



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/DIC

April 20, 2009

Mr. Nathan Frey
Department of the Interior Desk Officer
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs
Office of Management and Budget
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Mr. Frey:

The Fish and Wildlife Service requests emergency approval to collect information associated with a proposed new grant program, Wildlife Without Borders--Critically Endangered Species Conservation Fund. We also request a waiver of the requirement to publish 60- and 30-day notices for this emergency approval.

The Division of International Conservation (DIC) recently and unexpectedly received funding that will permit the creation of a new grant program directed at conserving the world's most endangered species. The current economic crisis has had a great impact on the ability of conservation organizations to address pressing wildlife threats. Availability of additional funding this year could serve as a life-saving bridge until other revenue sources are identified. We will award grants to recipients who are currently engaged in activities that demonstrate a positive impact on species in immediate danger of becoming extinct.

We must expend these funds this fiscal year. Emergency approval is necessary to ensure that (1) proponents have sufficient time to develop proposals, (2) proposals receive a proper review, and (3) grant awards are in place by the end of Fiscal Year 2009. To award these grants this fiscal year, we must publish the Notice of Funding Availability on Grants.gov by June 1 to allow sufficient time to ensure our receipt of applications by July 15, 2009.

This new program will complement the eight international grant programs that DIC currently operates. The Office of Management and Budget has reviewed and approved the information collection for the current grant programs, and assigned OMB Control No. 1018-0123, which expires May 31, 2011. The information that we plan to collect for the new program is identical to that collected for the current grant programs.

If you approve this emergency request, we will immediately publish a 60-day notice and seek regular OMB approval for this information collection.

If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Hope Grey, Information Collection Clearance Officer, Fish and Wildlife Service, at 703-358-2482.

Sincerely,

Timothy Van Norman
Acting Assistant Director-International Affairs