

working to maintain combined flows at the Salt and Verde River confluence below 180,000 cubic ft per second.

Modified Roosevelt Dam's WCM identifies when it may be necessary to temporarily deviate from the established flood control plan. Planned deviations are one of three categories identified in the WCM. Regulations and agreements establish the process and requirements for approval of a planned WCM deviation.

National Environmental Policy Act Compliance

Issuance of the RHCP amendment permit is a Federal action that triggers the need for compliance with NEPA. Additionally, as noted above, the proposed RHCP amendment is a combined ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) and ESA section 7 approach to ESA compliance for implementation of covered activities for non-Federal (section 10) and Federal (section 7) participants. In accordance with the requirements of NEPA, we advise the public that:

1. We have prepared a draft EA to evaluate SRP's RHCP amendment, which addresses Modified Roosevelt Dam's effects from conservation storage actions on newly listed species and adds effects to covered species from flood control operations, including the Corps' evaluation of the planned deviation to the WCM, and potential permit issuance. We are accepting comments on the RHCP amendment and draft EA.

2. The applicant, Service, and Corps have developed the RHCP amendment, which describes the measures the applicant has volunteered to take to meet the issuance criteria for a permit associated with the RHCP amendment. The issuance criteria are found at 50 CFR 17.22(b)(2)(i) and 50 CFR 17.32(b)(2).

3. The applicant would implement the RHCP amendment, including its conservation program, and the amended permit would remain effective until the expiration of the RHCP in 2053.

4. As described in the RHCP amendment, anticipated incidental take of the gartersnake (in the CS, FCS, and lower Tonto Creek), flycatcher, cuckoo, and bald eagle (in the FCS) could result from otherwise lawful activities covered by the RHCP amendment.

Alternatives

As part of this process, we are considering two additional alternatives to the proposed action, the No Action and No Planned Deviation alternatives. Under the No Action Alternative, the Service would not issue the amended

permit, and SRP would not implement the RHCP amendment. Under the No Planned Deviation Alternative, the Corps would not approve the planned deviation to the WCM, and SRP would implement the RHCP amendment with the addition of normal flood control activities.

Next Steps

We will evaluate the RHCP amendment permit application, amended RHCP, draft EA, and comments we receive to determine whether the RHCP amendment application meets the requirements of the ESA, NEPA, and implementing regulations. If we determine that all requirements are met, we will approve the RHCP amendment and issue the amended permit under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) to the applicant. We will not make our final decision until after the 30-day comment period ends and we have fully considered all comments received during the public comment period.

Public Availability of Comments

All comments we receive become part of the public record associated with this action. The Service will handle requests for copies of comments in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, NEPA, and Service and Department of the Interior policies and procedures. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that the Service may make your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—publicly available at any time. While you can ask us to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. The Service will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public disclosure in their entirety.

Authority

We provide this notice under the authority of section 10(c) of the ESA and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 17.22 and 17.32) and NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

Amy L. Lueders,

Regional Director, Southwest Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Geological Survey

[GX23BA000AD0100; OMB Control Number 1028-0103]

Agency Information Collection Activities; USA National Phenology Network—The Nature's Notebook Plant and Animal Observing Program

AGENCY: U.S. Geological Survey, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of information collection; request for comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is proposing to renew an information collection.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before October 3, 2023.

ADDRESSES: Send your comments on the information collection request (ICR) by mail to the U.S. Geological Survey, Information Collections Clearance Officer, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive MS 159, Reston, VA 20192; or by email to gs-info_collections@usgs.gov. Please reference Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Control Number 1028-0103 in the subject line of your comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request additional information about this ICR, contact Melanie J. Steinkamp by email at msteinkamp@usgs.gov, or by telephone at 703-261-3128.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with the PRA, we provide the general public and other Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. It also helps the public understand our information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format.

We are soliciting comments on the proposed ICR that is described below. We are especially interested in public comment addressing the following questions: is the collection necessary to the proper functions of the USGS? Will this information be processed and used in a timely manner? Is the estimate of burden accurate? How might the USGS enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected? How might the USGS minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology?

