**Supporting Statement A for**

**Paperwork Reduction Act Submission**

**Special Park Use Applications (Portions of 36 CFR 1-7, 13, 20, and 34)**

**OMB Control Number 1024-0026**

**Terms of Clearance**: None

# A. JUSTIFICATION

1. **Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary. Identify any legal or administrative requirements that necessitate the collection.**

The legislative mandate of the National Park Service (we, NPS), found at 54 U.S.C. 100101, is to conserve America’s natural wonders unimpaired for future generations, while also making them available for the enjoyment of the visitor. Meeting this mandate requires the NPS to balance conservation with use. Maintaining a good balance requires both information and limits. Our legal authorities governing special park uses include:

* 54 U.S.C.100751(a), Rules and Regulations of National Parks – “The Secretary of the Interior shall make and publish such rules and regulations as he may deem necessary or proper for the use and management of the parks, monuments and reservations under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service . . . .”
* 54 U.S.C.103104, Recovery of Cost Associated with Special Use Permits -- “Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the National Park Service may … recover all costs of providing necessary services associated with special use permits, such reimbursements to be credited to the appropriation current at that time.”
* 54 U.S.C. 100905, Recovery of Costs Associated with Commercial Filming and Still Photography Permits -- "The Secretary of the Interior ... shall require a permit and shall establish a reasonable fee for commercial filming activities ... on Federal lands ... (and) shall also collect any costs incurred....”
* Regulations governing special use permits are contained in portions of 36 CFR 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 13, 14 20, 21, 27, 28, 30, and 34.

The information we collect in the application allows the park manager to evaluate requests for a special park use permit. A special park use is an activity that takes place on park land or waters and meets the following criteria:

1. Provides a benefit to an individual, group, or organization, rather than the public at large,
2. Requires written authorization and some degree of NPS management to protect park resources and the public interest,
3. Is not prohibited by law or regulation,
4. Is not initiated, sponsored, or conducted by the NPS,
5. Is not managed under a concession contract or commercial use authorization, and
6. Is not managed through a lease.

**2. Indicate how, by whom, and for what purpose the information is to be used. Except for a new collection, indicate the actual use the agency has made of the information received from the current collection. Be specific. If this collection is a form or a questionnaire, every question needs to be justified.**

Special park uses cover a wide range of activities including, but not limited to, special events, First Amendment activities, grazing and agricultural use, commercial filming, still photography, construction and vehicle access. Permits are issued for varying amounts of time based on the requested use, but generally do not exceed 5 years. A new application must be submitted to request the renewal of an existing permit.

The likely respondents to this information collection are individuals; nonprofit organizations; commercial entities, such as production companies; and State, local, and tribal governments. We collect information using the following forms:

**10-930** - Application for Special Use Permit

**10-930s** - Application for Special Use Permit (short form)

**10-930c** - Special Park Use Application/Permit – Climbing

**10-931** - Application for Special Use Permit-- Filming/Still Photography/Audio Recording Permit (short)

**10-932** - Application for Special Use Permit-- Filming/Still Photography/Audio Recording Permit (long)

**10-933** - Application for Special Use Permit--Vehicle/Watercraft Use

**NEW**

**10-930q**-Special Park Use Application/Permit—Quarry Activity

**10-934** - Application for Special Use Permit-Demonstrations and Distribution of Materials

Each form is customized for each unit of the National Park system by the addition of the park’s name, address, and the amount of the application fee. In the case of the 10-930s and 10-933, each park will use the application to request only the information necessary to evaluate the specific activity, such as hunting, off-road vehicle, snowmobile mobile use, or commercial vehicle access. Those questions on the form requesting information not applicable to the specific activity will be blacked out or deleted resulting in a lower time burden on the applicant.

Much of the information required is logistical, technical, or professional in nature. Many 10-930 applications for special park uses are submitted by individuals or representatives for private sector organizations for small events such as athletic events, family gatherings, and weddings (usually numbering less than 100 people), though other larger events numbering in the thousands are also requested. Individuals or the private sector may submit applications for other activities, such as grazing or agricultural use, or vehicle access.

In the past, forms 10-930 and 10-930s were used to evaluate requests to use units of the National Park system for First Amendment activities. These activities involve the request for Constitutionally guaranteed rights and forms 10-930 and 10-930s included questions that were not appropriate for these activities. All questions that were specific to First Amendment activities have been removed from these forms and will be moved to the new form 10-934.

Applications from State, tribal, or local governments are generally for the use of park lands. A location manager or representatives working for the commercial filming company generally submit commercial filming applications. The size and scope of most filming in national parks involve filming crews of less than 20 people, though permits involving crews of over 150 people are approved occasionally, generally less than 10 times a year. The amount of information submitted and the amount of time required to complete the application increases with the complexity of the proposed activity. A still photography permit is required when the activity uses models, sets, or props, enters an area closed to the general public, or requires management on the part of the NPS. Individuals, organizations, and the private sector may submit applications for still photography. Audio recording permit is required when the activity enters an area closed to the general public, uses equipment that requires mechanical transport or external power such as generators, or management on the part of the NPS.

