

out of fairness because of the negative budget impacts of prior Continuing Resolutions and sequestration, which resulted in a full year of reduced allocations, which in turn reduced the commenter's ability to adequately address vacancies during the entire period.

One commenter stated that the notice should be applied to fiscal year 2013 because of the effect of sequestration cuts, which forced them to cut maintenance staff and increased unit turn-around time, and that if the commenter had known that HUD would issue the notice, it would have waited until 2014 to institute certain policy changes which, although good for the future, increased its short-term vacancy rate. The commenter stated that "We had operating reserves recaptured in 2012 and in 2013 we were only funded at 82 percent. We had to reduce our maintenance staff due to the sequestration and budget cuts. At the same time our units are older and require a longer 'make ready' time frame. We have more vacant units than we have ever had. We have 78 applications on our waiting list and 22 vacant units. Our maximum unit turn-around is 4 units a week. Two policy changes contributed to our having a much higher vacancy than usual. First on 7/1/13 we implemented a 'Smoke-Free' policy in our elderly high-rise and some family units and we allowed elderly residents to transfer to non-Smoke-Free units. We also implemented a Prompt Rent Pay Policy in 2013, whereby residents that are late paying rent more than 3 times in 12 months, are sent an eviction notice. This caused several evictions in 2013."

*Response:* HUD has determined at this time to neither increase the number of fiscal year end dates nor to change the fiscal year end dates for which all PHAs will be awarded five points in the Capital Fund occupancy sub-indicator assessment. HUD declines to make an adjustment in to the applicability date section of the notice because of the spending decisions of particular PHAs in prior fiscal years even given program-wide budget shortfalls. It is the decision of each PHA, based on the funding available in any given year, how to best serve the families in their communities and operate their housing agency during that year, including how best to allocate their funding between the most important capital needs and other programs given the recent funding environment. Going forward, this notice will provide relief to PHAs for two full fiscal years.

*Issue:* Two commenters stated that, while the notice was "appreciated" and

"a welcome and needed form of regulatory relief," the occupancy sub-indicator under the Capital Fund Indicator should be permanently removed from the PHAS scoring regulations. One commenter stated that housing agencies are already scored in occupancy under the Management Indicator, and the occupancy sub-indicator under the Capital Fund Indicator deters housing agencies from having vacant units necessary to perform construction work to preserve their public housing stock. The other commenter stated that "as the occupancy is already applied in the Management Indicator," this subindicator is a double penalty.

*Response:* Removal of the Capital Fund occupancy sub-indicator from PHAS is outside the scope of this notice. This notice is limited to the temporary award to PHAs of the full five points for the Capital Fund occupancy sub-indicator for PHA fiscal years ending March 31, 2014, through and including December 31, 2015. Removal of the occupancy sub-indicator would require a regulatory revision of 24 CFR 902.50(c).

HUD remains concerned about the time dwelling units are in modernization status. The scoring of the Capital Fund occupancy sub-indicator allows up to 4 percent of a PHA's dwelling units to be vacant at any one time for non-dwelling uses and modernization for the PHA to receive the full 5 points and up to 7 percent to receive partial points. To achieve a higher occupancy rate, which in turn results in a higher Capital Fund occupancy score, HUD encourages PHAs to continue ongoing proactive capital projects, to strategize and stage modernization projects minimizing the number of off-line units, as well as the time they are off-line, and, because not all modernization requires a family to vacate, to consider performing modernization work in occupied units. With the Capital Fund occupancy measure based on data the PHA enters in the Public and Indian Housing Information Center (PIC) as of the last day of the PHA's fiscal year, HUD believes PHAs can effectively plan modernization projects early each fiscal year as preparation for the calculation of the occupancy percentage that will be performed at the end of the PHA's fiscal year.

*Issue:* One commenter opposed the notice, stating that "reinstatement of this scoring sub indicator is duplicative and unfair, and therefore should not occur. PHAs are already rated on occupancy as part of the scoring under management. It makes no sense to score

twice on exactly the same criteria, especially since the outcomes are often out of control of the PHA. Further, occupancy rates are in no way linked to the capital fund. The Capital Fund is currently scored based on timely obligation of funds and completion of work. This should remain in place as these are the only factors of any relevance to the Capital Fund."