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. We will include or summarize each comment in our request to OMB to approve this ICR. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personally identifiable information (PII) in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your PII—may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your PII from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Abstract: The USA National Phenology Network (NPN) is a program sponsored by the USGS that uses standardized forms for tracking plant and animal activity as part of a project called Nature’s Notebook. The Nature’s Notebook forms are used to record phenology (e.g., timing of leafing or flowering of plants and reproduction or migration of animals) as part of a nationwide effort to understand and predict how plants and animals respond to environmental variation and changes in weather and climate. Contemporary data collected through Nature’s Notebook are quality-checked, described, and made publicly available and are used to inform decision-making in a variety of contexts including

agriculture, drought monitoring, and wildfire-risk assessment. Phenological information is also critical for the management of wildlife, invasive species, and agricultural pests, as well as for understanding and managing risks to human health and welfare, including allergies, asthma, and vector-borne diseases. Participants may contribute phenology information to Nature’s Notebook through a browser-based web application or via mobile applications for iPhone and Android operating systems which meet Government Paperwork Elimination Act (GPEA) and Privacy Act requirements. The web-application interface consists of several components: user registration, a searchable list of 1,756 observable plant and animal species, and a “profile” that contains information about each species including its description and the appropriate monitoring protocols. The application also consists of a series of interfaces for registering an observer, a site, and plants and animals found at a site, and a data-entry page that mimics downloadable datasheets that can be taken into the field.

Title of Collection: USA National Phenology Network—The Nature’s Notebook Plant and Animal Observing Program.

OMB Control Number: 1028–0103.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Respondents/Affected Public: Members of the public registered with Nature’s Notebook, state cooperative extension employees, and Tribal members.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Respondents: 6,640.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 4,094,800.

Estimated Completion Time per Response: When joining the program, responders spend 13 minutes each to register and read guidelines, and 210 minutes to complete the Observer Certification Course. After that, responders may spend about two minutes on each observation and submission of a phenophase status record.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours: 141,418.

Respondent’s Obligation: Voluntary.

Frequency of Collection: On occasion; depends on the seasonal activity of plants and animals.

Total Estimated Annual Non-hour Burden Cost: \$11,484

Table: Annual Responses and Burden Hours: 4,102,436 responses, 141,418 burden hours.

Response type	Annual responses (projected)	Completion time per response (minutes)	Annual burden (hours)
Registrations	6,640	13 minutes (3 minutes to register + 10 minutes to read guidelines)	1,439
Certification Course*	996	210 minutes (to complete the Observer Certification Course)	3,486
Observation records	4,094,800	2 minutes (includes observation and reporting time)	136,493
Total	4,102,436	141,418

* Note that the Certification Course is optional, and we estimate a completion rate of 15% during the clearance period.

TABLE—ANNUAL NON-HOUR BURDEN COSTS

	Cost per unit	Estimated number of respondents expected to use	Non-hour burden cost
Clipboard	\$2.23	1,328	\$2,961
Pencils	0.10	1,328	133
Flags	0.05	1,328	66
Markers	0.10	1,328	133
Stakes	0.30	1,328	398
Tags	0.30	1,328	398
Popsicle Sticks	0.30	1,328	398
Average Marking Material Cost	0.19
Cost Per Response	2.52	Total Non-Hour Burden Cost	4,489

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, nor is a person required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

The authorities for this action are the PRA (44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*).

Melanie J. Steinkamp,
Program Coordinator, USGS Species
Management Research Program.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of the Secretary

[234D0102DM, DS61200000,
DLSN00000.000000, DX61201]

Draft Prospectus for the First National Nature Assessment

AGENCY: Office of Policy Analysis, Interior.

ACTION: Notice, request for public comments.

SUMMARY: With this notice, the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) seeks public comment on the proposed themes and framework of the First National Nature Assessment. Based on input received from this notice, USGCRP will begin the next phases of assessment development.

DATES: Comments must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on September 18, 2023.