Park managers use the information submitted on the form to determine if the requested use is consistent with the laws and NPS regulations referenced above and with the public interest. The park manager must also determine, based on the information received, that the requested activity will not cause unacceptable impacts to park resources and values. The information collected is not disseminated in any form to the general public.

**Form 10-930 - Application for Special Use Permit**

This form is used as the primary application form for special park use requests throughout the service such as grazing, construction, special events and other non-routine but permissible requests. The changes made were format changes only.

| **We ask for …** | **So that we can …** |
| --- | --- |
| Name of applicant, organization, address, phone number, fax number, and email address | Contact the applicant during the application process or after issuing a permit. |
| Social security or tax identification number[[1]](#footnote-3) | To recover any fees, charges or past due payment in accordance the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996. |
| Description of the purposed activity | Determine if an activity is legally authorized and whether the activity would cause unacceptable impacts to park resources and values. |
| Requested location | Determine if the area is available, and if the proposed activity is appropriate for that area. |
| Requested dates and times of the proposed activity  | Determine if the area is available, and the proposed activity does not conflict with other park operations or program or other permitted activities. Also allows a park to plan for staffing at specific times.  |
| Maximum number of participants and vehicles | Determine if the area is appropriate for the activity and plan park staff to manage the activity. |
| List of support equipment | Determine if the area can support the equipment associated with the planned activity without unacceptable impacts to park resources and values.  |
| List of support personnel (i.e. contractors) and contact information  | Determine if the area can accommodate the activity and we can contact support personnel about services they are providing, schedules of arrival and departure, any damage that might occur during the activity. |
| Contact information of the individual in charge of the permitted activity | Have immediate contact during a permitted activity to the individual charged with making decisions for the permittee. |
| Signature and Date | Certify that the information given on the application is correct.  |
|  |
| The following question have Yes/No check boxes as responses |
| **We ask…** | **So that we can …** |
| Are you familiar with /have you visited the area? | Determine whether we need to request an onsite visit with the applicant. |
| Have you obtained a permit from the NPS in the past? | Check the administrative records for past permits to determine the size of past events, staffing levels, and any successes or problems experienced. |
| Do you plan to advertise or issue a press release? | Estimate the number of individuals that may attend. Arrange to accommodate media. |
| Will you distribute literature? | Advise the applicant that we do not allow commercial advertising or literature and that this activity may require a separate permit. |
| Do you intend to solicit donations or offer items for sale? | Advise the applicant that additional permits may be necessary. |
| Is this permit to carry out a Good Samaritan Search and Recovery Mission? | Determine whether the request falls under the requires of an expedited application under the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act was signed into law earlier this year.  Under this law, Section 9002 includes the Good Samaritan Search and Recovery Act.   The Act requires the approval or denial of a request by the eligible organization or individual to carry out a good Samaritan search-and-recovery mission under this section by not later than 48 hours after the request is made. |

**10-930c** **- Special Park Use Application/Permit – Climbing**

This form will be used to authorize climbing activities above 10,000 feet. Much of the information requested is similar in nature to information collected on other forms. However, the questions are formatted to gather specific information about the range of activities and the individuals participating in the activity in the event that the park must initiate search and rescue efforts. No changes are requested to the form for this renewal.

| **We ask for …** | **So that we can …** |
| --- | --- |
| Leader name, dates of activity, itinerary  | Authorize the requested activity. We limit the number of climbers permitted to climb in excess of 10,000 feet at any one time.  |
| Vehicle information  | Determine whether a vehicle remains in the parking lot past the intended return date, which could indicate that there may be a problem. This information is requested for all vehicles associated with the climbing party. |
| Checkout information – date returned, number to the summit, and route | This allows the park to confirm that the group has returned from the climb safely. It also provides the park with some statistical information to help document and gauge the impact of climbers on park resources.  |
| Identification of party members  | Information in this block is specific to each individual. We collect emergency contact information to use when necessary. Gauge the experience level of each individual authorized by the permit by asking for previous experience. Confirm that each individual has paid the annual fee that covers climbing activities for an individual for a year.  |
| Personal and team equipment | Determine if each climbing group is properly outfitted with the equipment necessary to safely climb above 10,000 feet. This information also provides details should a search and rescue operation is needed. The question is a more detailed version of the question of other forms asking to “list support equipment”. |
| Signature and Date | Certify that the information given on the application is correct. If the application was accompanied by permit terms and conditions the signature also certifies understanding of and willingness to comply with the terms and conditions. |