*Response:* It appears this commenter misinterpreted the notice as reinstating the Capital Fund subindicator for occupancy. This notice does not reinstate this subindicator, which is established by regulation at 24 CFR 902.50(c). This notice grants relief to scores under this subindicator. PHAs are reminded that the remainder of the Capital Fund Scoring Notice of February 23, 2011 remains in effect and unchanged by this notice, and if the PHA receives 0 points for the timeliness of obligation subindicator, it is not eligible for points for the occupancy subindicator (see 76 FR 10054).

### III. Action

For the foregoing reasons this notice makes final the proposed notice issued on December 16, 2013. Accordingly, this notice advises that HUD is awarding an automatic 5 points for the Capital Fund occupancy sub-indicator for fiscal years ending March 31, 2014, June 30, 2014, September 30, 2014, December 31, 2014, March 31, 2015, June 30, 2015, September 30, 2015, and December 31, 2015.

Dated: June 26, 2014.

**Sandra B. Henriquez,**

*Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R2-ES-2014-N136;  
FRES480102200B0-XXX-FF02ENEH00]

#### Information Collection Request Sent to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Approval; Survey of Rancher Opinions About Wildlife and Jaguar Habitat Management

**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 August 1, 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 2042–PDM, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22203 (mail), or *hope\_grey@fws.gov* (email). Please include “1018–Jaguar Rancher” 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 Rancher Opinions about Wildlife and Jaguar Habitat Management.

*Service Form Number:* None.

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

*Number of Respondents:* 325.

*Description of Respondents:* Ranchers in southern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico.

*Respondent’s Obligation:* Voluntary.

*Frequency of Collection:* One time.

Activity	Number of annual responses	Completion time per response	Total annual burden hours
Initial Contact .....	325	2.5 minutes .....	14
Reminders .....	243	1 minute .....	4
Complete Survey .....	228	30 minutes .....	114
<b>Totals .....</b>	<b>796</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>132</b>

*Estimated Annual Nonhour Burden Cost:* None.

*Abstract:* We have contracted with the University of Arizona to conduct a survey of southern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico ranchers to determine their knowledge of and attitudes toward jaguar habitat, their level of knowledge regarding payments for ecosystem services, and their attitudes and interest toward a payment for ecosystem services intended to benefit jaguar habitat. This survey is necessary because there is currently no statistically significant information available about rancher attitudes toward jaguar habitat or their understanding of payments for ecosystem services.

The survey will improve rancher knowledge on these issues and will inform our evaluation of the practicality of a payment for ecosystem services for the benefit of jaguar habitat in southern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico. It will also aid in the implementation of jaguar habitat conservation efforts by increasing our knowledge of rancher attitudes toward jaguars and jaguar habitat management in southern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico.

Information collected in the survey will include data on knowledge of jaguar habitat attributes, opinions and attitudes about the designation of critical habitat in southern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico, knowledge of payment for ecosystem services programs generally, and opinions and attitudes about participation in payment for ecosystem services programs.

**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 three comments:

*Comment:* One commenter objected to the survey and stated that it is a waste of taxpayer dollars. The commenter did not address the information collection requirements, and we have not made any changes to the survey.

*Comment:* Two commenters requested inclusion of New Mexico ranchers in the survey sample.

*Response:* Ranchers located in southwestern New Mexico (Hidalgo County) will be included in the survey sample. The survey sample will include ranchers in Pima, Santa Cruz, and Cochise Counties in Arizona and Hidalgo County in New Mexico.

**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: June 26, 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**

**National Park Service**

[NPS–NCR–NACA–14983; PPNCNCROLO, PPMPSPD1Y.M000]

**Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Potomac River Tunnel in the National Capital Region**

**AGENCY:** National Park Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to Section 102 (2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy