

**11SUPPORTING STATEMENT A  
FOR PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT SUBMISSION**

**Administrative Procedures for  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Financial Assistance Programs  
OMB Control Number 1018-0100**

**Terms of Clearance:** This submission is a revision to and renewal of OMB Control No. 1018-0100 in conjunction with our proposed rule under RIN 1018-BB84, “Administrative Requirements; Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration and Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Acts.”

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

The Service issues financial assistance through grants and cooperative agreement awards to States, local governments, Indian tribes, Institutions of Higher Education, nonprofit organizations, foreign organizations, foreign public entities, for-profit entities, and individuals. under the [Assistance Listing programs](#) listed in following table. Due to the significant number of authorities associated with this collection, OMB authorized us to upload a Table of Authorities providing citations and links to each authority in lieu of uploading copies of those. We uploaded the document to the Supplemental Documents as “Attachment A.”

<b>AL Number</b>	<b>Assistance Listing Title</b>	<b>Financial Assistance Authority</b>	<b>Implementing Regulations</b>
15.069*	Zoonotic Disease Initiative	American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Pub. L. 117-2 [H.R. 1319], 135 Stat. 94)	
15.605	Sport Fish Restoration	Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act—Sport Fish Restoration (16 U.S.C. §777 et seq., except §§777e-1 and g-1)	50 CFR 80
15.608	Fish and Wildlife Management Assistance	Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act—Cooperation of agencies (16 U.S.C. §661); Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act—State aquatic nuisance species management plans (16 U.S.C. §4724); Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act—Regional coordination (16 U.S.C. §4723); Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. §941 et seq.); Great Lakes Fishery Act (16 U.S.C. §953 et seq.)	
15.611	Wildlife Restoration and Basic Hunter Education	Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act—Wildlife Restoration and Basic Hunter Education (16 U.S.C. §669 et seq., except as Pub. L. 106-553 is applied)	50 CFR 80
15.614	Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration	Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act—National coastal wetlands conservation grants (16 U.S.C. §3954)	50 CFR 84
15.615	Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund	Endangered Species Act—Cooperation with States (16 U.S.C. §1535)	50 CFR 81
15.616	Clean Vessel Act	Section 5604(c) of the Clean Vessel Act—Grant program (33 U.S.C. §1322 note)	50 CFR 85

<b>AL Number</b>	<b>Assistance Listing Title</b>	<b>Financial Assistance Authority</b>	<b>Implementing Regulations</b>
15.619	Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund	Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act—Rhinoceros and tiger conservation assistance (16 U.S.C. §5304)	
15.620	African Elephant Conservation Fund	African Elephant Conservation Act—Provision of assistance (16 U.S.C. §4211)	
15.621	Asian Elephant Conservation Fund	Asian Elephant Conservation Act—Asian elephant conservation assistance (16 U.S.C. §4264)	
15.622	Sportfishing and Boating Safety Act	Sportfishing and Boating Safety Act—Boating infrastructure (16 U.S.C. § 777g-1)	50 CFR 86
15.623	North American Wetlands Conservation Fund	North American Wetlands Conservation Act—Approval of wetlands conservation projects (16 U.S.C. §4404)	
15.626	Enhanced Hunter Education and Safety	Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act—Firearm and bow hunter education and safety program grants (16 U.S.C. §669h-1)	50 CFR 80
15.628	Multistate Conservation Grant	Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act—Multistate conservation grant program (16 U.S.C. §669h-2); Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act—Multistate conservation grant program (16 U.S.C. §777m)	
15.629	Great Apes Conservation Fund	Great Ape Conservation Act—Great ape conservation assistance (16 U.S.C. §6303)	
15.630	Coastal	Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act—Cooperation of agencies (16 U.S.C. §661); Fish and Wildlife Act—Community partnership enhancement (16 U.S.C. §742f(d)); Inflation Reduction Act-Weather Events (Pub. L. 117-169 [H.R. 5376], § 60302, 136 Stat. 2079)	
15.631	Partners for Fish and Wildlife	Partners for Fish and Wildlife Act—Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program (16 U.S.C. §3773); Inflation Reduction Act-Weather Events (Pub. L. 117-169 [H.R. 5376], § 60302, 136 Stat. 2079)	
15.634	State Wildlife Grants	Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023—State and Tribal Wildlife Grants (P.L. 117-328 [H.R. 2617-305])	
15.635	Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation	Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act—Financial assistance (16 U.S.C. §6104)	
15.636	Alaska Subsistence Management	Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act—Cooperative agreements (16 U.S.C. §3119)	
15.637	Migratory Bird Joint Ventures	Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act—Cooperation of agencies (16 U.S.C. §661); Endangered Species Act—International cooperation (16 U.S.C. §1537)	
15.639	Tribal Wildlife Grants	Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023—State and Tribal Wildlife Grants (P.L. 117-328 [H.R. 2617-305])	
15.640	Latin America and the Caribbean Regional	Endangered Species Act—International cooperation (16 U.S.C. §1537)	
15.643	Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council	Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act—Cooperation of agencies (16 U.S.C. §661)	50 CFR 92.10-12
15.645	Marine Turtle Conservation Fund	Marine Turtle Conservation Act—Marine turtle conservation assistance (16 U.S.C. §6603)	

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15.647	Migratory Bird Conservation	Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act—Cooperation of agencies (16 U.S.C. §661); Endangered Species Act—International cooperation (16 U.S.C. §1537)	
15.648	Central Valley Project Improvement Act	Central Valley Project Improvement Act—Fish and Wildlife Restoration Activities (Pub. L. 102-575, §3406(b)(16), 106 Stat. 4714 and 4719)	
15.649*	Service Training and Technical Assistance	Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act—Cooperation of agencies (16 U.S.C. §661)	
15.650*	Research Grants	Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act—Cooperation of agencies (16 U.S.C. §661)	
15.651	Central Africa Regional	Endangered Species Act—International cooperation (16 U.S.C. §1537)	
15.652*	Invasive Species	Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act—Cooperation of agencies (16 U.S.C. §661)	
15.653	National Outreach and Communication	Sportfishing and Boating Safety Act—National Outreach and Communications Program (16 U.S.C. §777g(d))	
15.654	National Wildlife Refuge System Enhancements	Fish and Wildlife Act—Community partnership enhancement (16 U.S.C. §742f(d)); Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act—Cooperation of agencies (16 U.S.C. §661); Fish and Wildlife Act—Refuge education program enhancement (16 U.S.C. §742f(e)); National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act—Administration (16 U.S.C. 668dd(b)(4)); Inflation Reduction Act-Weather Events (Pub. L. 117-169 [H.R. 5376], § 60302, 136 Stat. 2079)	
15.655	Migratory Bird Monitoring, Assessment and Conservation	Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act—Cooperation of agencies (16 U.S.C. §661)	
15.657	Endangered Species Recovery Implementation	Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023—Administrative Provisions (P.L. 117-328 [H.R. 2617-306]); Endangered Species Act—International cooperation (16 U.S.C. §1537); American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Pub. L. 117-2 [H.R. 1319], 135 Stat. 94)	
15.658	Natural Resource Damage Assessment, Restoration, and Implementation	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (42 U.S.C §9601 et seq.); Oil Pollution Act (33 U.S.C. §2701 et seq.); Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. §§1251 et seq.)	
15.660	Candidate Species Conservation	Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023—Administrative Provisions (P.L. 117-328 [H.R. 2617-306])	
15.661	Lower Snake River Compensation Plan	Anadromous Fish Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. §757a); Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act—Cooperation of agencies (16 U.S.C. §661)	
15.662	Great Lakes Restoration	Federal Water Pollution Control Act—Great Lakes (33 U.S.C. §1268)	
15.663	NFWF-USFWS Conservation Partnership	Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act—Cooperation of agencies (16 U.S.C. §661); John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act—	

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		Prize Competitions (Pub. L. 116-9, 133 STAT. 788)	
15.664	Fish and Wildlife Coordination and Assistance	Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act—Cooperation of agencies (16 U.S.C. §661); Endangered Species Act—International cooperation (16 U.S.C. §1537)	
15.665	National Wetlands Inventory	Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act—Cooperation of agencies (16 U.S.C. §661)	
15.666	Endangered Species Conservation-Wolf Livestock Loss Compensation and Prevention	Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009—Wolf Livestock Loss Demonstration Project (7 U.S.C. §8351 note)	
15.667	Highlands Conservation	Highlands Conservation Act (Pub. L. 108-421 [H.R. 1964], 118 Stat. 2375)	
15.668*	Coastal Impact Assistance	Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act—Coastal impact assistance program (43 U.S.C. §1356a)	
15.669	Cooperative Landscape Conservation*	Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act—Cooperation of agencies (16 U.S.C. §661)	
15.670	Adaptive Science	Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act—Cooperation of agencies (16 U.S.C. §661); America's Conservation Enhancement Act—Chesapeake WILD (Pub. L. 116-188 [S.3051], 134 STAT. 923) Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act—Delaware River Basin Restoration (Pub. L. 114-322 [S.612], 130 STAT. 1774)	
15.671	Yukon River Salmon Research and Management Assistance	Yukon River Salmon Act (16 U.S.C. §5701 et seq.)	
15.674	National Fire Plan-Wildland Urban Interface Community Fire Assistance	Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023—Wildland Fire Management (P.L. 117-328 [H.R. 2617-321])	
15.676	Youth Engagement, Education, and Employment	Public Lands Corps Act—Public Lands Corps program (16 U.S.C. §1723); Fish and Wildlife Act—Community partnership enhancement (16 U.S.C. §742f(d))	
15.677	Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief Activities-FWS	Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013 (Pub. L. 113-2, 127 Stat. 10, 30, and 39)	
15.678*	Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units (CESU)	Fish and Wildlife Act—Cooperative research and training programs for fish and wildlife resources (16 U.S.C. 753a)	
15.679	Combating Wildlife Trafficking	Endangered Species Act—International cooperation (16 U.S.C. §1537)	
15.680	Mexican Wolf Recovery	Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act—Cooperation of agencies (16 U.S.C. §661); Endangered Species Act—International cooperation (16 U.S.C. §1537)	
15.681	Cooperative Agriculture	Fish and Wildlife Act—Community partnership enhancement (16 U.S.C. §742f(d))	

<b>AL Number</b>	<b>Assistance Listing Title</b>	<b>Financial Assistance Authority</b>	<b>Implementing Regulations</b>
15.682	Experienced Services	Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023— Department of the Interior Experienced Services Program (P.L. 117-328 [H.R. 2617-328])	
15.683	Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance	Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Act—John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grant Program (16 U.S.C. 1421f-1)	
15.684	White-nose Syndrome National Response Implementation	Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act—Cooperation of agencies (16 U.S.C. §661); Endangered Species Act—International cooperation (16 U.S.C. §1537)	
15.685	National Fish Passage	Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act—Cooperation of agencies (16 U.S.C. §661)	
15.686	National Fish Habitat Partnership	America's Conservation Enhancement Act— National Fish Habitat Conservation Through Partnerships (Pub. L. 116-188 [S. 3051], 134 Stat. 924-938)	

\* Programs that have sunset or are otherwise inactive; collection limited to post-award activities.

The types of assistance provided under Service financial assistance programs include:

- Mandatory Formula Grants
- Discretionary Project Grants
- Discretionary Cooperative Agreements
- Use of Property, Facilities, and Equipment

Authorities and implementing regulations establish financial assistance program purposes and may specify funding instrument(s), selection criteria, and eligible and ineligible recipients and activities. For competitive programs, the authorities or implementing regulations may establish preferences or ranking factors for the selection of projects. These legal requirements make it essential for an awarding agency to have certain information so that it funds only eligible projects, and, in the case of competitive programs, to select those projects that will result in the greatest return on the Federal investment.

