

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service**

[FWS-R2-ES-2014-N235;
FRES480102200B0-XXX-FF02ENEH00]

Information Collection Request Sent to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Approval; Survey of Residents' Attitudes on Jaguar Conservation

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) 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. We 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.

DATES: You must submit comments on or before December 8, 2014.

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). 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 *hope_grey@fws.gov* (email). Please include "1018-Resident" in the subject line of your comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request additional information about this ICR, contact Hope Grey at *hope_grey@fws.gov* (email) or 703-358-2482 (telephone). You may review the ICR online at <http://www.reginfo.gov>. Follow

the instructions to review Department of the Interior collections under review by OMB.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Information Collection Request**

OMB Control Number: 1018-XXXX. This is a new collection.

Title: Survey of Residents' Attitudes on Jaguar Conservation.

Service Form Number: None.

Type of Request: Request for a new OMB control number.

Estimated Number of Annual Respondents: 225.

Description of Respondents: Individuals, land-based business owners/operators; government agency personnel; local wildlife associations; and conservation or recreation organizations.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

Frequency of Collection: One time.

Activity	Number of responses	Completion time per response (minutes)	Total annual burden hours
Initial contact	225	3	11
Complete Jaguar Survey	200	15	50
Totals	425		61

Estimated Annual Nonhour Burden Cost: None.

Abstract: This survey is designed to elicit information about the public's perspectives on attitudes towards and beliefs about jaguars in the Northwestern Recovery Unit (southern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico). We plan to survey 200 residents, land-based business owners/operators, related government agency personnel, and local wildlife association and/or conservation organization members in the Northwestern Recovery Unit. The survey will gather information on people's current level of knowledge about jaguar ecology and status, people's attitudes towards jaguars, and the social barriers and opportunities to jaguar conservation in this region. The surveys will consist of in-person interviews. This information will aid us in identifying groups that might be interested in being involved or staying informed about jaguar conservation and highlighting groups with particular concerns that might be addressed in forthcoming policies or programs. We will use information gained from this survey to formulate future jaguar conservation strategies, as well as to create educational and outreach materials for jaguar recovery.

Comments Received and Our Responses

On December 17, 2013, we published in the **Federal Register** (78 FR 76315) a notice of our intent to request that OMB approve this information collection. In that notice, we solicited comments for 60 days, ending on February 18, 2014. We received the following comments:

Comment: The commenter requested that surveys be collected from residents of Hidalgo County, New Mexico, as well as from residents of Cochise, Pima, and Santa Cruz Counties of Arizona, and that the number of interviews conducted with residents of each of the four counties in the Northwestern Recovery Unit be proportional to the counties' population.

Response: We will survey residents in Hidalgo County, New Mexico. The contractor will make every effort to distribute the 200 surveys so that each county's residents are adequately represented.

Comment: One comment requested that the survey include farmers and ranchers in Hidalgo County, New Mexico.

Response: The method of interviewing residents will mean that farmers and ranchers will likely be included among the rural residents surveyed. The category of small farmers/

ranchers will be targeted purposely, as a stakeholder category. Small-acreage land users are often not included in data collection that targets ranchers and other agricultural producers. A concurrent information collection will include ranchers and farmers in the Northwestern Recovery Unit. Thus, they will not be included in this survey to avoid duplication of effort.

Comment: One commenter requested to be included as a survey respondent.

Response: We will include the commenter's agency as a respondent in the related government agency personnel survey stakeholder category.

Comment: One commenter requested a copy of the survey instrument and the results of surveys once completed.

Response: We will send a copy of the survey instrument and the final report, which will include information on the data collected, analysis methods, results, and conclusions. The final report will be available after May 2015.

Request for Public Comments

We again invite comments concerning this information collection 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 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 publicly available at any time. While you can ask OMB in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that it will be done.

Dated: November 4, 2014.

