

Permit record No.	Applicant	Species	Location	Activity	Type of take	Permit action
PER3115282 .....	Karraker, Nancy; Kingston, Rhode Island.	Jemez Mountains salamander ( <i>Plethodon neomexicanus</i> ).	New Mexico .....	Presence/absence surveys, capture, handle, bio-sample, and release.	Harass, harm, capture.	Renew.
PER3856727 .....	City of Austin—Watershed Protection Department; Austin, Texas.	Barton Springs salamander ( <i>Eurycea sosorum</i> ), Austin blind salamander ( <i>Eurycea waterloensis</i> ), Tooth Cave spider ( <i>Tayshaneta myopica</i> ), Tooth Cave pseudoscorpion ( <i>Tartarocreagris texana</i> ), Bee Creek Cave harvestman ( <i>Texella reddelli</i> ), Kretschmarr Cave mold beetle ( <i>Texamaurops reddelli</i> ), Tooth Cave ground beetle ( <i>Rhadine persephone</i> ), Bone Cave harvestman ( <i>Texella reyes</i> ), Coffin Cave mold beetle ( <i>Batrisodes texanus</i> ), ground beetle ( <i>Rhadine exilis</i> ), ground beetle ( <i>Rhadine infernalis</i> ), Helotes mold beetle ( <i>Batrisodes venyivi</i> ), Cokendolpher Cave harvestman ( <i>Texella cokendolpheri</i> ), Robber Baron Cave meshweaver ( <i>Cicurina baronia</i> ), Madla Cave meshweaver ( <i>Cicurina madla</i> ), Government Canyon Bat Cave meshweaver ( <i>Cicurina vespera</i> ), Government Canyon Bat Cave spider ( <i>Neoleptoneta microps</i> ).	Texas .....	Presence/absence surveys, handling, capture, voucher specimen collection.	Harass, harm, kill, capture.	Renew.
PER3324977 .....	Savarino, Patrick; Dripping Springs, Texas.	Lesser prairie chicken ( <i>Tympanuchus pallidicinctus</i> ).	Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas.	Presence/absence surveys, habitat assessments.	Harass, harm ...	New.
PER4208629 .....	Turtles Fly Too; Boise, Idaho.	Kemp's ridley sea turtle ( <i>Lepidochelys kempii</i> ); leatherback sea turtle ( <i>Dermodochelys coriacea</i> ); Olive ridley sea turtle ( <i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i> ); hawksbill sea turtle ( <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> ).	Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas.	Transport .....	Harass, harm ...	New.

### Public Availability of Comments

All comments we receive become part of the public record associated with this action. Requests for copies of comments will be handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, National Environmental Policy Act, 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 your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made 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. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public disclosure in their entirety.

### Authority

We provide this notice under section 10 of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

#### Amy Lueders,

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

[FR Doc. 2023–20614 Filed 9–22–23; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4333–15–P**

### DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

#### Fish and Wildlife Service

[Docket No. FWS–HQ–NWRS–2023–0135; FF09M21200–234–FXMB1231099BPP0; OMB Control Number 1018–0193]

#### Agency Information Collection Activities; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Agreements With Friends Organizations

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

**ACTION:** Notice of information collection; request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, we, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), are proposing to renew an information collection with revisions.

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before November 24, 2023.

**ADDRESSES:** Send your comments on the information collection request (ICR) by one of the following methods (please reference 1018–0193 in the subject line of your comments):

- **Internet (preferred):** <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments on Docket No. FWS–HQ–NWRS–2023–0135.

- **U.S. mail:** Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 5275 Leesburg Pike, MS: PRB (JAO/3W), Falls Church, VA 22041–3803.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** To request additional information about this ICR, contact Madonna L. Baucum, Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, by email at [InfoColl@fws.gov](mailto:InfoColl@fws.gov), or by telephone at (703) 358–2503. Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA, 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations at 5 CFR 1320.8(d)(1), all information

collections require approval under the PRA. We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

As part of our continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burdens, we invite the public and other Federal agencies to comment on new, 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 especially interested in public comment addressing the following:

(1) Whether or not the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether or not the information will have practical utility;

(2) The accuracy of our estimate of the burden for this collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(3) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) How might the agency minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, *e.g.*, permitting electronic submission of response.