For mandatory formula grant programs, eligible recipients receive funds per the formula set by law or policy. Mandatory grant recipients must submit applications with specific, detailed project information so we may ensure that projects are eligible, are substantial in character and design, and comply with all applicable Federal laws. For discretionary programs, we may award grants and cooperative agreements through a competitive review and selection process or directly to partners working with the Service and other partners on shared purposes and activities. Discretionary program applicants must submit applications with specific, detailed information per program requirements, which for competitive programs we describe in Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), including information to address selection criteria. All award recipients must submit financial and performance reports that contain information necessary for us to monitor expenditures and accomplishments per [2 CFR part 200](#), Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (effective 01/01/2020). This part regulates what Federal agencies and financial assistance applicants and recipients must provide and supports this information collection. Applicants and recipients purchasing real property under their award must also provide information related the requirements in [2 CFR part 200](#) and [2 CFR part 1402](#), Financial Assistance Interior Regulation (effective 01/01/2020).

Award recipients are subject to the terms and conditions incorporated into their Notice of Award either by direct citation or by reference to Federal regulations; program legislation or regulation; and special award terms and conditions. Recipients are responsible for ensuring that their subrecipients and contractors are aware of and comply with applicable award statutes, regulations, and terms and conditions.

The Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act ([16 U.S.C. 669 et seq.](#)) and the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act ([16 U.S.C. 777 et seq.](#) except 777e-1 and g-1) provide mandatory Federal assistance to the States for management and restoration of fish and wildlife. In addition to requiring state submission of award applications, reporting, and amendment requests and related recordkeeping, these Acts and our regulations at [50 CFR 80](#) (effective 10/01/2019) require States and territories to: annually certify hunting and sport fishing license sales to support Service apportionment of funds using the formulas provided in these Acts; submit any revisions to this annual certification; and indicate nonacceptance of their annual apportionment. The 50 CFR 80 regulations also encourage state agencies to display program symbols. The Service awards these apportioned funds under Assistance Listing programs 15.605, Sport Fish Restoration, 15.611, Wildlife Restoration and Basic Hunter Education, and 15.626, Enhanced Hunter Education and Safety.

Section 5604(c) of the Clean Vessel Act—Grant program ([33 U.S.C. §1322 note](#)) provides discretionary competitive funds to provides funding to States, the District of Columbia, Commonwealths, and territories for the construction, renovation, operation, and maintenance of sewage pumpout stations, waste reception facilities, and pumpout boats for recreational boaters and for educational programs that inform boaters of the importance of proper disposal of their sewage. In addition to requiring submission of award applications, reporting, and amendment requests and related recordkeeping, this Act and our regulations at [50 CFR 85](#) (effective 10/01/2019) require recipients to display or otherwise make accessible the program symbol and slogan and accompanying information at program-supported facilities.

We developed a proposed rule (RIN 1018-Bf99) to update the regulations pertaining to Federal financial assistance programs and subprograms authorized under the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act and the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act. We propose these updates to our regulations to ensure they reflect recent legislation; to align with the Office of Management and Budget's administrative rules for Federal financial assistance; to align with other laws, standards, and administrative processes; to respond to comments and feedback on our 2019 rulemaking action; and to provide clarity to help ensure consistency in administering our financial assistance programs and subprograms across the Nation.

**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.**

The Service provides mandatory and discretionary financial assistance to States, local governments, Indian tribes, institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, foreign organizations, foreign public entities, for-profit entities, and individuals for the conservation and management of fish and wildlife resources. The process typically begins with the submission of an application in response to a NOFO or directed announcement. The receiving program reviews and prioritizes proposed projects based on the program's selection criteria and following the program's review and selection procedures as described in the program announcement.

**APPLICATIONS** – We use the information provided in applications to:

- (1) Determine eligibility under the authorizing legislation and applicable program regulations;
- (2) Determine allowability of major cost items under the Cost Principles at 2 CFR 200;
- (3) Provide prior approval of certain items of cost per 2 CFR 200 requirements;
- (4) Evaluate risk posed by applicants before they receive Federal awards;
- (5) Select those projects that will provide the highest return on the Federal investment; and
- (6) Ensure compliance with applicable laws, such as the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970.

To apply for Federal financial assistance benefits, applicants must submit the following forms and information, as described below (related ROCIS RCF confirmation numbers provided after common form names):

*Standard forms (SF) from the SF-424 Series:* Applicants must submit the following SF-424 series of forms:

- SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance (201912-1018-001CF and 202001-1018-001CF for 424-Ind);
- SF-424A, Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (201902-1018-005CF) or SF-424C Budget Information for Construction Program (201902-1018-002CF);
- SF-424B, Assurances for Non-Construction Programs (201902-1018-003CF) or SF-424D Assurances for Construction Programs (202101-1018-001CF/002CF);
- SF-429-B, Real Property Status Report (Request to Acquire, Improve or Furnish), when applicable (201902-1018-004CF)
- SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities, when the non-Federal entity has lobbying to disclose (202101-1018-003CF/004CF).

*Budget Narrative:* Programs may require applicants to submit a budget narrative that explains and justifies specific budget items/costs, including those that require prior approval. The budget narrative details how the SF-424 Budget Object Class Category totals were determined and demonstrates a clear connection between costs and the proposed project activities. It also provides an opportunity for the applicant to describe and estimate the cost for any item under the applicable Federal cost principles requiring the Service's specific written approval. If the entity will use federally funded equipment on the project, it provides a list of that equipment, including the Federal funding source.

*Indirect Cost Statement:* If requesting reimbursement for indirect costs, all applicants (except individuals applying for funds separate from a business or non-profit organization he/she may operate) must include in their application a statement regarding how they anticipate charging indirect costs.

*Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA):* When applicable, a copy of the organization's current Federal Agency-approved Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement is required.

*Single Audit Reporting Statement:* All U.S. governmental entities and non-profit applicants must submit a statement regarding their single audit reporting status.

*Non-Profit Status:* For programs that limit eligibility to 501(c) status entities, applicants must provide evidence of their 501(c) tax exemption status as assigned by the Internal Revenue Service.

*Overlap/Duplication of Effort Statement:* For all discretionary programs, applicants must provide a statement regarding potential overlap or duplication of effort between their submitted project and other sources of funding in terms of activities, costs, and time commitment of key personnel.

*Conflict of Interest Disclosures:* Applicants must notify the Service in writing of any actual or potential conflicts of interest known at the time of application or that may arise during the life of this award, in the event the Service makes an award to the entity.

*Governmental Endorsement:* Applicants conducting work outside the United States must include a letter of support from the appropriate in-country local, regional, or national government wildlife or conservation authority.

*Project Narrative:* The project narrative may include, as applicable to the program, the following:

- Project summary
- Statement of need
- Project goals and objectives
- Project activities, methods, and timetable
- Stakeholder coordination/involvement details
- Project monitoring and evaluation plan
- Description of entities undertaking the project
- Qualifications of key personnel
- Literature cited
- Project area map, images, GPS coordinates, or other data to demonstrate location and benefits
- Information to support and documentation to demonstrate compliance or ability to comply with 2 CFR 200, program regulations, and other mandatory legal requirements
- Consolidated long-term work plan and accomplishments updates, when award is part of a large scale or long-term effort funded under multiple awards over time.

After review, the awarding program may conduct post-review negotiations with selected applicants prior to award. Selected applicants may need to submit an updated final narrative or budget as a result. Our estimated completion time per application response includes post-review revisions to reflect final approved project scope and budget. All programs provide post-review notice to unsuccessful applicants and may also provide more detailed feedback either proactively or upon applicant request as described in the program's NOFO. Applicants and recipients may appeal a Service decision following the Department of the Interior's appeals process described in [43 CFR Part 4](#).

## **AMENDMENTS**

For certain budget and program plan revisions, 2 CFR 200 requires recipients submit written revision requests to the Federal awarding agency for prior approval. Such requests identify the revisions needed and why they are necessary. The Service reviews such requests received to



determine the eligibility and allowability of new or revised activities and costs and approve certain items of cost.

## **REPORTING/RECORDKEEPING**

*Financial Reports:* Recipients are required to submit all financial reports on the Standard Form 425, Federal Financial Report. All recipients must submit financial reports in accordance with 2 CFR 200. The frequency of financial reporting varies depending on award-specific terms and conditions. All recipients must submit reports at least annually and no more frequently than quarterly. We may require interim reports more frequently than quarterly as a specific condition of award except in unusual circumstances, for example where more frequent reporting is necessary for the effective monitoring of the Federal award or could significantly affect program outcomes, and preferably in coordination with performance reporting.

*Performance Reports: (Quarterly or Annually)* All recipients must submit performance reports in accordance with 2 CFR 200. We use performance reports as a tool to ensure that the recipient is accomplishing the work on schedule and to identify any problems that the awardee may be experiencing in accomplishing that work. This information is necessary for the Service to track accomplishments and performance-related data. Performance reports must include:

- A comparison of actual accomplishments to the goals and objectives established for the reporting period, the results/findings, or both;
- If the goals and objectives were not met, the reasons why, including analysis and explanation of cost overruns or high unit costs compared to the benefit received to reach an objective;
- Performance trend data and analysis to be used by the awarding program to monitor and assess recipient and Federal awarding program performance; and
- Consolidated long-term work plan and accomplishments updates, when award is part of a large scale or long-term effort funded under multiple awards over time.

The frequency of performance reporting varies depending on award-specific terms and conditions. All recipients must submit reports at least annually and no more frequently than quarterly. We do not require interim reports more frequently than quarterly, except in unusual circumstances per 2 CFR 200. For example, where more frequent reporting is necessary for the effective monitoring of the Federal award or could significantly affect program outcomes. Recipients must also submit off schedule reporting if certain events occur between scheduled performance reporting dates that have significant impact on the supported activity.

*Recordkeeping Requirements:* Recipients must retain financial records, supporting documents, statistical records, and all other records pertinent to the award per 2 CFR 200 requirements.

## **REAL PROPERTY REPORTING/RECORDKEEPING**

*Reporting:* Service recipients purchasing real property under their award in which the Federal government retains an interest must report on the status and request approval to dispose of those per 2 CFR 200 and 2 CFR 1402 using the SF-429-A, Real Property Status Report (General Reporting) and the SF-429-C, Real Property Status Report (Disposition or Encumbrance Request), as appropriate.

*Recordkeeping Requirements:* For real property acquisition awards in which the Service will retain an interest, we require recipients to submit certain information, including:

- Transactions, such as dates, method of transfer, title holder, and seller;
- Identifiers, such as State and Federal Record ID, parcel number, and property name;
- Values, such as appraised value, purchase price, and other cost information, and acres or acre feet;
- Encumbrances;
- Partners;
- Copies of any options, purchase agreements, mineral assessment reports, and draft conservation easements; and
- Documentation to demonstrate compliance with 2 CFR 1402.

This information must be submitted to support acquisition. Depending on the determined method, disposition may require the recipient to submit updated information, including updated values data.