Tina A. Campbell,

Chief, Division of Policy and Directives Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R8-ES-2014-N213;
FXES1120000F2-145-FF08ECAR00]

Orange County Transportation Authority, Orange County, California; M2 Natural Community Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan, Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement, and Incidental Take Permit Application

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability; notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: We, the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce receipt of an application from the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA/applicant) for an incidental take permit under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). The permit is needed to authorize take of listed animal species due to construction and habitat management and monitoring activities within areas affected by covered freeway projects and in preserves in Orange County, California. We have prepared a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS), which is the Federal portion of the draft environmental impact report (DEIR)/DEIS, to analyze the impacts of issuing an incidental take permit based on the

OCTA's proposed natural community conservation plan (NCCP)/habitat conservation plan (HCP). The DEIR portion of the joint document was prepared by the OCTA in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act. The DEIS/DEIR, HCP, and NCCP are available for review.

DATES: Please send written comments on or before February 5, 2015.

Two public meetings will be held to solicit public comments on the DEIR/DEIS. These public meetings will be held on the following dates:

1. Thursday, November 20, 2014, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., Orange County Transportation Authority, 550 S. Main Street, Orange, California 92868.

2. Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2014, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., Rancho Santa Margarita City Hall, 22112 El Paseo, Rancho Santa Margarita, California 92688.

ADDRESSES: *Obtaining Documents:* You may download copies of the DEIS/DEIR, HCP, and NCCP at the OCTA's Web site, at <http://www.octa.net/>. Alternatively, you may use one of the methods under *Submitting Comments* to request hard copies or a CD-ROM of the documents.

Submitting Comments: You may submit comments or requests for copies or more information by one of the following methods.

- *U.S. Mail:* Mr. Mendel Stewart, Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2177 Salk Avenue, Suite 250, Carlsbad, CA 92008.

- *In-Person Drop-off, Viewing, or Pickup:* Call (760) 431-1766 to make an appointment during regular business hours at the above address or at the OCTA Office, 550 S Main Street, Orange, CA 92868.

- *Fax:* Mr. Mendel Stewart, Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, (760) 431-5901, Attn.: Orange County Transportation Authority M2 HCP/EIS Comments.

Hardbound copies are also available for viewing at the following Orange County public libraries:

1. Tustin Library, 345 E. Main St., Tustin, CA 92780.
2. Mission Viejo Library, 100 Civic Center, Mission Viejo, CA 92691.
3. Garden Grove Regional Library, 11200 Stanford Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92840.

The public meeting locations are:

1. Orange: OCTA, Conference Rooms 103/104, 550 South Main Street, Orange, CA 92863.
2. Rancho Santa Margarita City Hall, 22112 El Paseo, Rancho Santa Margarita, California 92688.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Karen A. Goebel, Assistant Field Supervisor, at the Carlsbad Fish and

Wildlife Office address above; telephone (760) 431-9440. Information and comments related specifically to the DEIR and the California Environmental Quality Act should be submitted to Mr. Dan Phu, Orange County Transportation Authority (Attn: M2 NCCP/HCP), 550 South Main Street, P.O. Box 14184, Orange, CA 92863-1584.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: We announce receipt of an application from the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA/applicant) for an incidental take permit under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). The applicant is requesting a permit to incidentally take 10 animal species (including three federally listed species) and seeking assurances for 3 plant species during the term of the proposed 40-year permit. The permit is needed to authorize take of listed animal species due to construction and habitat management and monitoring activities within areas affected by covered freeway projects and in preserves in Orange County, California.

We have prepared a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS), which is the Federal portion of the draft environmental impact report (DEIR)/DEIS, to analyze the impacts of issuing an incidental take permit based on the OCTA's proposed natural community conservation plan (NCCP)/habitat conservation plan (HCP). The DEIR portion of the joint document was prepared by the OCTA in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act. The analyses provided in the DEIR/DEIS are intended to inform the public of the proposed action (i.e., permit issuance), alternatives, and associated impacts; address public comments received during the scoping period for the DEIR/DEIS; disclose the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental effects of the proposed action and each of the alternatives; and indicate any irreversible commitment of resources that would result from implementation of the proposed action.

Background

Section 9 of the Act and Federal regulations prohibit the "take" of fish and wildlife species federally listed as endangered or threatened. Take of federally listed fish or wildlife is defined under the Act as to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect listed species, or attempt to engage in such conduct (16 U.S.C. 1538). "Harm" includes significant habitat modification or degradation that actually kills or injures