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 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 us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

**Abstract:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) enters into agreements and partnerships with nonprofit Friends groups to facilitate and formalize collaboration between the parties in support of mutual goals and objectives as authorized by:

(1) The Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742a–742j);

(2) The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd–ee), as amended;

(3) The Refuge Recreation Act of 1962 (16 U.S.C. 460k *et seq.*), as amended;

(4) The Anadromous Fish Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 757a–757g), as amended;

(5) The Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1934 (16 U.S.C. 661–667e), as amended;

(6) The National Wildlife Refuge System Volunteer and Community Partnership Enhancement Act of 1998 (16 U.S.C. 742f), as amended; and

(7) The National Fish Hatchery System Volunteer Act of 2006 (16 U.S.C. 760aa), as amended.

In September 2020, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) at the Department of the Interior (DOI) delivered its final audit report of the Service's Friends Program. The audit outlined six recommendations, including a requirement for Friends group to report related data to the Service on a regular basis. In order to collect this information legally, we must complete the Information Collection Clearance process. The Service addressed and completed all audit recommendations and commitments (other than completion of the Information Collection Clearance process). For example, the Service amended and reissued agency policies (Service Manual chapters 633 FW 1, 633 FW 2, 633 FW 3, and 633 FW 4, available at <https://www.fws.gov/program/policy-regulations/library>) which guide the program. We also trained Service staff and Friends on the new policies.

The Service uses the information collected to establish efficient and effective partnerships and working relationships with nonprofit Friends organizations. The agreements provide a method for the Service to legally accept donations of funds and other contributions by people and organizations through partnerships with nonprofit (and non-Federal) Friends organizations. The partnership agreements identify roles and responsibilities and identify mutual projects over the term of the agreement. Quarterly reviews provide an opportunity to update contact and financial information. Annual reporting documents contributions to the Service.

The Service utilizes a standardized agreement which describes the substantial involvement of both parties in mutually agreed-upon activities and ensures that both parties have a mutual understanding of their respective roles, responsibilities, rights, expectations, and requirements within the

partnership. The agreement, pre-approved by the Department of the Interior (DOI) Office of the Solicitor, provides the suggested language common to most Service Friends partnerships. The content is based on DOI and Service policies, but the Friends and Service sites/programs may thoughtfully add and delete certain language to meet their varying partnership roles and responsibilities wherever Department and Service policies do not dictate otherwise. We also use a supplemental partnership agreement for use of Service property, which provides additional terms and responsibilities beyond the general terms of the partnership agreement and is required only for those Friends groups that use Service land, facilities, or equipment.

The partnership agreement and supplemental agreement are effective for 5 years, with four annual modification options during the 5-year period of performance. Each time the agreement is up for its 5-year renewal, the Refuge or Fish Hatchery Project Leader and the Friends President or Board will meet to review, modify, and sign the agreement as described above. To become effective, the Regional Director (or designee) must review, approve, and sign a new agreement every 5 years.

The Service collects the information listed below in conjunction with the administration of the Friends Program to verify compliance with agency policy and to allow the Service to gauge the impact of the program as a whole. All information collected will be kept in a secure manner by the Service and will not be shared except as an aggregate report. If the Service wishes to share specific details to illustrate the strength of the Friends program, individual groups will be asked for their permission to do so.

In addition to the partnership agreement and supplemental agreement, and subsequent renewals of the agreements, the Service collects the following information in conjunction with the administration of the Friends Program:

- Basic program information documentation, to include documents such as IRS determination letters recognizing an organization as tax exempt, submission of IRS Form 990-forms, bylaws, articles of incorporation, etc.;
- Internal financial control documentation for the organization;
- Recordkeeping requirements documenting accountability for donations and expenditures;
- Assurance documentation that donations, revenues, and expenditures

benefit the applicable refuge or hatchery;

- Annual performance reporting (donations, revenues, and expenditures) and number of memberships (if applicable);

- Additional information that may be included as part of quarterly, annual, and in-depth program reviews; and
- Information related to fundraising agreements for activities described in 212 FW 8.

Over the life of this clearance, the Service plans to develop a digital platform and process to collect information directly from Friends groups. Until that occurs, Friends groups will submit information through form and non-form responses.

### Proposed Revisions to This Information Collection

With this submission, we are proposing the following revisions to the existing information collection:

1. *(New) National Friends Program: Friends Academy Application (Form 3-TBD)*—The Service uses the Friends Academy Application form with the Friends Academy, an advanced training program for board members and staff of Friends organizations who are beyond the formative stages of development. The overarching purpose of the Academy is to cultivate emerging Friends leaders by providing a broader understanding of the Service and enhancing skills to increase the effectiveness of Friends/Service partnerships.

