

Questions on how to conduct FMR surveys may be addressed to the Program Parameters and Research Division at pprd@hud.gov.

For small metropolitan areas without one-year ACS data and non-metropolitan counties, HUD has developed a method of using mail surveys that is discussed on the FMR web page: https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/fmr.html#survey_info. This method allows for the a PHA to submit a valid survey consisting of as few as 100 one-bedroom, two-bedroom, and three-bedroom units.

Other survey methods are acceptable in providing data to support reevaluation requests if the survey method can provide statistically reliable, unbiased estimates of gross rents paid throughout the entire FMR area. In general, recommendations for FMR changes and supporting data must reflect the rent levels that exist within the entire FMR area and should be statistically reliable.

PHAs in non-metropolitan areas are required to get 100 eligible survey responses which means they should have at least 5,000 rental units, taking in to account survey non-response rates and the fact that some units will fail to qualify. PHAs may conduct surveys of groups of non-metropolitan counties to increase the number of rental units that are surveyed, but HUD must approve all county-grouped surveys in advance. HUD cautions that the resulting FMRs may not be identical for the counties surveyed; each individual FMR area will have a separate FMR based on the relationship of rents in that area to the combined rents in the cluster of FMR areas. In addition, HUD advises that in counties where FMRs are based on the combined rents in the cluster of FMR areas, HUD will not revise their FMRs unless the grouped survey results show a revised FMR statistically different from the combined rent level.

Survey samples should preferably be randomly drawn from a complete list of rental units for the FMR area. If this is not feasible, the selected sample must be drawn to be statistically representative of the entire rental housing stock of the FMR area. Surveys must include units at all rent levels and be representative by structure type (including single-family, duplex, and other small rental properties), age of housing unit, and geographic location. The current 5-year ACS data should be used as a means of verifying if a sample is representative of the FMR area's rental housing stock. HUD staff are available to work with PHAs in areas requesting re-evaluations to provide the minimum number of survey cases

required to ensure that data submitted for re-evaluation represent a statistically valid sample. In cases where a submitted sample is not representative, HUD may attempt to weight the sample cases prior to calculating 40th percentile rent estimates.

A PHA or contractor that cannot obtain the recommended number of sample responses after reasonable efforts should consult with HUD before abandoning its survey; in such situations, HUD may find it appropriate to relax normal sample size requirements, but in no case will fewer than 100 eligible cases be considered.

VI. Environmental Impact

This notice involves the establishment of FMR schedules, which do not constitute a development decision affecting the physical condition of specific project areas or building sites. Accordingly, under 24 CFR 50.19(c)(6), this notice is categorically excluded from environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321).

Accordingly, the Fair Market Rent Schedules, which will not be codified in 24 CFR part 888, are available at <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/fmr.html>.

Solomon Greene,

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research.

Fair Market Rents for the Housing Choice Voucher Program

Schedule B—General Explanatory Notes

Arrangement of FMR Areas and Identification of Constituent Parts

a. The Metropolitan and Non-Metropolitan FMR Area Schedule lists FMRs alphabetically by state, by metropolitan area and by non-metropolitan county within each state and are available at <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/fmr.html>.

b. The schedule lists the constituent counties (and New England towns and cities) included in each metropolitan FMR area immediately following the listings of the FMR dollar amounts. All constituent parts of a metropolitan FMR area that are in more than one state can be identified by consulting the listings for each applicable state.

c. The schedule lists two non-metropolitan counties alphabetically on each line of the non-metropolitan county listings.

d. Similarly, the schedule lists the New England towns and cities included

in a non-metropolitan county immediately following the county name.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[Docket No. FWS-HQ-NWRS-2024-0094; FXRS1263090000-245-FF09R81000; OMB Control Number 1018-0102]

Agency Information Collection Activities; National Wildlife Refuge Special Use Permit Applications and Reports

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 revise an existing collection of information.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before October 15, 2024.

ADDRESSES: Send your comments on the information collection request (ICR) by one of the following methods (please reference "1018-0102" 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-2024-0094.

- *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:

Madonna L. Baucum, Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, by email at 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 PRA and 5 CFR 1320.8(d)(1), we provide the general public and other Federal agencies with an opportunity 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.