**Form 10-930s - Application for Special Use Permit (Short Form).**

This form will be used primarily to schedule locations for small events with fewer participants and less equipment and is a pared-down version of Form 10-930. This form is primarily used to confirm areas for small, routine, activities, such as picnics and weddings. This form requests less information than the 10-930. Information on alternative times and locations is requested to provide the park with flexibility in scheduling the use, without having to contact the applicant. Questions regarding First Amendment activities will be removed from this application.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **We ask for …** | **So that we can …** |
| Name of applicant, organization, address, phone number, fax number, and email address | Contact the applicant during the application process or after issuing a permit. |
| Social security or tax identification number | To recover any fees, charges or past due payment in accordance the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996. |
| Description of the purposed activity | Determine if an activity is legally authorized and whether the activity would cause unacceptable impacts to park resources and values. |
| Requested location, dates and times | Determine if the area is available, and if the proposed activity is appropriate for that area. |
| Alternative location, dates and times  | For parks with numerous requests for limited space, process the request without needing to go back to the applicant for additional information.  |
| Maximum number of participants and vehicles | Determine if the area is appropriate for the activity and plan park staff to manage the activity. |
| List of support equipment | Determine if the area can support the equipment associated with the planned activity without unacceptable impacts to park resources and values.  |
| Contact information of the individual in charge of the permitted activity | Have immediate contact during a permitted activity to the individual charged with making decisions for the permittee. |
| Are you familiar with /have you visited the area? | Determine whether we need to request an onsite visit with the applicant. |
| Signature and Date | Certify that the information given on the application is correct.  |
| ***These fields will only be on the forms in parks where hunting is authorized.*** |
| **We ask…** | **So that we can …** |
| Hunting season | Identify the designated hunting season requested. We also ask for multiple dates so we can accommodate the request in the case that there are more requests than permits for a specific time period.  |
| Type of weapon | Determine the type of weapon being used and identify the appropriate license and hunting season.  |
| * State Hunting License No.
* State Fish and Game Customer Id. No.
* Driver’s License No.
* State Issued, and Permit
* Confirmation Number (if purchased online)
 | Determine that the applicant is legally authorized to hunt in the state where the park is located. The permit confirmation number is generated by pay.gov if the payment/application was submitted online |
| Arrival and departure dates | Locate hunters in the event of an emergency of a search and rescue effort  |

|  |
| --- |
| **The following questions will be removed from the 10-930s** |
| **We ask…** | **Justification to remove …** |
| Is this an exercise of First Amendment Rights? | No longer needed on this form to determine the amount of fees and charges. Determine the appropriate area. |
| Are you familiar with /have you visited the area? | No longer needed on this form to determine whether we need to request an onsite visit with the applicant. |

**Forms 10-931 & 10-932 - Filming/Still Photography/Audio Recording.**

We have renamed Forms 10-931 and 10-932 to add “Audio Recording.” specified

| **We ask …** | **So that we can …** |
| --- | --- |
| Name of applicant, organization, address, phone number, fax number, and email address | Contact the applicant during the application process or after issuing a permit. |
| Social security or tax identification number | To recover any fees, charges or past due payment in accordance the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996. |
| Project name, location manager, telephone number and cell phone number | Contact the local representative for the applicant during the application process. |
| Type of project - check boxes | Gauge the size of the activity and its potential for impact on park resources and the visitor experience.  |
| Description of onsite activities | Gauge the scope of the activity and start to evaluate whether the activity would cause unacceptable impacts to park resources and values. |
| Do you intend to utilize talent (Form 10-932) including names and description of activity  | Determine NPS staffing requirements. Filming involving sound recording has different logistical requirements.  |
| Schedule by location by day including times, type of activity and number of cast and crew | Determine the availability and appropriateness of the proposed activity for the requested area. |
| Description of backdrops, sets, props, etc., as well as electrical needs.  | Gauge the size of the activity and its potential for impact on park resources and the visitor experience. Specialized equipment requires special permit terms and conditions and could require special staffing from the NPS.  |
| Proposed road usage (Form 10-932) | Evaluate the need for traffic restrictions or road closures, additional park staff or assistance from other law enforcement agencies. This also addresses safety concerns.  |
| Number and size of vehicles (by categories) | Determine if area can accommodate the number and size of vehicles or if other parking locations are needed. |
| Base camp location (with diagram) (Form 10-932) | Gauge the size of the activity and its potential for impact on park resources. Specialized equipment and special staffing from the NPS could be required. |
| For information about children and animals on set, aircraft, special effects, stunts or other hazardous activities and the person and contact information for each activity. (Form 10-932) | Determine whether activities require special permit terms and conditions. Requesting information about certification helps ensure that the activity is conducted according to industry standards. |
| Signature and Date | Certify that the information given on the application is correct.  |

| **The following are Yes/No responses (answering yes requires additional information):** |
| --- |
| **We ask…** | **So that we can …** |
| Have you physically visited the requested area? | Determine whether we need to request an onsite visit with the applicant. |
| Do you have, or are you applying for, a permit with another Federal, State or local government for this activity?  | Coordinate our response and staffing with other agencies.  |
| Have you obtained a permit from the NPS in the past? | Review the administrative records for past permits held by the applicant to determine the size of past events, staffing levels, and any successes or problems experienced.  |
| Have you ever been denied a permit or had a permit revoked? | Review the administrative records to determine reasons for the denial of the application or revocation of the permit. |
| Have you forfeited a bond or other security for filming on Federal lands?  | Review the administrative records to determine reasons for the forfeiture of the bond or security. |
| Are there any pending investigations against you involving a commercial filming permit?  | Consult with the authority pursuing the investigation for information that would contribute to the permit decision process  |
| Do you plan to advertise or issue a press release? | Estimate the number of members of the public or media that may come to the park to watch the permitted activity because of the announcement. |
| Contact information for the permittee and staff, including name, title, telephone and cell phone numbers. (Form 10-932) | Contact the appropriate person if necessary, during the application process or permitted activity.  |
| Signature and Date | Certify that the information given on the application is correct.  |

