

Alternatives

We analyzed three alternatives in the final EIS, including the no action alternative and two action alternatives, for restoring the two areas on the San Diego Bay NWR that comprise the restoration project. In addition to a no-action alternative, the action alternatives include an intertidal alternative and a subtidal alternative.

Alternative B: Intertidal Alternative (Selected Alternative)

The Intertidal Alternative (Alternative B) proposes to lower the elevation and re-contour the Otay River Floodplain Site to create approximately 30 acres of tidally influenced habitat consisting of approximately 5 acres of intertidal mudflat and 25 acres of intertidal salt marsh habitat, 1 acre of transitional habitat and high tide refugia, and 4 acres of upland habitat.

Approximately 320,000 cubic yards of soil would be excavated from the Otay River Floodplain Site to achieve elevations suitable for sustaining intertidal wetlands. The majority of the excavated material, approximately 260,000 cubic yards, would be transported to Pond 15 to be beneficially used as fill within the Pond 15 Site, as well as to reinforce existing levees around the pond. Pond 15 would be filled and contoured to achieve elevations required to support approximately 10 acres of subtidal habitat, 18 acres of intertidal mudflat, 57 acres of intertidal salt marsh habitat, 1.6 acres of transitional habitat and high tide refugia, and 4 acres of upland habitat.

The combination of the wetlands created at the Otay River Floodplain Site and Pond 15 Site under this alternative would be consistent with the intent of the CCP and would provide sufficient mitigation credit to meet Poseidon's Coastal Development Permit requirements.

Alternative C: Subtidal Alternative

The Subtidal Alternative (Alternative C), which would include a subtidal channel within the Otay River Floodplain Site, would result in the restoration of approximately 4.5 acres of subtidal habitat, 6.5 acres of intertidal mudflat, 18 acres of intertidal salt marsh habitat, and 4 acres of upland habitat. Within the Pond 15 Site, tidally influenced habitat would be similar to that proposed under Alternative B, with approximately 10 acres of subtidal habitat, 16 acres of intertidal mudflat, 59 acres of intertidal salt marsh, 2 acres of high-tide refugia, and 4 acres of upland habitat.

Implementation of this alternative would involve the excavation of approximately 370,000 cubic yards of material from the Otay River Site, of which approximately 310,000 cubic yards of this material would be transported to the Pond 15 Site for beneficial use in creating tidal elevations that would support the desired intertidal habitats and improving levees to separate Pond 15 from the remaining active solar salt operation.

The combination of the wetlands created at the Otay River Floodplain Site and Pond 15 Site under this alternative would also provide sufficient mitigation credit to meet the Commission's permit requirements.

Selected Alternative

The ROD identifies the intertidal alternative (Alternative B) as the selected alternative. This alternative was also identified as the environmentally preferred alternative in the final EIS. The basis for the decision, descriptions of the alternatives considered, an overview of the measures to be implemented to avoid and minimize environmental effects, and a summary of the public involvement process are provided in the ROD.

Authority

We publish this notice under the authority of the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4371 *et seq.*) and the Department of the Interior's implementing regulations in title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations (43 CFR part 46).

Jody Holzworth,

Regional Director, Pacific Southwest Region.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Geological Survey

[GX14BA02EEW0200; OMB Control Number 1028-0103]

Agency Information Collection Activities; USA National Phenology Network—The Nature's Notebook Plant and Animal Observing Program

AGENCY: U.S. Geological Survey, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of information collection; request for comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is proposing to renew an information collection (IC).

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before December 31, 2018.

ADDRESSES: Send your comments on the information collection request (ICR) by mail to the U.S. Geological Survey, Information Collections Clearance Officer, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, MS 159, Reston, VA 20192; or by email to gs-info_collections@usgs.gov. Please reference OMB Control Number 1028-0103 in the subject line of your comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request additional information about this ICR, contact Jake F. Weltzin by email at fweltzin@usgs.gov, or by telephone at 520-626-3821.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: We, the U.S. Geological Survey, in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, provide the general public and other Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on 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 soliciting comments on the proposed ICR that is described below. We are especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) Is the collection necessary to the proper functions of the USGS; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the USGS enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the USGS minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology.

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 may 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 USA-NPN is a program sponsored by the USGS that uses standardized forms for tracking plant

and animal activity as part of a project called Nature’s Notebook. The Nature’s Notebook forms are used to record phenology (e.g., timing of leafing or flowering of plants and reproduction or migration of animals) as part of a nationwide effort to understand and predict how plants and animals respond to environmental variation and changes in weather and climate. Contemporary data collected through Nature’s Notebook are quality-checked, described and made publicly available; data are used to inform decision-making in a variety of contexts, including agriculture, drought monitoring, and wildfire risk assessment. Phenological information is also critical for the management of wildlife, invasive species, and agricultural pests, and for understanding and managing risks to human health and welfare, including allergies, asthma, and vector-borne diseases. Participants may contribute phenology information to Nature’s

Notebook through a browser-based web application or via mobile applications for iPhone and Android operating systems, meeting GPEA and Privacy Act requirements. The web application interface consists several components: User registration, a searchable list of 1,260 plant and animal species which can be observed; a “profile” for each species that contains information about the species including its description and the appropriate monitoring protocols; a series of interfaces for registering as an observer, registering a site, registering plants and animals at a site, generating datasheets to take to the field, and a data entry page that mimics the datasheets.

Title of Collection: USA NATIONAL PHENOLOGY NETWORK—THE NATURE’S NOTEBOOK PLANT AND ANIMAL OBSERVING PROGRAM

OMB Control Number: 1028–0103.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Respondents/Affected Public: Members of the public, registered with *Nature’s Notebook*, state Cooperative Extension employees and tribal members.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Respondents: 7,581.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 4,093,314.

Estimated Completion Time per Response: When joining the program, responders spend 13 minutes each to register and read guidelines and 83 minutes to watch all training videos. After that responders may spend about 2 minutes per record to observe and submit phenophase status record.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours: 138,857.

Respondent’s Obligation: Voluntary.

Frequency of Collection: On occasion; depends on the seasonal activity of plants and animals.

Total Estimated Annual Non-hour Burden Cost: \$11,484.

TABLE—ANNUAL RESPONSES AND BURDEN HOURS

Response type	Annual responses (projected)	Completion time per response (minutes)	Annual burden (hours)
Registrations	7,581	13 minutes (3 minutes to register + 10 minutes to read guidelines)	1,643
Training videos	758	83 minutes (to watch entire set of videos)	1,049
Observation records	4,084,975	2 minutes (includes observation and reporting time)	136,166
Total	4,093,314	138,857

TABLE—ANNUAL NON-HOUR BURDEN COSTS

	Cost per unit	Number of respondents expected to use	Non-hour burden cost
Clipboard	\$2.23	4,245	\$9,467
Pencils	0.10	4,245	425
Flags	0.05	1,516	76
Markers	0.10	1,516	152
Stakes	0.30	1,516	455
Tags	0.30	1,516	455
Popsicle Sticks	0.30	1,516	455
Average Marking Material Cost	0.19
Cost per Response	2.52
Total Non-Hour Burden Cost	11,484

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 authorities for this action are the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*).

Jake Weltzin,

Program Manager, Status & Trends Program.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLWO260000 L1060000.PC0000; OMB Control Number 1004–0042]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Protection, Management, and Control of Wild Horses and Burros

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: 60-Day notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is proposing an early revision to an information collection.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before December 31, 2018.