#### **PROPOSED REVISIONS:**

With this submission, we propose to:

- Reduce burden estimates due to the archiving of the following programs: 15.641 Wildlife Without Borders-Mexico, 15.633 Landowner Incentive, and 15.656 Recovery Act Funds. We propose to reduce burden estimates based on the number of awards under these programs that were pending closeout reports as of our previous clearance.
- Increase burden estimates associated with new 15.069 Zoonotic Disease Initiative program. This new program was funded and then defunded since our last renewal. We propose to increase burden estimates for only post-award requirements (amendments & reporting) for the 21 awards issued by the program before funding rescission.
- Increase burden estimates for increased financial assistance funding and activities resulting from Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (BIL) appropriations supplementing 14 Service financial assistance programs.
- Add the new **15.685 National Fish Passage and 15.686 National Fish Habitat Partnership programs** but have not proposed a corresponding increase in burden estimates. These long-standing programs were previously managed and reported as sub-programs under our 15.608 Fish and Wildlife Management Assistance program. Associated burdens for all three programs are reported in our 12.4 All Other Programs group and were not changed by this split.
- Add the following new ICs and related burdens we subsequently identified which were previously unreported per 50 CFR subchapter F, Financial Assistance—Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (see tab 12.5 in Attachment B):
  - **Notice of Annual Apportionment Nonacceptance (50 CFR § 80.12)** – If a State fish and wildlife agency does not want to receive the annual apportionment of funds, it must notify the Service in writing within 60 days after receiving a preliminary certificate of apportionment.
  - **State Agency Hunting and Sport Fishing License Certification Revision (50 CFR § 80.39)** – A State fish and wildlife agency must submit revised certified data on license holders within 90 days after it becomes aware of errors in its certified data. The State may become ineligible to participate in the benefits of the relevant Act if the State becomes aware of errors in its certified data and does not resubmit

- accurate certified data within 90 days.
- **Voluntary Display of Program Symbols (50 CFR § 80.100)** – A State fish and wildlife agency does not have to display one of the symbols in § 80.99 on a project completed under the Acts. However, the Service encourages agencies to display the appropriate symbol as follows:
    - (a) An agency may display the appropriate symbol(s) on:
      - (1) Areas such as wildlife-management areas, shooting ranges, and sportfishing and boating-access facilities that were acquired, developed, operated, or maintained with funds authorized by the Acts; and
      - (2) Printed or web-based material or other visual representations of project accomplishments.
    - (b) An agency may establish a requirement for similar standards for displaying the appropriate symbol or symbols, in the places described in paragraph (a) of this section, that is passed through to subrecipients. An agency may require a subrecipient to display the appropriate symbol or symbols in the places described in paragraph (a) of this section.
    - (c) The Director or Regional Director may authorize an agency to use the symbols in a manner other than as described in paragraph (a) of this section.
    - (d) The Director or Regional Director may authorize other persons, organizations, agencies, or governments to use the symbols for purposes related to the Acts by entering into a written agreement with the user. An applicant must state how it intends to use the symbol(s), to what it will attach the symbol(s), and the relationship to the specific Act.
    - (e) The user of the symbol(s) must indemnify and defend the United States and hold it harmless from any claims, suits, losses, and damages from:
      - (1) Any allegedly unauthorized use of any patent, process, idea, method, or device by the user in connection with its use of the symbol(s), or any other alleged action of the user; and
      - (2) Any claims, suits, losses, and damages arising from alleged defects in the articles or services associated with the symbol(s).
    - (f) The appearance of the symbol(s) on projects or products indicates that the manufacturer of the product pays excise taxes in support of the respective Act(s) and that the project was funded under the respective Act(s) (26 U.S.C. 4161, 4162, 4181, 4182, 9503, and 9504). The Service and the Department of the Interior make no representation or endorsement whatsoever by the display of the symbol(s) as to the quality, utility, suitability, or safety of any product, service, or project associated with the symbol(s).
    - (g) No one may use any of the symbols in any other manner unless the Director or Regional Director authorizes it. Unauthorized use of the symbol(s) is a violation of 18 U.S.C. 701 and subjects the violator to possible fines and imprisonment.
  - **Required Display of CVA Program Symbol, Slogan, & Information (50 CFR § 85.43, § 85.47)** – § 85.43 Facilities must display appropriate information signs at pumpout and portable toilet dump stations. Such information should indicate fees, restrictions, hours of operation, operating instructions, a contact name and 1-800-ASK-FISH telephone number for boaters to get additional information or to report an inoperable facility. § 85.47 As the source of funding for Clean Vessel Act facilities, the Sport Fish Restoration program should get credit through use of the Sport Fish Restoration logo. Grant recipients may use the crediting logo identified in 50 CFR 80.99 to identify projects funded by the Clean Vessel Act.

**NOTE:** The Service may receive, on occasion, unsolicited grievances concerning to financial assistance/grant awards. This information can cover a wide variety of topics given the large financial assistance/grants program administered by the Service, to include grievances concerning non-US citizens/non-domestic residents under applicable laws. The Service forwards the information to the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) as potential law enforcement investigation referrals. We forward the grievances to the OIG when they involve at least one of the following elements: 1) a Gross Human Rights Violation (defined by the foreign assistance act); 2) an abuse of power; 3) US citizens/domestic residents involved; 4) partner staff injured or killed in the line of duty, and/or 5) Service funds involved.

On occasion, we may need to ask for clarifying information in order to forward the grievance to the OIG. We would not collect any information beyond what is requested by the OIG. The questions for the OIG general complaint form for can be found on their website: [General Complaint | Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of the Interior \(doioig.gov\)](#).

We do not include burden associated with the grievances in this collection as they are unsolicited, unstructured in nature, and are referred to law enforcement for investigatory purposes. If requested by Congress, we may also be required to report aggregate information regarding the number of grievances received for a particular program or country.

**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.**

We estimate we receive 95% of the information collected under this clearance electronically. The Service electronically collects the information detailed in this supporting statement through the Department's grants management system (currently [HHS' GrantSolutions](#)). Applicants may submit applications through Grants.gov, which a system-to-system interface then brings into GrantSolutions, or directly in GrantSolutions. The Service manages all awards in and through GrantSolutions, including review and approval workflow, delivery of notices of award and amendment to recipients, maintaining award documentation, establishing reporting schedules and monitoring recipient compliance with those, and receipt and delivery of communications with the recipients regarding revisions or other concerns.