**Form 10-933 - (Application for Special Use Permit--Vehicle/Watercraft Use.**

No changes are requested to the form for this renewal. Parks are increasingly using special use permits to manage activities that involve the use of motorized vehicles, such as over sand/off-road vehicles, or watercraft. Individual parks will request information that is necessary for a specific activity to determine the specific type of permit request.

| **We ask for …** | **So that we can …** |
| --- | --- |
| Type of permit | Issue a permit for the appropriate activity. |
| Name of applicant, address, telephone number(s), fax number | Contact the applicant during the application process or after issuing a permit.  |
| Driver’s license number, State, and expiration date. | Determine that individual may legally operate the vehicle. Copy of driver’s license may be submitted in lieu of filling in information. |
| Social Security or tax identification number | To recover any fees, charges or past due payment in accordance the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996. |
| Emergency contact name and telephone number | Notify contact in case of accident, when vehicle operator is injured or stranded |
| Vehicle/Watercraft Information: type of vehicle, VIN/ID number, license plate, state of issue, expiration date, year, make, model, color, weight, length, height, number of axles, inboard/outboard motor, number and size of motor. | Confirm that permit is being used on correct vehicle. Weight information is used to evaluate use restriction on certain roads or bridges. Copy of vehicle registration card may be submitted in lieu of filling in filling in some of the information. |
| Insurance information (company, policy number). | Confirm vehicle insurance. Copy of insurance card may be submitted in lieu of filling in information. |
| Additional driver’s license information | Ensure that all drivers have legal driver’s license. |
| Are you a year-round resident? |  Fire Island National Seashore (only) as required by special regulation 36 CFR 7.20(a)(8)(ii)(A) |
| Business information (for commercial vehicle permit) Type of business, business name, contractor license number, detail need for park roads. | Justify use of park roads for commercial vehicles not doing business with the NPS. |
| Requested duration of permit/start date | Issue the correct permit. Individual parks issue permits for varying lengths of time, from 1 day to 1 year. Some terms are specified by regulation. |
| Requested use area | Issue the correct permit. Permits are issued for specific locations, area or routes. |
| Signature and date | Certify that the information given on the application is correct.  |

NEW ICs

**Form 10-930q - Special Park Use Application/Permit – Quarry Activities**

Per 36 CFR § 7.42, this new form will be used to authorize quarry activities specific to Pipestone National Monument. The information collected is required to meet the specific regulatory criteria to obtain a permit.

| We ask for … | So that we can … |
| --- | --- |
| Name of applicant, organization, address, phone number, fax number, and email address | Contact the applicant during the application process or after issuing a permit. |
| Are you a member of a Federally recognized Tribe?This is a yes/no check box | Determine whether a permittee or authorized quarrier meets the regulatory requirements in 36 CFR § 7.42(a). Members of a federally recognized tribe means any tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community of Indians, including any Alaska Native village (as defined in, or established pursuant to, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.)), recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States Government to Indians because of their status as Indians by its inclusion on the list of recognized Indian Tribes published by the Secretary under the Act of November 2, 1994 (25 U.S.C. 5131). This information is requested for all participants associated with the permit.  |
| Tribal affiliation and verification | This allows the park to confirm that the applicant and additional quarriers meet the regulatory requirements in 36 CFR §7.42.  |
| Identification of additional quarriers  | Information in this block is specific to each individual. We collect contact information to use when necessary and ensure they meet the regulatory requirements in 36 CFR § 7.42.  |
| Permit Type: Calendar year (annual) Monthly - Weekly This is a check box | Determine if the type of permit desired by the applicant is available. |
| Signature and Date | Certify that the information given on the application is correct. If the application was accompanied by permit terms and conditions the signature also certifies understanding of and willingness to comply with the terms and conditions. |

**Form 10-934 Application for Special Use Permit—Demonstrations and Distribution of Materials.**

This new form will be used to authorize First Amendment activities in system units. Much of the information requested is similar in nature to information collected on other forms. However, the questions are formatted to gather critical information about the activity and the individuals participating in the activity to the Park can determine if permits are required for the activity.

| **We ask for …** | **So that we can …** |
| --- | --- |
| Name of applicant, organization, address, phone number, fax number, and email address | Contact the applicant during the application process or after issuing a permit. |
| Description of the purposed activity | Determine if an activity is legally authorized and whether the activity would cause unacceptable impacts to park resources and values. |
| Requested location | Determine if the area is available, and if the proposed activity is appropriate for that area. |
| Requested dates and times of the proposed activity  | Determine if the area is available, and the proposed activity does not conflict with other park operations or program or other permitted activities. Also allows a park to plan for staffing at specific times.  |
| Maximum number of participants and vehicles | Determine if the area is appropriate for the activity and plan park staff to manage the activity. |
| List of support equipment | Determine if the area can support the equipment associated with the planned activity without unacceptable impacts to park resources and values.  |
| List of support personnel (i.e. contractors) and contact information  | Determine if the area can accommodate the activity and we can contact support personnel about services they are providing, schedules of arrival and departure, any damage that might occur during the activity. |
| Contact information of the individual in charge of the permitted activity | Have immediate contact during a permitted activity to the individual charged with making decisions for the permittee. |
| Signature and Date | Certify that the information given on the application is correct.  |