This program is exclusively offered to Friends board members and staff who have been serving for at least 1 year. In addition, people who have at least 2 years of involvement as Friends members or volunteers may be considered. People eligible for the program fall into two application pools—Service staff or other Friends may nominate a Friend, or a Friend may self-nominate. These application forms will be completed and submitted directly to the National Friends Coordinator specified in the “Application Submission Instructions” section.

- Part I (Region and Application Type) of each application simply gathers the servicing USFWS regional office and specifies the type of nomination (Self-nomination or Staff

nominating a Friend) that dictates which sections will be filled out.

- Part II (Self-Nomination) and Part III (Nominating a Friend) both gather basic information to identify the nominee (name, address, phone number, email address) and specify the nominee’s baseline credentials for gaining entry to the Academy program (Friends organization affiliation, years of affiliation, Service programs supported, volunteer history, board position, committees served). In addition, these sections also solicit professional information that helps the Academy’s selection personnel evaluate the nominee’s merits as a candidate. Each of these parts gather identical information regarding the nominee.

- Part IV (Required Service Site or Program Manager Endorsement and Signature) requires gathering endorsements and signatures from both the nominee’s Service Site Program Manager and from a member of the nominee’s Friends Organization.

- Part V (Required Service Site or Program Manager Endorsement and Signature Continued) compiles the signatures of all the individuals involved in preparing the application: self-applicant or nominating official, project leader or manager, and Friends Organization representative.

2. *(New) National Friends Program Mentor Application (Form 3-TBD)*—The National Friends Mentoring Program is open to both Service staff and members of the public (e.g., retired Service Employees, Friends members). Applicants volunteer to serve in a cadre of trained mentor professionals. These professionals use the National Friends Program Mentor Application form to apply to enter into mentoring relationships with current Friends groups who request this service. The mentor relationship typically lasts for one full year and involves an on-site visit to the Friends group and Service site which the Friends group supports in an official capacity (i.e., has a Friends Partnership Agreement). The Service generally issues a call for mentor applications every 3 to 5 years, at most.

3. *(New) Mentoring Visit Form (Form 3-TBD)*—Friends groups use the Mentoring Visit Form to request a mentor visit. The form is completed by the Friends group, but the Service staff at the field station which the Friends

support must be consulted and must sign the form before it is submitted to Service headquarters.

4. *(New) Internal Financial Control Documentation (Forms 990-N or Postcard Filers)*—About 80 percent of the Service’s Friends groups are very small, with annual gross receipts totaling \$50,000 or less. This means that they do not file a 990 or 990-EZ (the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) forms on which organizations must declare all donations and revenues). Rather, these smaller groups, which represent most of our partners, are only required to file the 990-N, or “e-Postcard.” The 990-N or e-Postcard simply asks for confirmation that the organization has annual gross receipts totaling \$50,000 or less. Collection of this information, per the Office of Inspector General audit, from Friends groups filing the 990-N or ePostcard is not duplicative of what the IRS requires from 80 percent of our Friends groups, nor is it publicly available information on the IRS website. Therefore, we need to request this information on our Annual Report (for only those small entities filing the 990-N or e-Postcard).

5. *(Revised) Internal Financial Control Documentation (Forms 990 or 990-EZ Filers)*—We reduced the number of respondents specific to this requirement to reflect only those Friends groups that file Forms 990 or 990-EZ. Tax information for this collection will be retrieved by Service members from information published on the IRS website and not requested from Friends groups.

*Title of Collection:* U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Agreements with Friends Organizations.

*OMB Control Number:* 1018-0193.

*Form Numbers:* To be determined.

*Type of Review:* Revision of a currently approved collection.

*Respondents/Affected Public:* Individuals/households; private sector; and State, local, and Tribal governments.

*Respondent’s Obligation:* Required to obtain or retain a benefit for monitoring and annual reports and voluntary for surveys.

*Frequency of Collection:* On occasion.

*Total Estimated Annual Nonhour Burden Cost:* None.