As part of our continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burdens, we are again soliciting comments from the public and other Federal agencies on the proposed ICR that is described below. 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. 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 National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (Administration Act; 16 U.S.C. 668dd–668ee), as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, consolidated all refuge units into a single National Wildlife Refuge System (system). It also authorized us to offer visitor and public programs, including those facilitated by commercial visitor and management support services, on lands of the system when we find that the activities are appropriate and compatible with the purpose(s) for which the refuge was established and the system's mission. The Refuge Recreation Act of 1962 (Recreation Act; 16 U.S.C. 460k–460k–4)

allows the use of refuges for public recreation when it is not inconsistent or does not interfere with the primary purpose(s) of the refuge. The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA; 16 U.S.C. 3101 *et seq.*) provides specific authorization and guidance for the administration and management of national wildlife refuges within the State of Alaska. Its provisions provide for the issuance of permits under certain circumstances.

We issue special use permits for a specific period as determined by the type and location of the management activity or visitor service provided. These permits authorize activities such as:

- Agricultural activities (haying and grazing, 50 CFR 29.1 and 50 CFR 29.2).
- Beneficial management tools that we use to provide the best habitat possible on some refuges (50 CFR 30.11, 50 CFR 31.14, 50 CFR 31.16, and 50 CFR 36.41).
- Special events, group visits, and other one-time events (50 CFR 25.41, 50 CFR 25.61, 50 CFR 26.36, and 50 CFR 36.41).
- Recreational visitor service operations (50 CFR 25.41, 50 CFR 25.61, and 50 CFR 36.41).
- Guiding for fishing, hunting, wildlife education, and interpretation (50 CFR 25.41 and 50 CFR 36.41).
- Commercial filming (43 CFR 5, 50 CFR 27.71) and other commercial activities (50 CFR 29.1 and 50 CFR 36.41).
- Building and using cabins to support subsistence or commercial activities (in Alaska) (50 CFR 26.35 and 50 CFR 36.41).
- Research, inventory and monitoring, and other noncommercial activities (50 CFR 26.36 and 50 CFR 36.41).

We currently use three types of special use permits to collect applicant information:

- Form 3–1383–G (General Activities Special Use Permit Application);
- Form 3–1383–C (Commercial Activities Special Use Permit Application); and
- Form 3–1383–R (Research and Monitoring Special Use Permit Application).

The information we collect helps ensure that:

- applicants are aware of the types of information that may be needed for permit issuance;
- requested activities are appropriate and compatible with the purpose(s) for which the refuge was established and the system's mission; and
- the applicant is eligible or is the most qualified applicant to receive the special use permit.

We may collect the necessary information in a non-form format (through discussions in person or over the phone, over the internet, by email, or by letter). In some instances, respondents will be able to provide information verbally. Often, a simple email or letter describing the activity will suffice. For activities that might have a large impact on refuge resources (*e.g.*, commercial visitor services, research, etc.), we may require applicants to provide more detail on operations, techniques, and locations. Because of the range of activities covered by special use permits and the different management needs and resources at each refuge, respondents may not be required to answer all questions. Depending on the requested activity, refuge managers have the discretion to ask for less information than appears on the forms. However, refuge managers must not ask for more or different information.

We issue permits for a specific period as determined by the type and location of the use or service provided. We use these permits to ensure that the applicant is aware of the requirements of the permit and the permit holder's legal rights. Refuge-specific special conditions may be required for the permit. We identify conditions as an addendum to the permit. Most of the special conditions pertain to how a permitted activity may be conducted and do not require the collection of information. However, some special conditions, such as activity reports, before and after site photographs, or data sharing, would qualify as an information collection, and we have included the associated burden below.

We also use FWS Form 3–1384, “Bid Sheet—National Wildlife Refuge System,” to streamline collection of the necessary pre-award information from applicants during bidding processes to conduct economic uses on Service lands, such as grazing livestock, harvesting hay and stock feed, or removing timber (50 CFR 29.21). This form simplifies the pre-award selection/bidding process for bidders and for refuge staff by enabling them to understand what information the refuge needs in order to select bids for economic use, and, therefore, reduces the time and burden for the public and Service staff in the pre-award selection bidding process. This form is customizable to the individual economic use being awarded. We will use the Commercial Special Use Permit (FWS Form 3–1383–C) as the actual award document that will outline the terms and conditions of the economic use on Service lands.