| **The following are Yes/No check-off boxes:** |
| --- |
| **We ask…** | **So that we can …** |
| Is this an exercise of First Amendment Rights? | Determine the amount of fees and charges. Determine the appropriate area. |
| Are you familiar with /have you visited the area? | Determine whether we need to request an onsite visit with the applicant. |
| Do you intend to solicit donations or offer items for sale? | Advise the applicant that additional permits may be necessary. |
| Have you obtained a permit from the NPS in the past? | Check the administrative records for past permits to determine the size of past events, staffing levels, and any successes or problems experienced. |
| Do you plan to advertise or issue a press release? | Estimate the number of individuals that may attend. Arrange to accommodate media. |
| Will you distribute or sell literature or distribute other message bearing items? | Advise the applicant that we do not allow the distribution of commercial advertising and that the sale of literature may require additional terms and conditions, but that other message bearing items must be given away, freely |
| Do you intend to use audio amplification or generators | Advise the applicant that additional permits may be necessary. |
| Do you intend to use stages, platforms, or structures | Advise the applicant that additional permits may be necessary. |

**3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses, and the basis for the decision for adopting this means of collection. Also describe any consideration of using information technology to reduce burden and specifically how this collection meets GPEA requirements.**

Currently, most special park use applications are submitted to the park in paper format by either submitting the form in person, by email, postal mail, or fax. Parks are required by policy to post either Word or PDF versions of the forms on their websites. Parks are encouraging applicants to submit forms electronically, most often as an attached file to an email. One park is pursuing a pilot application system that will allow the application to be submitted through an online portal.

**4. Describe efforts to identify duplication. Show specifically why any similar information already available cannot be used or modified for use for the purposes described in Item 2 above.**

There is no duplication of effort. The information requested is site/activity specific and is not otherwise available in the NPS.

**5. If the collection of information impacts small businesses or other small entities, describe any methods used to minimize burden.**

We require information to evaluate the potential impact of the proposed activity on park resources and values. Applications received from the private sector, are particularly for commercial filming. There are two forms for photography/filming allowing the NPS to collect the minimum amount of information necessary for NPS to make decisions. All forms request basic information but encourage the applicant to include additional information pertinent to their request for particularly large, complicated, or unusual requests.

**6. Describe the consequence to Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently, as well as any technical or legal obstacles to reducing burden.**

The NPS legislative mandate is to preserve America’s natural wonders unimpaired for future generations, while also making them available for the enjoyment of the visitor. In Public Law 106-206 (June 2000) for commercial filming, Congress specifically directs the Secretary to:

*"not permit any filming, still photography or other related activity if the Secretary determines…there is a likelihood of resource damage; there would be an unreasonable disruption of the public's use and enjoyment of the site; or that the activity poses health or safety risks to the public*.”

The information collected authorizations the park manager to evaluate the potential for resource damage or other negative impacts to park operations or the visitor experience and allows the park manager to make an informed decision. Informed decision would not be possible and in all likelihood, special park use requests would not be approved without this information.

**7. Explain any special circumstances that would cause an information collection to be conducted in a manner:**

 **\* requiring respondents to report information to the agency more often than quarterly;**

 **\* requiring respondents to prepare a written response to a collection of information in fewer than 30 days after receipt of it;**

 **\* requiring respondents to submit more than an original and two copies of any document;**

 **\* requiring respondents to retain records, other than health, medical, government contract, grant-in-aid, or tax records, for more than three years;**

 **\* in connection with a statistical survey that is not designed to produce valid and reliable results that can be generalized to the universe of study;**

 **\* requiring the use of a statistical data classification that has not been reviewed and approved by OMB;**

 **\* that includes a pledge of confidentiality that is not supported by authority established in statute or regulation, that is not supported by disclosure and data security policies that are consistent with the pledge, or which unnecessarily impedes sharing of data with other agencies for compatible confidential use; or**

 **\* requiring respondents to submit proprietary trade secrets, or other confidential information, unless the agency can demonstrate that it has instituted procedures to protect the information's confidentiality to the extent permitted by law.**

There are no circumstances that require us to collect the information in a manner inconsistent with OMB guidelines.

**8. If applicable, provide a copy and identify the date and page number of publication in the Federal Register of the agency's notice, required by 5 CFR 1320.8(d), soliciting comments on the information collection prior to submission to OMB. Summarize public comments received in response to that notice and in response to the PRA statement associated with the collection over the past three years, and describe actions taken by the agency in response to these comments. Specifically address comments received on cost and hour burden.**

**Describe efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instructions and recordkeeping, disclosure, or reporting format (if any), and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported.**

**Consultation with representatives of those from whom information is to be obtained or those who must compile records should occur at least once every three years — even if the collection of information activity is the same as in prior periods. There may be circumstances that may preclude consultation in a specific situation. These circumstances should be explained.**

On October 28, 2022, we published in the Federal Register (87 FR 65246) a notice of our intent to request that OMB renew approval for this information collection. In that notice, we solicited comments for 60 days, ending on December 27, 2022. No public comments were received. In addition to the Federal Register notice, we contacted nine (9) individuals and asked for comments on:

* whether or not the collection of information is necessary, including whether or not the information will have practical utility; whether there are any questions they felt were unnecessary.
* the accuracy of our estimate of the burden for this collection of information;
* ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
* ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents.