ADDRESSES: Comments from the public will be accepted electronically via <https://www.globalchange.gov/notices>. Instructions for submitting comments are available on the website. Submitters may enter text or upload files in response to this notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Chris Avery, (202) 419-3474, cavery@usgcrp.gov, U.S. Global Change Research Program.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) was created by Congress in 1990 to “assist the Nation and the world to understand, assess, predict, and respond to human-induced and natural processes of global change.” USGCRP comprises 14 Federal agencies that work together to carry out its legislative mandate. USGCRP is conducting the First National Nature Assessment (NNA1) to assess changes in nature as an aspect of global change. With this notice, the United States Department of the Interior, on behalf of the USGCRP, seeks public comment on a prospectus for NNA1.

The scope of NNA1 is to assess the status, observed trends, and future

projections of America’s lands, waters, wildlife, biodiversity, and ecosystems and the benefits they provide, including connections to the economy, public health, equity, climate mitigation and adaptation, and national security.

In developing NNA1, USGCRP will follow the principles of a use-inspired, knowledge-informed assessment, in which the design is driven both by the potential uses of the final products and by science and other forms of knowledge. USGCRP recognizes the importance of lived experiences and acknowledges Indigenous Knowledge as an important form of evidence. Across all phases of NNA1, USGCRP aims to be inclusive, represent diverse perspectives, and create products that are accessible to the widest possible audience. To achieve these aims, USGCRP will engage the public and Tribal Nations multiple times throughout the development process, using diverse means to increase accessibility and inclusion.

I. Development of the First National Nature Assessment Through a Proposed Report and Portfolio of Associated Products

Striving for a use-inspired and knowledge-informed assessment, USGCRP initiated NNA1 with requests for input. This included engagements with federal agencies, the public, and Tribal and Indigenous communities. Input was sought through a Request for Information (87 FR 65622) on what specific questions the assessment should answer, what products should be created, what engagement processes should be used, and what knowledge sources should be drawn from, among other topics. USGCRP held multiple public engagement sessions and a formal Tribal Consultation. Over 3,000 comments were received online and through the engagement and Consultation sessions.

The Federal Steering Committee overseeing the development of NNA1 considered this public and Tribal input when developing the proposed elements of the assessment described below. For example, input showed that different communities have different questions relevant to the scope of NNA1 and would like to use information from the assessment in different ways. To be responsive to that input, USGCRP intends to develop a portfolio of assessment products of which an NNA1 report will be a core component. Additional products could include special issues of peer-reviewed journals; technical input reports; and community-created videos portraying diverse perspectives of nature, observed

changes to nature, consequences of those changes, and the importance of nature.

II. The First National Nature Assessment: A Use-Inspired, Knowledge-Driven Report

The NNA1 will assess the state of knowledge regarding the status, observed trends, and future projections of nature in the United States and the consequences of those changes including shifts in the benefits that nature provides. NNA1 will consider nature in U.S. states, marine areas (U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone), territories, Native or Indigenous lands and waters, and other affiliated areas (as appropriate), as well as its significant interactions with global drivers.

The core product of NNA1 will be a use-inspired, knowledge-driven report that addresses a diverse set of questions received via public and Tribal input. USGCRP received many questions, spanning a range of themes, that potential users posed. This draft prospectus prioritizes a subset of these questions for consideration in this initial assessment. The questions included in the report will be addressed in a manner that meets specific Federal guidelines for information quality, information tracking, and technical development required of a Highly Influential Scientific Assessment. Findings will be made accessible through a range of user-specific outputs as described below. Consistent with Federal law, the report will support disability access and inclusion.

III. Overarching Themes of the First National Nature Assessment

The NNA1 report is currently planned to be organized around key thematic interests identified through federal agency, public, and Tribal engagement efforts. Those themes are (in alphabetical order):

- Conservation and Natural Resource Management
- Economic Interests
- Human Health and Well-Being
- Safety and Security

There are not discrete boundaries among these themes, and the proposed report would be structured and conducted to recognize and explore interconnections and tradeoffs among them, as possible. The themes and related focal questions are described in greater detail below. Federal agency, public, and Tribal input identified two cross-cutting areas that are woven throughout the other proposed themes for the NNA1 report:

- Climate Change