Total Annual Burden Hours:* The reporting burden is estimated to average 2 minutes per respondent for the Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program, 8 minutes per respondent for the Waterfowl Hunter Survey, 4 minutes per respondent for the Migratory Bird Hunter Survey, and 50 minutes per respondent for the Parts Collection Survey. The Total Annual Burden hours is 131,992 hours.

*Total Annual Responses:* About 3,300,000 individuals are expected to participate in the Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program. Recent Service experience indicates that about 34,000 hunters will respond to the Waterfowl Hunter Survey each year, and about 12,000 hunters will respond to the Parts Collection Survey annually. The Service anticipates that about 105,000

hunters will respond to the Migratory Bird Hunter Survey annually when that survey is conducted nationwide, beginning in 1998.

Pursuant to this renewal, comments are invited on: (1) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and, (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents. The information collections in this program will not be part of a system of record covered by the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552(a)).

Dated: July 17, 1998.

**Paul R. Schmidt,**

*Acting Assistant Director for Refuges and Wildlife.*

[FR Doc. 98-20054 Filed 7-27-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Notice of Receipt of Application for Endangered Species Permit

The following applicants have applied for permits to conduct certain activities with endangered species. This notice is provided pursuant to Section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*):

PRT-844812

*Applicant:* Paul M. Richards, University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida

The applicant requests authorization to take (capture, radio-tag, and track) the endangered American crocodile, *Crocodylus acutus*, throughout the species range in Florida, for the purpose of enhancement of survival of the species.

PRT-844786

*Applicant:* Kenneth H. Jones, Dyersburg State Community College, Dyersburg, Tennessee

The applicant requests authorization to take (harass by observation and placement of instruments at nests) the endangered least tern, *Sterna antillarum*, throughout the species range in Tennessee, for the purpose of enhancement of survival of the species.

Written data or comments on these applications should be submitted to: Regional Permit Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1875 Century

Boulevard, Suite 200, Atlanta, Georgia 30345. All data and comments must be received by August 27, 1998.

Documents and other information submitted with this application are available for review, subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act, by any party who submits a written request for a copy of such documents to the following office within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 200, Atlanta, Georgia 30345 (Attn: David Dell, Permit Biologist). Telephone: 404/679-7313; Fax: 404/679-7081.

Dated: June 21, 1998.

**H. Dale Hall,**

*Acting Regional Director.*

[FR Doc. 98-20077 Filed 7-27-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[W0220-120-24-1A]

#### Notice of Proposed Information Collection, OMB Approval Number 1004-0041

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

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

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paper Reduction Act of 1995, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces its intention to request approval to collect certain information from individuals requesting changes from previous approved grazing permits or leases. It is used to verify and show recognized grazing performance and approved grazing use schedules as a reminder and allows the preference applicant to show requested changes for the coming grazing season. The information contained on the form, or the modifications requested by the preference livestock operator, provides essential information for computing the grazing fee bill. The bill transmittal also provides the annual use authorizations, upon payment of fees due, including grazing use schedules for rangeland areas, numbers of livestock, kind of or class of livestock, periods of use, animal unit months of forage and applicable terms and conditions for grazing use on each particular grazing allotment.

**DATES:** Comments on the proposed information collection must be received by September 28, 1998 to be considered.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments may be mailed to: Regulatory Affairs Group (630), Bureau of Land Management, 1849 C Street NW., Room 401 LS Bldg., Washington, DC 20240.

Comments may be sent via Internet to: [gramey@wo.blm.gov](mailto:gramey@wo.blm.gov). Please include "Attn: 1004-0041" and your name and return address in your Internet message.

Comments may be hand delivered to the Bureau of Land Management Administrative Record, Room 401, L Street, NW., Washington, DC.

Comments will be available for public review at the L Street address during regular business hours (8:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., Monday through Friday).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** George Ramey, (202) 452-7747.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In accordance with 5 CFR 1320.8(d), the BLM is required to provide 60-day notice in the **Federal Register** concerning a proposed collection of information to solicit comments on (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to 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. BLM will receive and analyze any comments sent in response to this notice and include them with its request for approval from the Office of Management and Budget under 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*

The Taylor Grazing Act (TGA) of 1934 (43 U.S.C. 315 *et seq.*) and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*) provide the authority for the Bureau of Land Management to administer the livestock grazing program consistent with land-use plans, multiple-use objectives, sustained yield, environmental values, economic considerations, and other factors. Authorizing livestock use on the public lands is an important and integral part of program administration. Regulation in 43 CFR 4130.1 provide for the timely filing of applications for grazing permits or leases, free-use grazing permits, and other grazing authorizations with the appropriate BLM office.