We received feedback from two (2) of the nine (9) individuals contacted. Our initial and follow-up requests for feedback were made by email. A third contact was made by telephone to the remaining individuals that had not provided feedback. We left voice messages and did not receive a response.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Position** | **Affiliation** |
| 1. Owner
 | Cane Engineering |
| 1. Owner
 | Spoke and Paddle |

***“Whether or not the collection of information is necessary, including whether or not the information will have practical utility; whether there are any questions they felt were unnecessary.”***

**Comment(s):**

**Respondent #1:** *I don’t think the forms asked unnecessary questions, and I appreciated that it was basically the same form for all the parks we visited last September (we went to 9 California National Parks).*

**Respondent #2:** *Considering the desire to allow one’s Park experience to be delightful; I’m surprised the whole process isn’t more lengthy!  We live in a crazy world and people oftentimes display how crazy they can be.*

**NPS Response/Action Taken:** *The NPS uses the forms in this collection to gather less information.*

***“What is your estimate of the amount of time it takes to complete each form in order to verify the accuracy of our estimate of the burden for this collection of information?”***

**Comment(s):**

**Respondent #1**: *It took us about an hour to fill out the form the first time, because of the description portion.  But after that, we just copied/pasted the information in, only changing the location of where we placed our car,  table and poster.*

**Respondent #2**: It probably took me about 20 minutes to fill out the form by the time I read all the sections.

**NPS Response/Action Taken:** *No action is required. The comments are in sync with the current estimates.*

***“Do you have any suggestions for us on ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected?”***

**Comment(s):**

**Respondent #1**: *The only problems we had were minor: in most cases I had to ask two or three times about the application – after I had sent it in to the various Superintendents,  I didn’t get responses right away.  Also, in several instances, I was passed on to different people, which made it difficult to keep track of who I was supposed to be communicating with.  In addition, one Park asked for proof of liability insurance, whereas the rest of them waived that, and in one case, the Superintendent didn’t require a Special Use Permit at all.  So, more consistency between Parks would probably make the process easier*

**NPS Response/Action Taken:** This program is not responsible for managing the activities of parks within the system. The response to the application is at the discretion of the Park superintendent. The application process varies by park. The park’s superintendent will determine if the time and use is appropriate for the park. When the park is unfamiliar with the applicant, parks typically uses the standard 10-930 application in order to prompt the applicant to submit sufficient information to reach a decision on the request. This saves the park time in returning to the applicant for additional information.

**Respondent #2**: *I think that if you could provide applicants with the 14 NPS standard regulations for camping/hiking before they start an application, it would help applicants to understand what is expected of them earlier on in the process so they can plan accordingly and ask clarifying questions during the formal application process.*

**NPS Response/Action Taken:***Given the wide range of activities covered by the applications, it would be difficult to add specific information to the approved template. NPS management guidance encourages parks to post park-specific and activity-specific information on their park’s special park use permit page. The NPS will continue to stress the importance of including all necessary information on the web page. In addition, the application receives a draft copy of the permit, including the 14 standard conditions, to review and sign before final approval by the park superintendent.*

***“Any ideas you might suggest which would minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents?”***

**Comment(s):**

**Respondent #1**: *No, as mentioned, the application itself was not a problem to fill out. Overall, I think the process works well and we appreciated being able to set up our display about hydrogen cars and how climate change was causing issues at National Parks.*

*However, we were not able to set up in the very nice locations at the Park, which on the one hand is very understandable – we could have been crazy folks, for all you knew.    But it would have been nice if, in each instance, the park staff would have been requested to check us out when we came in and allowed to make a determination about where we could set up, which might have allowed us to be in a better location to reach park visitors.  We did  not have loud music or offensive displays, etc.  Our message was meant to help the parks, so we felt, in most cases, that we were only allowed in areas where there wouldn’t be too many people passing by.*

**NPS Response/Action Taken:** No action required*.*

**Respondent #2**:Maybe a short form for club tournaments or small tournaments with 40 boats or less.

***NPS Response/Action Taken:*** *The NPS has a short form application for special park uses, Form 10-930s. Agency policy leaves it up to the discretion of the park superintendent to determine the form to use and the amount of information required to reach a decision.*

**9. Explain any decision to provide any payment or gift to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees.**

We do not provide payments or gifts to respondents.