Some Service programs also use the electronic system [Wildlife Tracking and Reporting Actions for the Conservation of Species \(TRACS\)](#) to facilitate the collection of certain information under this clearance. The Service's Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration (WSFR) Program, together with state agency recipients, developed and established a program strategic plan, performance measurements and the Wildlife TRACS system to support and enhance the collection of certain information under this collection. This includes performance and real property reporting, and annual state hunting and fishing license certifications data. The Office of Management and Budget Circular A-11, Preparation, Submission, and Execution of the Budget (effective 7/10/2020) and 2 CFR 200 place emphasis on Federal agencies improving Federal program efficiency and effectiveness, assuring public accountability, and focus on results. The use of TRACS to support this information collection reflects improvements we are making to shift to results-oriented accountability for our awarding programs, including requiring data-driven program design and recipient performance measurement and reporting per 2 CFR 200 requirements.

Wildlife TRACS allows recipients to submit required project performance and real property reporting data electronically directly in the system, eliminating the need for recipient submission of paper reports and ensures completeness and accuracy of those reports. Wildlife TRACS also facilitates review and acceptance of performance and real property reports and expedites availability of data used to measure and monitor recipient and program performance. The system provides an electronic submission, review and approval workflow for both respondents and the Service, which reduces the delays associated with manual processing of paper documentation across multiple work sites. The system provides data entry tools and business workflows for ease of use and streamline review and approval procedures. The Service delivers Wildlife TRACS user training, guidance, and other tools to State, tribal, commonwealth, territory, and District of Columbia personnel and continues to improve system functionality to further support Federal awarding program performance monitoring, analysis, and reporting. For taxonomy identification of species, habitat identification, and other conservation information purposes, the system uses data from other available science-based databases. The WSFR program maintains contracts with third parties for Wildlife TRACS development, hosting, and other information technology needs. These contracts are not sole source; others could provide these services, as needs and processes dictate. The Service maintains Wildlife TRACS data on a cloud server ensuring secure long-lasting storage. Technical and informational support will continue indefinitely.

Use of GrantSolutions, Grants.gov, and Wildlife TRACS to support the administration Service of financial assistance programs and award actions reduces burdens on the applicants and Service staff and facilitates efficient records management. For Wildlife TRACS, we are using electronic models and tools to increase usability and intuitive processes to increase the efficient input of data. Collecting this information electronically is superior to paper submissions as it improves accuracy and consistency and increases the quality, amount, and speed at which data is available for analysis and reporting.

**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. The information collected is specific to each program or project. Due to the unique nature of each program, no other division of the Service nor any other Federal agency collects this information required to provide a specific benefit to the public.

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

We have made efforts to keep the amount of information requested to a minimum and to standardize the application process across all Service financial assistance opportunities, which reduces burden on respondents who apply for multiple funding opportunities, eliminating disparate processes. We must collect enough information to fulfill Federal awarding agency responsibilities and make appropriate funding decisions. We do not believe this collection will have a significant impact on small entities, as we collect the minimum amount of information needed to make funding decisions and fulfill our legal responsibilities.

**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.**

Congress provides funds annual to implement activities and projects through financial assistance. Failure to collect this information or collecting this information less frequently would prevent the Service from fulfilling responsibilities per each program's authorizing and appropriations legislation. Failure to collect state hunting and sport fish license certifications may result in inaccurate apportionments to states. A state's failure to provide license certification data may result in grant funds being partially or totally withheld pending receipt of the required certification. This information collection allows us to establish proper legal obligations to ensure that we properly expend Government in compliance with OMB requirements regarding the management of Federal financial assistance.

**7. Explain any special circumstances that would cause an information collection to be conducted in a manner not consistent with OMB guidelines:**

- \* **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.**

We do not collect information under this clearance in a manner inconsistent with OMB guidelines. Per 2 CFR 200, we post notices of competitive discretionary funding opportunity for at least 60 days and no less than 30 calendar days unless the Department head or delegate determines exigent circumstances require a shorter posting time. Regulations at 2 CFR 200 also limit the Federal awarding agency from collecting financial and performance reports from recipients no more frequently than quarterly except in unusual circumstances, when more frequent reporting is necessary for the effective monitoring of the Federal award or in circumstances that could significantly affect program outcomes.

**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.

We prepared proposed regulations (RIN 1018-BF08) soliciting the necessary information to update the regulations pertaining to Federal financial assistance programs and subprograms authorized under the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act and the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act. A copy of the proposed rule is attached. The proposed rule solicits public comment for a period of 60 days on the information collection requirements described in this supporting statement.

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

We do not provide any 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. Information is collected and protected in accordance with the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. § 552a) and the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552). We maintain certain information in a secure System of Records ([Interior, DOI-89, Grants and Cooperative Agreements: FBMS](#), 73 FR 43775 (July 28, 2008); modification published 86 FR 50156 (September 7, 2021).

**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 questions of a sensitive nature.

**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 we will receive **17,170 responses** totaling **403,086 burden hours** with a total dollar value of **\$20,974,541 (rounded)**, as detailed below.

**NOTES:**

- The estimated dollar value of a burden hour varies by respondents.
- We rounded total annual responses and total annual burden hours to match ROCIS.
- We used a placeholder burden of “1” when it is possible to receive a submission, but it is not routine to receive one every year.

**DOMESTIC ENTITIES BURDEN CALCULATION HOURLY RATES:**

We used Table 1 from the of Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) [News Release](#) USDL-23-2567, December 15, 2023, Employer Costs for Employee Compensation—September 2023, to calculate the total annual burden. These are the BLS listed hourly rates for all workers, including benefits:

- Individuals – \$43.93
- Private Sector – \$41.53
- Government – \$59.90

**FOREIGN ENTITIES BURDEN CALCULATION HOURLY RATE:**

The Service receives applications from and awards funds to entities across North America, Asia, Latin America, Pacific Islands, and Africa. For burden calculations for foreign entities, we were unable to locate current comparable wage information for the same or similar groups as those for domestic entities in the BLS News Release.