Requirement	Average number of annual respondents	Average number of responses each	Average number of annual responses	Average completion time per response	Estimated annual burden hours *
<b>Partnership Agreement</b>					
Reporting .....	50	50	50	35	1,750
Recordkeeping .....				5	250
<b>Renewal of Partnership Agreement</b>					
Reporting .....	150	1	150	5.5	825
Recordkeeping .....				2.5	375
<b>Supplemental Agreement</b>					
Reporting .....	50	1	50	3	150
Recordkeeping .....				1	50
<b>Renewal of Supplemental Agreement</b>					
Reporting .....	150	1	150	1.5	225
Recordkeeping .....				0.5	75
<b>Fundraising Agreement</b>					
Reporting .....	30	1	30	10	300
Recordkeeping .....				10	300
<b>Internal Financial Control Documentation (Forms 990 or 990-EZ Filers) (REVISED)</b>					
Reporting .....	40	1	40	15	600
Recordkeeping .....				15	600
<b>Internal Financial Control Documentation (Forms 990-N or Postcard Filers) (NEW)</b>					
Reporting .....	160	1	160	15	2,400
Recordkeeping .....				15	2,400
<b>Assurance Documentation</b>					
Reporting .....	200	1	200	20	4,000
Recordkeeping .....				20	4,000
<b>Supplemental Documentation Requirements: Quarterly Review</b>					
Reporting .....	200	4	800	1.5	1,200
Recordkeeping .....				0.5	400
<b>Supplemental Documentation Requirements: Annual Review</b>					
Reporting .....	10	1	10	2.5	25
Recordkeeping .....				17.5	175
<b>National Friends Program: 2022 Friends Academy Application (Form 3-TBD) (NEW)</b>					
Reporting .....	30	1	30	2	60
<b>National Friends Program: 2022 Mentoring Application (Form 3-TBD) (NEW)</b>					
Reporting .....	8	1	8	10	80
<b>National Friends Program: 2020 Friends Mentor Application (Form 3-TBD) (NEW)</b>					
Reporting .....	15	1	15	3	45
Totals .....	1,093		1,693		20,285

\* Rounded.

An agency 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.

The authority for this action is the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

**Madonna Baucum,**

*Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*

[FR Doc. 2023–20710 Filed 9–22–23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4333–15–P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS–HQ–IA–2023–N068;  
FXIA167109CWT01/234/FF09A40000; OMB  
Control Number 1018–New]

#### Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget; CITES Master's Course

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

**ACTION:** Notice of information collection;  
request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, we, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), are proposing a new information collection in use without Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval.

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before October 25, 2023.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be submitted within 30 days of publication of this notice at <https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain>. Find this particular information collection by selecting “Currently under Review—Open for Public Comments” or by using the search function. Please provide a copy of your comments to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS: PRB (JAO/3W), 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041–3803 (mail); or by email to [Info\\_Coll@fws.gov](mailto:Info_Coll@fws.gov). Please reference “1018–CITES” in the subject line of your comments.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Madonna L. Baucum, Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, by email at [Info\\_Coll@fws.gov](mailto:Info_Coll@fws.gov), or by telephone at (703) 358–2503. Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have

a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA, 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations at 5 CFR 1320.8(d)(1), all information collections require approval under the PRA. We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

On February 14, 2023, we published in the **Federal Register** (88 FR 9533) a notice of our intent to request that OMB approve this information collection. In that notice, we solicited comments for 60 days, ending on April 17, 2023. In an effort to increase public awareness of, and participation in, our public commenting processes associated with information collection requests, the Service also published the **Federal Register** notice on [Regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) (Docket No. FWS–HQ–IA–2022–0142) to provide the public with an additional method to submit comments (in addition to the typical *Info Coll@fws.gov* email and U.S. mail submission methods). We received two comments in response to that notice. However, neither comment addressed the information collection requirements, so no response is required.

As part of our continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burdens, we invite the public and other Federal agencies to comment on new, 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 especially interested in public comment addressing the following:

- (1) Whether or not the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether or not the information will have practical utility;
- (2) The accuracy of our estimate of the burden for this collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- (3) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) How might the agency minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, *e.g.*, permitting electronic submission of response.

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 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 us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

**Abstract:** Wildlife trafficking ranks as the second greatest threat to species survival after habitat destruction. The United States recognizes wildlife trafficking as a serious transnational crime that threatens thousands of plant and animal species and undermines U.S. priorities, including national security, human health, and economic growth. The Service employs a science-based approach to counter wildlife trafficking, including through the implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). CITES is the sole global treaty dedicated to preventing the unsustainable trade in plants and animals and is an essential component to counter illegal wildlife trade as it provides mechanisms and incentives to effectively manage natural resources. The United States has been a Party to CITES since 1973. Under the Endangered Species Act, the Service has been designated to carry out the provisions of CITES for the United States.

As one of the largest and oldest environmental treaties in the world, CITES is a key conservation tool for the protection of 35,000 plant and animal species. Currently 183 countries have agreed to implement CITES. However, realizing the full conservation impact of CITES remains challenging and is highly dependent on each country's financial and technical capacity. Even when a Party has the political will and desire to implement CITES, it may not have the resources, systems, or personnel to effectively follow CITES' mandates, such as evaluating permit