**10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for the assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy.**

We do not provide any assurance of confidentiality. Because the application process includes a financial transaction, under the direction of the Treasury Department, the NPS collects social security numbers and/or tax identification numbers. The information is protected in accordance with the Privacy Act and OMB Circular A-108 and M-17-12. NPS updated the Special Use Permits –Interior, NPS—1 (86 FR 37181 - July 14, 2021) to reflect the government-wide format established by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-108, *Federal Agency Responsibilities for Review, Reporting, and Publication under the Privacy Act*, which includes new sections on the security classification of the information, purpose(s) of the system, and history of the system of records.

**11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private. This justification should include the reasons why the agency considers the questions necessary, the specific uses to be made of the information, the explanation to be given to persons from whom the information is requested, and any steps to be taken to obtain their consent.**

We do not ask sensitive questions.

**12. Provide estimates of the hour burden of the collection of information. The statement should:**

 **\* Indicate the number of respondents, frequency of response, annual hour burden, and an explanation of how the burden was estimated. Unless directed to do so, agencies should not conduct special surveys to obtain information on which to base hour burden estimates. Consultation with a sample (fewer than 10) of potential respondents is desirable. If the hour burden on respondents is expected to vary widely because of differences in activity, size, or complexity, show the range of estimated hour burden, and explain the reasons for the variance. Generally, estimates should not include burden hours for customary and usual business practices.**

 **\* If this request for approval covers more than one form, provide separate hour burden estimates for each form and aggregate the hour burdens.**

 **\* Provide estimates of annualized cost to respondents for the hour burdens for collections of information, identifying and using appropriate wage rate categories. The cost of contracting out or paying outside parties for information collection activities should not be included here.**

We estimate that there will be approximately 80,542annual responses totaling 22,890annual burden hours. We estimate the total dollar value of the annual burden hours for this collection to be $940,699 (rounded). We used the rates listed below in accordance with the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) news release [USDL-23-1305](https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/ecec.pdf)[[2]](#footnote-4) (June 16, 2023, Employer Costs for Employee Compensation—March 2023), to calculate the total annual burden. Table 12.1 uses the hourly rate (Including benefits) for respondents in the following categories:

* Individuals: $43.07 (See BLS Table 1)
* Private Sector: $40.79 (See BLS Table 2)
* State and Local Government: $58.08 (See BLS Table 3)

**Table 12.1. Total Estimated Annualized Burden**

| **Activity** | **No. Of Annual****Respondents** | **Completion Time Per Response (Minutes)** | **Total Annual Hours\*** | **Hourly Rate Incl. Benefits** | **$ Value Of Annual Burden Hours** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Form 10-930** Individuals Private Sector Government | 2,5302,617382 | 303030 | 1,2651,309191 | $43.07$40.79$58.08 | $54,484$53,394$11,093 |
| **Form 10-930c**Individuals Private Sector Government | 2,20030010 | 303030 | 1,1001505 | $43.07$40.79$58.08 | $47,377$6,119$290 |
| **Form 10-930s**Individuals Private Sector Government | 7,4466,640510 | 151515 | 1,8621,660128 | $43.07$40.79$58.08 | $80,196$67,711$7,434 |
| **Form 10-931**Individuals Private Sector Government | 8541,95490 | 151515 | 21448923 | $43.07$40.79$58.08 | $9,217$19,946$1,336 |
| **Form 10-932**Individuals Private Sector Government | 4021,21151 | 303030 | 20160626 | $40.35$38.07$54.96 | $8,110$23,070$1,429 |
| **Form 10-933**Individuals Private Sector Government | 51,40151777 | 151515 | 12,85012919 | $40.35$38.07$54.96 | $518,498$4,911$1,044 |
| **NEW FORMS** |  |  | **!** |  |  |
| **Form 10-930q**Individuals | 50 | 15 | 13 | $40.35 | $525 |
| **Form 10-934**Individuals Private Sector | 650650 | 3030 | 325325 | $40.35$38.07 | $11,114$13,401 |
| **Totals** | **80,542** |  | **22,890** |  | **$940,699** |

\* Rounded to match ROCIS

**13. Provide an estimate of the total annual nonhour cost burden to respondents or recordkeepers resulting from the collection of information. (Do not include the cost of any hour burden already reflected in item 12.)**

**\* The cost estimate should be split into two components: (a) a total capital and start-up cost component (annualized over its expected useful life) and (b) a total operation and maintenance and purchase of services component. The estimates should take into account costs associated with generating, maintaining, and disclosing or providing the information (including filing fees paid for form processing). Include descriptions of methods used to estimate major cost factors including system and technology acquisition, expected useful life of capital equipment, the discount rate(s), and the time period over which costs will be incurred. Capital and start-up costs include, among other items, preparations for collecting information such as purchasing computers and software; monitoring, sampling, drilling and testing equipment; and record storage facilities.**

**\* If cost estimates are expected to vary widely, agencies should present ranges of cost burdens and explain the reasons for the variance. The cost of purchasing or contracting out information collection services should be a part of this cost burden estimate. In developing cost burden estimates, agencies may consult with a sample of respondents (fewer than 10), utilize the 60-day pre-OMB submission public comment process and use existing economic or regulatory impact analysis associated with the rulemaking containing the information collection, as appropriate.**

**\* Generally, estimates should not include purchases of equipment or services, or portions thereof, made: (1) prior to October 1, 1995, (2) to achieve regulatory compliance with requirements not associated with the information collection, (3) for reasons other than to provide information or keep records for the government, or (4) as part of customary and usual business or private practices.**

We estimate the average fee per application is $75, which is submitted with an application to cover the cost of processing the application (cost recovery for the NPS is authorized by 54 U.S.C. 103104). Therefore, we estimate that the annual non-hour cost burden associated with this information collection is $6,040,650 ($75.00 x 80,542).