Based on information from WorldSalaries.com specific to government workers, we estimate that:

- Current average salaries in Canada are approximately 80% of those for equivalent positions in the U.S.
- Current average salaries in Mexico are approximately 37% of those for equivalent positions in the U.S.
- Current average salaries in all other countries where we award funds combined are approximately 25% of those for equivalent positions in the U.S.

We calculated the foreign entity burden hours by applying the above percentages to the Bureau of Labor Statistics hourly rates for U.S. workers, as follows:

- Canada – Private Sector ( $\$41.03 \times 80\%$ ) – \$32.82
- Mexico – Individuals ( $\$43.26 \times 37\%$ ) – \$16.01
- Mexico – Private Sector ( $\$41.03 \times 37\%$ ) – \$15.18
- Mexico – Government ( $\$58.25 \times 37\%$ ) – \$21.55
- Foreign – Individuals ( $\$43.26 \times 25\%$ ) – \$10.82
- Foreign – Private Sector ( $\$41.03 \times 25\%$ ) – \$10.26



- Foreign – Government (\$58.25 x 25%) – \$14.56

**Summary of Burden Totals:**

Programs Group	Annual No. of Respondents	Total Annual Responses	Annual Burden Hours	Dollar Value of Annual Burden Hours
12.1 NAWCA	397	568	18,100	\$745,382.64
12.2 NMBCA	128	146	4,622	\$108,557.50
12.3 International Affairs	597	818	18,501	\$509,048.30
12.4 All Other Programs	13,907	14,816	360,963	\$19,557,660.49
12.5 50 CFR Additional	170	822	900	\$53,892.03
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>15,199</b>	<b>17,170</b>	<b>403,086</b>	<b>\$20,974,540.96</b>

Assistance Listing numbers corresponding to tabs 12.1-12.5 on burden calculations in “Attachment B” (Excel spreadsheet uploaded to supplementary documents):

**12.1 NAWCA**

Assistance Listing Number and Title
15.623 North American Wetlands Conservation Fund (NAWCA)

**12.2 NMBCA**

Assistance Listing Number and Title
15.635 Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation (NMBCA)

**12.3 INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

Assistance Listing Number and Title
15.619 Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund
15.620 African Elephant Conservation Fund
15.621 Asian Elephant Conservation Fund
15.629 Great Apes Conservation Fund
15.640 Wildlife Without Borders- Latin America and the Caribbean
15.645 Marine Turtle Conservation Fund
15.651 Wildlife Without Borders-Africa
15.679 Combating Wildlife Trafficking

**12.4 ALL OTHER PROGRAMS**

Assistance Listing Number and Title
15.069 Zoonotic Disease Initiative (no new funding; collection limited to post-award activity)
15.605 Sport Fish Restoration
15.608 Fish and Wildlife Management Assistance
15.611 Wildlife Restoration and Basic Hunter Education
15.614 Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration
15.615 Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund
15.616 Clean Vessel Act
15.622 Sportfishing and Boating Safety Act
15.626 Enhanced Hunter Education and Safety
15.628 Multistate Conservation Grant
15.630 Coastal
15.631 Partners for Fish and Wildlife
15.634 State Wildlife Grants
15.636 Alaska Subsistence Management
15.637 Migratory Bird Joint Ventures
15.639 Tribal Wildlife Grants
15.643 Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council
15.647 Migratory Bird Conservation
15.648 Central Valley Project Improvement Act

<b>15.649 Service Training and Technical Assistance</b> (inactive program; collection limited to post-award activity)
<b>15.650 Research Grants</b> (inactive program; collection limited to post-award activity)
<b>15.652 Invasive Species</b> (inactive program; collection limited to post-award activity)
<b>15.653 National Outreach and Communication</b>
<b>15.654 National Wildlife Refuge System Enhancements</b>
<b>15.655 Migratory Bird Monitoring, Assessment and Conservation</b>
<b>15.657 Endangered Species Recovery Implementation</b>
<b>15.658 Natural Resource Damage Assessment, Restoration and Implementation</b>
<b>15.660 Candidate Species Conservation</b>
<b>15.661 Lower Snake River Compensation Plan</b>
<b>15.662 Great Lakes Restoration</b>
<b>15.663 NFWF-USFWS Conservation Partnership</b>
<b>15.664 Fish and Wildlife Coordination and Assistance</b>
<b>15.665 National Wetlands Inventory</b>
<b>15.666 Endangered Species Conservation-Wolf Livestock Loss Compensation and Prevention</b>
<b>15.667 Highlands Conservation</b>
<b>15.668 Coastal Impact Assistance</b> (sunset; collection limited to post-award activity)
<b>15.669 Cooperative Landscape Conservation</b>
<b>15.670 Adaptive Science</b>
<b>15.671 Yukon River Salmon Research and Management Assistance</b>
<b>15.674 National Fire Plan-Wildland Urban Interface Community Fire Assistance</b>
<b>15.676 Youth Engagement, Education, and Employment</b>
<b>15.677 Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief Activities-FWS</b>
<b>15.678 Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units</b> (inactive program; collection limited to post-award activity)
<b>15.680 Mexican Wolf Recovery</b>
<b>15.681 Cooperative Agriculture</b>
<b>15.682 Experienced Services</b>
<b>15.683 Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance</b>
<b>15.684 White-nose Syndrome National Response Implementation</b>
<b>15.685 National Fish Passage</b>
<b>15.686 National Fish Habitat Partnership</b>

## 12.5 50 CFR ADDITIONAL

<b>Assistance Listing Number and Title</b>
<b>15.605 Sport Fish Restoration</b> (50 CFR 80)
<b>15.611 Wildlife Restoration and Basic Hunter Education</b> (50 CFR 80)
<b>15.616 Clean Vessel Act</b> (50 CFR 85)
<b>15.622 Sportfishing and Boating Safety Act</b> (50 CFR 80)
<b>15.626 Enhanced Hunter Education and Safety</b> (50 CFR 80)

The burden estimates on tab 12.5 “50 CFR Additional” are required collections for the listed programs per 50 CFR subchapter F, Financial Assistance—Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program *except* those already reported on tab 12.4 “All Other Programs”. Tab 12.4 reports the collection of applications, revision requests, reporting, and related recordkeeping for these programs and all other Service programs with like burden estimates for these collections.

