

(2) The accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed 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 those who are to respond; including through the use of appropriate automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

HUD encourages interested parties to submit comment in response to these questions.

**Authority:** Section 3507 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35.

Dated: May 10, 2018.

**Merrie Nichols-Dixon,**

*Director, Office of Policy, Programs and Legislative Initiatives.*

[FR Doc. 2018-11306 Filed 5-24-18; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

[Docket No. FR-7006-N-08]

**60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Public Housing Flat Rent Exception Request Market Analysis**

**AGENCY:** Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing, HUD.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** HUD is seeking approval from the Office of Management and Budget

(OMB) for the information collection described below. In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, HUD is requesting comment from all interested parties on the proposed collection of information. The purpose of this notice is to allow for 60 days of public comment.

**DATES:** *Comments Due Date:* July 24, 2018.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments regarding this proposal. Comments should refer to the proposal by name and/or OMB Control Number and should be sent to: Colette Pollard, Reports Management Officer, QDAM, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW, Room 4176, Washington, DC 20410-5000; telephone 202-402-3400 (this is not a toll-free number) or email at [Colette.Pollard@hud.gov](mailto:Colette.Pollard@hud.gov) for a copy of the proposed forms or other available information. Persons with hearing or speech impairments may access this number through TTY by calling the toll-free Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Arlette Mussington, Office of Policy, Programs and Legislative Initiatives, PIH, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW, (L'Enfant Plaza, Room 2206), Washington, DC 20410; telephone 202-402-4109, (this is not a toll-free number). Persons with hearing or speech impairments may access this number via TTY by calling the Federal Information Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Copies of available documents

submitted to OMB may be obtained from Ms. Mussington.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This notice informs the public that HUD is seeking approval from OMB for the information collection described in Section A.

**A. Overview of Information Collection**

*Title of Information Collection:* Public Housing Flat Rent Exception Request Market Analysis.

*OMB Approval Number:* Pending OMB approval.

*Type of Request:* New Collection.

*Form Number:* Under development.

*Description of the need for the information and proposed use:* The form will streamline the process and reduce burden on PHAs when submitting a market analysis as part of a flat rent exception request in accordance with Notice PIH 2015-13(HA), which implements Section 238 of Title II of Public Law 113-235, the Department of Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act of 2015. Notice PIH 2015-13(HA) allows PHAs to request flat rents that are based on the local rental market conditions, when the PHA can demonstrate through a market analysis that the FMRs are not reflective of the local market. The current submission process does not stipulate a template for PHA submissions, therefore PHAs spend widely varying amounts of time and effort compiling information which may or may not facilitate HUD's review of their request.

*Respondents:* Public Housing Authorities (PHAs)

Information collection	Number of respondents	Frequency of response	Responses per annum	Burden hour per response	Annual burden hours	Hourly cost per response	Annual cost
.....	95	1	1	8	760	\$17.11	\$13,003.60
Total .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

Explanation of burden hour and cost calculation:

- Number of respondents = 95
- Frequency of response/responses per annum = 1/1 (PHAs make one submission per fiscal year)
- Burden hours per response = estimated time to complete a market analysis
- Annual burden hours = 95 \* 1 \* 1 \* 8
- Hourly cost per response = the average hourly pay rate earned by a housing specialist in a PHA responsible for collecting market data
- Annual cost = 760 \* \$17.11

**B. Solicitation of Public Comment**

This notice is soliciting comments from members of the public and affected parties concerning the collection of information described in Section A on the following:

(1) 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;

(2) The accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed 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 those who are to respond; including through the use of appropriate automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

HUD encourages interested parties to submit comment in response to these questions.

**Authority:** Section 3507 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35.

Date: May 15, 2018.

**Merrie Nichols-Dixon,**  
Director, Office of Policy, Programs and  
Legislative Initiatives.

[FR Doc. 2018-11305 Filed 5-24-18; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

[Docket No. FWS-R6-ES-2017-0044;  
FF06E11000-167-FXES11120600000]

#### Montana Department of Natural Resources Final Amended Habitat Conservation Plan and Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce the availability of the final supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) and final Montana Department of Natural Resources Amended Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for forest management in Montana. The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) applied to the Service for an amended incidental take permit (permit) under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA). DNRC is requesting authorization of additional incidental take of three federally listed and one unlisted species on 81,416 acres to be added to its HCP-covered lands. DNRC also amended the HCP to incorporate the terms of a settlement agreement from a 2013 lawsuit on the original permit. The final SEIS considers the environmental effects of amending the HCP and permit and addresses public comments received on the 2017 draft EIS.