**14. Provide estimates of annualized cost to the Federal government. Also, provide a description of the method used to estimate cost, which should include quantification of hours, operational expenses (such as equipment, overhead, printing, and support staff), and any other expense that would not have been incurred without this collection of information.**

We estimate that the annual cost to the Federal Government to administer this information collection is $9,018,288 (rounded) (80,542applications x $111.97).

To determine average hourly rates for the Federal positions identified below (Table 14.1), we used the Office of Personnel Management Salary Table [2023-RUS](https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/salaries-wages/salary-tables/pdf/2021/DCB_h.pdf)[[3]](#footnote-5) to determine the hourly rates. We multiplied the hourly rate by 1.6 to account for benefits in accordance with News Release [USDL-23-1305](https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/ecec.pdf)[[4]](#footnote-6) (June 16, 2023, Employer Costs for Employee Compensation—March 2023), to estimate average hourly wages and to calculate benefits. We have averaged the estimated time it would take to perform the task.

**Table 14.1 Total annual cost to the Federal Government**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Position** | **Grade/Step** | **Hourly pay rate** | **Hourly rate including benefits (1.6 x hourly rate)** | **Time spent on each application****(minutes)** | **Weighted average** |
| Clerical | GS 5/5 | $20.47 | $32.75 | 10 | $5.95 |
| Park Ranger | GS 9/5 | $31.02 | $49.63 | 80 | $66.17 |
| Supv. Park Ranger | GS 11/5 | $37.53 | $60.05 | 20 | $20.02 |
| Park Superintendent | GS 15/5 | $74.35 | $118.96 | 10 | $19.83 |
| **Cost per application** | **$111.97** |

**15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments in hour or cost burden.**

We are estimating 80,542 responses totaling 22,890 annual burden hours. There is an overall net increase of 59 responses and 18 burden hours from our previous submission. This increase is caused by respondents and the burden for two new forms 10-930q and 10-934. This increase is offset by a net decrease of 1,291 respondents and 645 burden hours. The change was due to criteria specified in forms 10-931, 10-932, and 10-933 are no longer included in Form 10-930. Form 10-930 is now exclusively used for special park use requests throughout the service such as grazing, construction, special events, and other non-routine but permissible requests.

**Table 15.1 Program Change**

|  | **Anticipated Completed Responses** | **Anticipated Respondent Burden (hours)** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Activities (combined)** | **Current****Request** | **Previously****Approved** | **Net Change** | **Current****Request** | **Previously****Approved** | **Net Change** |
| **Form 10-930** | 5,529 | 6,820 | -1,291 | 2,765 | 3,410 | -645 |
| **Form 10-930s** | 14,596 | 14,596 | **0** | 3,650 | 3,650 | 0 |
| **Form 10-930c**  | 2,510 | 2,510 | **0** | 1,255 | 1,255 | 0 |
| **Form 10-931** | 2,898 | 2,898 | **0** | 726 | 726 | 0 |
| **Form 10-932** | 1,664 | 1,664 | **0** | 833 | 833 | 0 |
| **Form 10-933** | 51,995 | 51,995 | **0** | 12,998 | 12,998 | 0 |
| **NEW Forms** |
| **Form 10-930q** | 50 | 0 | +50 | 13 | 0 | 13 |
| **Form 10-934** | 1,300 | 0 | +1,300 | 650 | 0 | 650 |
| **TOTAL** | 80,542 | 80,483 | **+59** | 22,890 | 22,872 | +18 |

**16. For collections of information whose results will be published, outline plans for tabulation and publication. Address any complex analytical techniques that will be used. Provide the time schedule for the entire project, including beginning and ending dates of the collection of information, completion of report, publication dates, and other actions.**

No large-scale publication of the data is anticipated and no information specific to individual users will be published. NPS may use data from the various applications to measure resource impact as a function of use. It is important to document how often a specific location is used for a special park use (i.e., concerts or festivals, event length, equipment, and number of participants) to gauge the impact on park resources caused by permitted activities. This data may also be used while creating management plans for park areas, such as setting visitor use limits.

**17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons that display would be inappropriate.**

We will display the OMB control number and expiration date on the forms.

**18. Explain each exception to the topics of the certification statement identified in "Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions."**

There are no exceptions to the certification statement.

1. See: OMB's 2010 "OMB Social Media Guidance" (page 6). Items necessary to complete a voluntary commercial transaction. If an agency collects information that is necessary for the selection, payment, or delivery of an item, or to identify the person ordering an item, such information is not subject to the PRA if used solely for the purpose of completing a commercial transaction. Similarly, agency use of web-based applications to conduct such transactions is not subject to the PRA. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
2. https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/ecec.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
3. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
4. https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/ecec.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-6)