Specifically, tab 12.5 reports on the burdens associated with the following collections required in 50 CFR 80 and 85:

- State agency certification of hunting and sport fishing license sales to support apportionment of mandatory program funds per the formulas provided in 50 CFR 80 and any related revisions (50 CFR §80.31 and §80.39)
- State agency notification to the Service that they do not accept their annual apportionment (50 CFR §80.12)

- State agency voluntary display of WSFR programs symbols (50 CFR §80.100); and
- State agency required display of, or otherwise provide public access to, the Clean Vessel Act program symbol, slogan, and related information at program-supported facilities (50 CFR §§85.16, 85.63, and 85.64).

**13. Provide an estimate of the total annual non-hour 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.

Respondents and record keepers have no non-hour cost burden under this collection.

**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.**

The total estimated annual cost to the Federal Government for processing and reviewing applications, amendment requests, real property records and reports and other 50 CFR-required information received under this collection is **\$2,893,890 (rounded)**.

We used the Office of Personnel Management Salary Table [2024-DCB](#) as the basis for the hourly rate. We used the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) [News Release](#) USDL-23-2567 to estimate the fully burdened rates for each staff member (hourly rate multiplied by 1.61 to account for benefits).

Position	Grade/ Step	Hourly Rate	Hourly Rate (Incl. Benefits)	% of Time Spent on Collection	Weighted Average (\$/HR)
Clerical, unskilled	GS-07/05	\$ 30.37	\$ 48.90	10%	\$ 4.89
Skilled, craft, and technical	GS-13/05	64.06	103.14	85%	87.67
Management/Professional	GS-15/05	89.04	143.35	5%	7.17
<b>Total Weighted Average (\$/HR)</b>					<b>\$ 99.73</b>

**Salary Costs:** \$2,893,890.34 broken down as follows:

- Applications: 9,706 hours x \$99.73 = \$967,979.38
- Amendments: 3,708 hours x \$99.73 = \$369,798.84
- Reports: 15,574 x \$99.73 = \$1,553,195.02
- State agency license certification & revisions: 14.25 hours x \$99.73 = \$1,421.15
- Nonacceptance of apportionment notices: 1 hour x \$99.73 = \$99.73
- Display of program symbols: 14 hours x \$99.73 = \$1,396.22

For applications, we estimate Federal staff will spend 9,706 hours (2 hours per application x 4,853 applications) to:

- (1) develop and post application instructions,
- (2) review applications,
- (3) perform data entry, and
- (4) maintain files.

For amendments, we estimate a total of 3,708 hours (1 hour per amendment x 3,708 amendments) for staff to:

- (1) review revision requests,
- (2) perform data entry, and
- (3) maintain files.

For reports, we estimate a total of 15,574 hours (2 hours per report x 7,787 reports) for staff to:

- (1) review reports,
- (2) perform data entry, and
- (3) maintain files.

For State agency license certifications and revisions submitted per 50 CFR §80.31 & §80.39 we estimate a total of 14.25 hours (.25 hours per submission x 57 submissions) for staff to:

- (1) review data,
- (2) perform data entry, and
- (3) maintain files.

For nonacceptance of apportionment notices submitted per 50 CFR §80.12 we estimate a total of 1 hour (1 hour per submission x 1 submission) for staff to:

- (1) review the notice,
- (2) take appropriate action, and
- (3) maintain files.

For display of program symbols per 50 CFR 80 and 85 we estimate a total of 14 hours (.25 hours per request x 56 potential requesting agencies) for staff to:

- (1) Point inquiring agency to [50 CFR 80](#) where the WSFR program symbols are published for the public,
- (2) Point inquiring agency to [50 CFR 85](#) where the CVA program symbol, slogan and

other related requirements are published for the public, and  
(3) maintain files.

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

We are reporting a program change due to agency discretion of 766 annual responses and 228 annual burden hours. We are also reporting a change due to adjustment in agency estimate of 380 annual responses and 11,188 annual burden hours. Changes are detailed in the "Changes" and "ROCIS Xwalk" worksheets in the "1018-0100-Attachment B-Burden Spreadsheet" file uploaded as a supplementary document to the ICR in ROCIS.

**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.**

The information collected is for financial assistance administration purposes. We will not publish all of the information collected. Federal awarding agencies are required to publish certain award information to USASpending.gov. Service programs may also publish summary reports of their annual award activity and program outcomes for Congress and for the public. Published information will not include protected private or other sensitive information (e.g., land ownership, sensitive species habitat data), or information that would violate Federal, State, or local laws or policies. The WSFR program publishes state hunting and sport fishing license certification data and resulting annual apportionment totals for the public on the [WSFR program website](#).

**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 request approval to not display the expiration date with the PRA statement on public NOFOs posted on Grants.gov. In our experience, including the expiration date has resulted in confusion and anxiety for our programs and the public, resulting in numerous requests for clarification and assurance that we remain cleared to collect applications. The Service posts around 150 competitive opportunities each year. When the collection renewal process is significantly delayed, the expiration date on published notices may appear expired. Due to the number of active NOFOs at any given time, it would be resource prohibitive to amend active notices for each 30-day incremental expiration date extension during the renewal period.

**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.