**DATES:** The documents will be available for inspection through June 25, 2018. We will not decide whether to issue an amended permit before the 30-day review period ends. We will document our decision in a record of decision (ROD).

**ADDRESSES:** *Reviewing Documents:* You may review the final SEIS and final amended HCP in any of the following ways:

- *Internet:* Go to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) and search for Docket No. FWS-R6-ES-2017-0044.

- *In-person Review or Pick-up:* Documents will also be available for public inspection by appointment during normal business hours at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 780

Creston Hatchery Road, Kalispell, MT 59901 (telephone, 406-758-6882); U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 585 Shepard Way, Suite 1, Helena, MT 59601 (telephone, 406-449-5225); and Montana DNRC Forest Management Bureau, 2705 Spurgin Rd, Missoula, MT 59804 (telephone, 406-542-4328).

- Information regarding the final documents is available in alternative formats upon request (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ben Conard, Assistant Field Supervisor, Kalispell Field Office, via email at [Ben\\_Conard@fws.gov](mailto:Ben_Conard@fws.gov) or via telephone at 406-758-6882; or Gary Frank, Deputy Chief, Forest Management Bureau, Montana DNRC, via email at [gfrank@mt.gov](mailto:gfrank@mt.gov), or via telephone at 406-542-4328. Information on this proposed action is also available at the DNRC's website at <http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/trust/forest-management/hcp>. If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf, hard-of-hearing, or speech disabled, please call the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8337.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** With this notice, we are advising the public that we are providing the final SEIS and amended HCP for public review. We jointly prepared the final SEIS for our compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and DNRC's compliance with the Montana Environmental Policy Act.

#### Background

Section 9 of the ESA prohibits take of fish and wildlife species listed as endangered (16 U.S.C. 1538). Under section 3 of the ESA, the term "take" means to "harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or attempt to engage in any such conduct" (16 U.S.C. 1532(19)). The term "harm" is defined in title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations as "an act which actually kills or injures wildlife. Such acts may include significant habitat modification or degradation where it actually kills or injures wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding, or sheltering" (50 CFR 17.3). The term "harass" is defined in the regulations as "an intentional or negligent act or omission which creates the likelihood of injury to wildlife by annoying it to such an extent as to significantly disrupt normal behavioral patterns which include, but are not limited to, breeding, feeding, or sheltering" (50 CFR 17.3).

Under section 10(a) of the ESA, the Service may issue permits to authorize incidental take of listed fish and

wildlife species. "Incidental take" is defined by the ESA as take that is incidental to, and not the purpose of, carrying out an otherwise lawful activity. Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA contains provisions for issuing incidental take permits to non-Federal entities for the incidental take of endangered and threatened species. Regulations governing activities involving endangered species are at 50 CFR part 17, subpart C, and regulations governing activities involving threatened species are at 50 CFR part 17, subpart D.

NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) requires that Federal agencies conduct an environmental analysis of their proposed actions to determine whether the actions may significantly affect the human environment. Under NEPA and its implementing regulations (40 CFR 1500 *et seq.*), Federal agencies must also compare effects of a reasonable range of alternatives to the proposed action. In these analyses, the Federal agency will identify potentially significant direct, indirect, and cumulative effects, as well as possible mitigation for any significant effects, on biological resources, land use, air quality, water resources, socioeconomic, environmental justice, cultural resources, and other environmental resources that could occur with the implementation of the proposed action and alternatives.

#### The Applicant's Project

In 2011, we issued a permit to DNRC for take of the grizzly bear, Canada lynx, bull trout, westslope cutthroat trout, and Columbia redband trout incidental to forest management activities covered in their HCP (75 FR 57059). The grizzly bear, Canada lynx, and bull trout are listed as threatened under the ESA, while the westslope and Columbia redband trout are not listed species. The original permit covered approximately 548,500 acres of forested State trust lands in western Montana. The HCP addressed the process and contingencies for DNRC to transfer, exchange, or add lands for their forest management activities in the future. Thus, the Service had considered in the 2011 final EIS the potential effects of amending the HCP and permit to cover such actions, but was not able to analyze effects from adding specific lands that had not yet been identified. The final SEIS analyzes potential effects to the human and natural environment from the preferred alternative to amend the permit to cover take from DNRC's forest management activities on an additional 81,416 acres. The permit's take authorization would increase for the grizzly bear, Canada lynx, bull trout, and westslope cutthroat