



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240



March 12, 2010

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 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service requests emergency approval to collect information associated with a proposed new grant program, Wildlife Without Borders-Amphibians in Decline. We also request a waiver of the requirement to publish 60- and 30-day notices for this emergency approval. If you approve this request, we will immediately seek regular OMB approval by issuing a 60-day notice.

The Division of International Conservation (DIC) recently, and unexpectedly, received funding that will permit the creation of a new grant program directed at addressing unprecedented declines in the world's amphibian populations. Funding will be provided to recipients currently engaged in specific conservation actions that have a high likelihood of creating durable benefits to amphibian species facing extinction. This funding was made available by Congress with express intent for distribution through a competitive grants process in fiscal year 2010. Emergency approval is needed to ensure that proponents have sufficient time to develop proposals, that those proposals receive a proper review, and that grant awards are in place by the end of fiscal year 2010.

This new program will complement the other eight grant programs that DIC currently operates. DIC has obtained full approvals for all other grant programs under OMB Control Nos. 1018-0123 and 1018-0142. While it is not ideal to implement a grant competition in a rushed manner, DIC has the expertise and field contacts to ensure that funds are properly focused for maximum impact. Current partnerships and a strong presence in areas of high biodiversity and high threat have been forged through existing grant programs.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Teiko Saito', written in a cursive style.

~~ACW/10~~ Teiko Saito
Assistant Director of International Affairs