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BILLING CODE 4140-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Revised Information Collection Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Approval Under the Paperwork Reduction Act

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service,
Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The collection of information listed below will be submitted to OMB for approval under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act. A copy of the information collection requirement is included in this notice. Copies of the proposed information collection requirement, related forms, and explanatory material may be obtained by contacting the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer at the address listed below.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before May 18, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Comments and suggestions on the requirement should be sent directly to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs; Office of Management and Budget; Attention: Interior Desk Officer, Washington, DC 20503; and a copy of the comments should be sent to the Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, ms 224—ARLSQ, 1849 C Street NW., Washington, DC 20204.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Phyllis H. Cook, Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, (703) 358-1943; (703) 358-2269 (fax).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: 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.

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.

Description and Use: The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 USC 703-711) and Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 USC 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.

Frequency of Collection: Annually.

Description of Respondents: Individuals and households.

Estimated Completion Time: 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.

Number of Respondents: 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.

Annual Burden Hours: 131,992.

Dated: March 13, 1998.

Carolyn A. Bohan,

Acting Assistant Director for Refuges and Wildlife.

[FR Doc. 98-7078 Filed 3-18-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Intent to Prepare Comprehensive Conservation Plans and Associated Environmental Documents for the Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge and the Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) intends to gather information necessary to prepare two Comprehensive Conservation Plans (CCP) and environmental documents pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and its implementing regulations. One CCP will be prepared for Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge, in Ohio, West Virginia, Kentucky and Pennsylvania. The second CCP will be prepared for Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex, including Ninigret, Block Island, Pettaquamscutt Cove, Sachuest Point, and Trustum Pond National Wildlife Refuges in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. The Service is furnishing this notice in compliance with the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 668dd et seq.):

- (1) To advise other agencies and the public of our intentions, and
- (2) To obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues to include in the environmental documents.

DATES: Inquire at the addresses below for dates of planning activity and due dates for comments regarding specific projects.

ADDRESSES: Address comments, questions and requests for more information to the following:

Refuge Manager, Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 1811, Parkersburg, WV 26101-1811, (304) 422-0752.

Refuge Manager, Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex, P.O. Box 307, Charlestown, RI 02813-0307, (401) 364-9124.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: By federal law, all lands within the National

Wildlife Refuge System are to be managed in accordance with an approved CCP. The CCP guides management decisions and identifies refuge goals, long-range objectives, and strategies for achieving refuge purposes. The planning process will consider many elements including habitat and wildlife management, habitat protection and acquisition, public use, and cultural resources. Public input into this planning process is essential. The CCP will provide other agencies and the public with a clear understanding of the desired conditions for the Refuges and how the Service will implement management strategies.

The Service will solicit public input via open houses, public input via open houses, public meetings, workshops, and written comments. Special mailings, newspaper articles, and announcements will inform people of the time and place of such opportunities for public input to the CCP.

The Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge is scattered along approximately 400 river miles from western Pennsylvania, on the borders of northwestern West Virginia and northern Kentucky, and southeastern and southern Ohio. Established in 1990, the Refuge currently consists of 19 islands. Comments and ideas for the protection of threatened and endangered species and migratory birds and the protection and management of their habitats will be solicited as part of the planning process. Comments on the protection of shallow water embayments and wetlands along the river will also be solicited.

The Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex currently consists of 1534 acres of coastal habitats—barrier beach, salt marsh, freshwater wetlands, grasslands, and shrublands. The complex is comprised of five National Wildlife Refuges: Ninigret (408 acres), Block Island (68 acres), Pettaquamscutt Cove (174 acres), Sachuest Point (242 acres), and Trustum Pond (642 acres). Comments and ideas for the protection of threatened and endangered species and migratory birds and the protection and management of their habitats will be solicited as part of the planning process.

Review of these projects will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), NEPA Regulations (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), other appropriate Federal laws and regulations, and Service policies and procedures for compliance with those regulations.

Dated: March 9, 1998.

Ronald E. Lambertson,

Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Hadley, Massachusetts.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Receipt of Applications for Permit

The following applicants have applied for a permit 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-840255

Applicant: The Zoological Society of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA.

The applicant requests a permit to import a male Greater Indian One-horned Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) from the Metropolitan Toronto Zoo, Scarborough, Ontario, Canada, for the purpose of enhancement of the species through breeding.

PRT-839380

Applicant: Dr. John Faaborg, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO.

The applicant requests a permit to import blood samples from Galapagos hawks (*Buteo galapagoensis*) collected in the wild in Ecuador, incidental to other research activities, for scientific research.

PRT-840226

Applicant: William Wrightson, Boston, MA.

The applicant requests a permit to purchase feathers of Swinhoe's pheasants (*Lophura swinhoei*) and of the genus *Polyplectreon* in interstate commerce for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

PRT-840483

Applicant: Keith Masserant, Newport, MI.

The applicant requests a permit to import the sport-hunted trophy of one male bontebok (*Damaliscus pygargus dorcas*) culled from a captive herd maintained under the management program of the Republic of South Africa, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

PRT-840484

Applicant: Linda Masserant, Newport, MI.

The applicant requests a permit to import the sport-hunted trophy of one male bontebok (*Damaliscus pygargus dorcas*) culled from a captive herd