Proposed Revisions to This Information Collection

With this submission, we propose to add an additional form, Form 3–1383–EZ, General Activities Special Use Permit Simplified Application, which is a simplified version of 3–1383–G, General Activities Special Use Permit Application. The intent of this form is to provide a less intimidating and less intensive application for individuals wishing to engage in common, non-economic activities such as recreational berry picking or boat mooring. We expect this optional “EZ” form will reduce public burden, because, filling out form 3–1383–G, applicants will often consider even questions that are not relevant to them in order to determine whether a response is warranted. Our staff will have the option to offer this form after an initial request is received if the majority of questions on the full 1383–G form are expected to be left blank. Form 3–1383–EZ asks no questions that do not already appear on form 3–1383–G.

We are making alterations to the options available to select on question 13a in Form 3–1383–C, Commercial Activities Special Use Permit Application. Some of the existing options are rarely selected and certain types of activity are often entered as “Other.” We are adding some of these common activities in an effort to streamline completion of the form and collection of the activity type.

Specifically, the 3–1383–C form includes an option for mineral lease that is rarely used. We propose to strike that option and add an option for food and beverage vendors such as food trucks. We propose to change “Recreation Events” to “Events” to make it more broadly applicable. We also propose to remove “Cabins” and add “Fishing/Frogging” to cover these types of commercial use.

On form 3–1383–C, we also propose to modify the wording of question 11 to clarify the requested information. The present wording often leads to an answer which provides only a portion of the timing information that we require. The new question is worded, “Describe the specific dates, times, and frequency of activities. Provide an occupancy timeline showing how the activity is expected to proceed.”

No substantive changes are being made to forms 3–1383–G (General Activities Special Use Permit Application), 3–1383–R (Research and Monitoring Special Use Permit Application), or 3–1384 (Bid Sheet—National Wildlife Refuge System); however, we plan to make minor

updates to the forms’ layout to improve readability and functionality. In some cases, selection boxes come after an option and in other cases the boxes come before. We are updating the forms to be more consistent.

The public may request a copy of any form contained in this information collection by sending a request to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer (see **ADDRESSES**).

Title of Collection: National Wildlife Refuge Special Use Permit Applications and Reports, 50 CFR 25, 26, 27, 29, 30, 31, 32, & 36.

OMB Control Number: 1018–0102.

Form Numbers: 3–1383–EZ, 3–1383–G, 3–1383–C, 3–1383–R, and 3–1384.

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Respondents/Affected Public: Individuals and households; businesses and other for-profit organizations; nonprofit organizations; farms; and State, local, or Tribal governments.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Respondents: 14,264.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 14,264.

Estimated Completion Time per Response: Varies from 10 minutes to 5 hours, depending on activity.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours: 21,888.

Respondent’s Obligation: Required to obtain or retain a benefit.

Frequency of Collection: On occasion for applications; annually or on occasion for reports.

Total Estimated Annual Nonhour Burden Cost: \$345,700 for fees associated with applications for commercial use activities (\$100.00 per application for individuals and private sector respondents only).

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.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Geological Survey

[GX24GG009950000]

Notice of Public Meeting of Scientific Earthquake Studies Advisory Committee

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

ACTION: Notice of teleconference meetings.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is hereby giving notice that the Scientific Earthquake Studies Advisory Committee (SESAC) will meet as noted below.

DATES: The teleconference meetings will be held on the fourth Friday of every month, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. eastern time. If a monthly SESAC meeting is canceled, an email will be sent to registered participants and posted on the SESAC’s web page at least three (3) days prior to the SESAC meeting.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Gavin Hayes, USGS, by email at ghayes@usgs.gov or by telephone at 303–374–4449. 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: The teleconference meetings will be open to the public. The SESAC will review the current activities of the USGS Earthquake Hazards Program (EHP) and discuss future priorities. Agenda topics will include EHP updates; administration priorities and interactions; budget opportunities; balance of activities supported by the EHP; external grants; the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program; National Seismic Hazards Model; the Advanced National Seismic System; ShakeAlert; reports from SESAC subcommittees and preparation for a report to the USGS Director. Final agendas will be emailed to registered participants and posted on the SESAC’s web page at least three (3) days prior to the SESAC meeting.

Members of the public wishing to participate in the teleconference meetings should contact Dr. Gavin Hayes by email at ghayes@usgs.gov at