of information described below to the Office of Management and Budget for approval under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA). You may obtain copies of the collection requirement, related forms, and explanatory material by contacting the Service’s Information Collection Clearance Officer at the address listed below. We are soliciting public comment on this information collection.

**DATES:** Interested parties must submit comments on or before July 7, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Mail your comments on the information collection to Anissa Craghead, Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 222, Arlington, VA 22203; or e-mail Anissa_Craghead@fws.gov.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Anissa Craghead at (703) 358–2445 or Anissa_Craghead@fws.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR 1320, which implement provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.), require that interested members of the public and affected agencies have an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping activities (see 5 CFR 1320.8(d)). We plan to submit a request to OMB to renew its approval of the collection of information related to the annual certification of hunting and sport fishing licenses issued by States, territories, and local governments. We are requesting a 3-year term of approval for this information collection activity. Federal agencies 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 OMB control number for this collection of information is 1018–0007.

The Service administers grant programs authorized by the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669–669b, 669–669k) and the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 777–777m). These Acts require that States annually certify their hunting and fishing license sales. The Service uses the information collected to determine apportionment and distribution of funds under these Acts. We are proposing minimal changes to the forms we use to collect this information.

**Title:** Annual Certification of Hunting and Sport Fishing Licenses Issued.

(Note: This collection consists of two parts: Part 1, Certification, and Part 2, Summary.)

**OMB Approval Number:** 1018–0007.

**Service Form Number(s):** 3–154a (Part 1) and 3–154b (Part 2).

**Frequency of Collection:** Annually.

**Description of Respondents:** State, territorial (the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, the Virgin Islands, and American Samoa), and local governments, and others receiving grant funds.

**Total Annual Burden:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Form name</th>
<th>Completion time per form (hours)</th>
<th>Annual number of respondents (forms)</th>
<th>Annual hour burden</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Certification (Part 1)</td>
<td>1/6</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summary (Part 2)</td>
<td>1/6</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td></td>
<td>112</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**We invite comments on:** (1) Whether the 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 our estimate of the burden of the 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 collection of information on respondents, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.


Matt Hogan,
Acting Director, Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 03–11428 Filed 5–7–03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310–55–P**
We invite comments on: (1) Whether the 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 our estimate of the burden of the 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 collection of information on respondents, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.


Matt Hogan,
Acting Director, Fish and Wildlife Service
[FR Doc. 03–11429 Filed 5–7–03; 8:45 am]

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Guidance for the Establishment, Use, and Operation of Conservation Banks

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, are announcing availability of guidance for the establishment, use, and operation of conservation banks. Conservation banks are a tool to offset adverse impacts to species listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. The purpose of this guidance is to help Service personnel evaluate and approve conservation banks in the context of fulfilling the purposes of the Endangered Species Act.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A conservation bank is a parcel of land containing natural resource values that are conserved and managed in perpetuity for listed species and used to offset impacts to the comparable resource values on non-bank lands occurring elsewhere. The bank is specifically managed and protected by the banker or designer for its natural resource values. The values of the natural resources are translated into quantified “credits.” The bank owner sells habitat “credits” to parties that need to compensate for the environmental impacts of their activities. A conservation bank is a freemarket enterprise that offers landowners economic incentives to protect natural resources, saves developers time and money by providing them with certainty of pre-approved compensation lands, and provides long-term protection of habitat. Conservation banking creates a collaborative incentive based approach where habitat for listed species is treated as an asset rather than a liability.

The Service has already entered into several agreements with landowners to establish conservation banks, mainly in the southwest and the southeast areas of the country. We believe that guidance will help establish conservation banks in other parts of the country. Please refer to the ADDRESSES section of this notice for information on how to obtain a copy of the guidance.

Authority: The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).


Matt Hogan,
Acting Director, Fish and Wildlife Service.
[FR Doc. 03–11458 Filed 5–7–03; 8:45 am]