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**Justification for an Information Collection under the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service’s Federal Lands Transportation Generic Clearance (OMB Control No. 0596-0236)**

**March 2024**

**Introduction: Federal Lands Transportation Generic Clearance Submission, OMB Control Number 0596-0236**

The Interagency Generic Clearance for Federal Land Management Agencies Collaborative Visitor Feedback Surveys on Recreation and Transportation Related Programs and Systems (Forest Service, Federal Lands Transportation Generic Clearance) is intended to help Federal Land Management Agencies (FLMAs) measure customers’ transportation-related experiences in order to improve on any transportation-related issues or problems and to promote planning across land units, regionally and nationally.

A brief overview of the steps involved in submitting an Information Collection Request (ICR) is provided below. For more detailed information, along with a list of bureau/office contacts, please see the Best Practices and Guidance document developed specifically for this generic clearance.

(See: https://flh.fhwa.dot.gov/other/documents/flpp/CVTS-Best-Practices-and-Guidance-May-2022.pdf).

1. If more than one bureau/office (e.g., FWS and BLM) is collaborating on an IC, the partners must select a “lead” bureau/office to spearhead the effort, along with a contact person from the lead bureau/office.
2. The Information Collection Clearance Officer (ICCO) from the lead bureau/office must review the ICR and provide feedback to the lead bureau/office contact.
3. After the ICCO review has been completed (including a review by the DOI Information Collection Clearance Coordinator), the ICCO must forward the ICR to the USDA Forest Service and copy the CVTS FLMA Generic Clearance Coordinator (kenli.kim@usda.gov).
4. After the Forest Service ICCO review, the USDA Departmental Clearance Officer submits the ICR to the OMB desk officer for the Forest Service via ROCIS.
5. The OMB desk officer reviews the ICR and provides comments. The lead bureau/office revises the ICR as necessary. Upon approval by OMB, a Notice of Action is issued.

**Instructions for Completing the Justification Form**

1. Information Collection (IC) Title/Date Submitted to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service, Office of Regulatory and Management Services: Insert title for the proposed IC (e.g., survey, focus group, comment card, etc.). Insert date that the expedited approval package will be submitted to Forest Service. Reminder: Please submit the package through the lead bureau/office Information Collection Clearance Officer and copy the FLMA Generic Clearance Coordinator.
2. Lead Bureau/Office: Insert the name of the lead bureau/office conducting the survey.
3. Abstract: Summarize the proposed study with an abstract not to exceed 150 words.
4. Bureau/Office Point of Contact Information: Complete the bureau/office contact information. Forest Service will communicate with OMB initially and then direct them to the point of contact listed here (and to the IC Clearance Officer listed in #6 below) throughout the remainder of the approval process. Forest Service should be included on any correspondence pertaining to this IC.
5. Principal Investigator (PI) Conducting the IC: Complete information about the PI who will be conducting the IC, if different than Point of Contact listed in #4. Otherwise note: Same as #4.
6. Lead bureau/office IC Clearance Officer Reviewing the IC: Provide the name and contact information for the ICCO from the lead bureau/office who reviewed the IC.
7. IC Dates: List the time period in which the IC will be conducted, including specific starting and ending dates. The starting date should be at least *45* days after the submission date. The request for expedited approval, and submission of a complete and accurate approval package, must be made at least *45* calendar days prior to the first day the PI wishes to begin the IC.
8. Type of IC Instrument: Check the type(s) of information collection instrument(s) that will be used. If other, please explain.
9. Data Collection Instrument: Explain how the data collection method and instrument (e.g., survey, interview guides, discussion guides, etc.) were developed. With whom did you consult during the development? Who were the social science and/or statistical experts who reviewed the instruments? How did you address any concerns raised or improvements suggested? Did you pretest the data collection instrument? If yes, how did you address any concerns raised or improvements suggested? (Note: A description of any pre-testing and peer review of the methods and/or instrument is highly recommended.)
10. Which of the six topic areas from the Compendium of Questions will be addressed in your IC? Check all that apply. For each question in your survey (or discussion guide or comment card), please indicate the Compendium Topic Area and the unique question identifier from the Compendium. For any questions that are not taken from the Compendium, please indicate “NEW” in the table.

Sample table:

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| **Survey Question Number** | **Compendium Topic Area** | **Compendium Question Identifier** |
| Q1 | #1- Respondent characteristics | GROUP1 |
| Q2 | #1- Respondent characteristics | VHIS7 |
| Q3 | #2 Traveler Information | TINFO1 |
| Q4 | #2 Traveler Information | NEW |
| Etc. |  |  |

1. Methodology: Explain how the IC will be conducted. Provide a description of the methodology including: (a) The population of interest (b) How will the users/visitors be sampled? (if fewer than all users/visitors will be surveyed); (c) What percentage of users/visitors asked to participate will respond, and (d) What actions are planned to increase the response rate? If statistics are generated, this description must be specific and include each of the following:

- The respondent universe,

- The sampling plan and all sampling procedures;

- How the instrument will be administered;

- Expected response rate and confidence levels;and

- Strategies for maximizing response rate and dealing with potential non-response bias.

12. Total Number of Initial Contacts and Expected Number of Respondents**:** Provide an estimated total number of initial contacts and the total number of expected respondents.

13. Estimated Time to Complete Initial Contact and Time to Complete Survey Instrument**:** Estimate the time to complete the initial contact and the time to complete the information collection (e.g., survey, comment card, focus group, etc.) in minutes.

14. Total Burden Hours**:** Provide the total number of burden hours. The total burden hours should account for the amount of time required to instruct the respondents and the amount of time required for the respondent to complete the survey or other data collection mechanism.

15. Reporting Plan**:** Provide a brief description of the reporting plan for the data being collected.

16. Justification, Purpose and Use**:**  Provide a brief justification for the information collection, its purpose, goals, and use (including utility to managers). Specifically, describe how data will be tabulated and what statistical techniques will be used to generalize the results to the entire user population. Describe how data from the survey will be used. Describe how you will acknowledge any limitations related to the data, particularly in cases where we obtain a lower than anticipated response rate. Note whether or not the information collection is intended to measure a Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) performance measure.

**Instructions for Checklist**

Review the checklist to ensure you have met the requirements for submission and that your approval package includes the required items.

**Instructions for Certification Form**:

Complete the Form and include the names of those who certify that the Justification Form meets the requirements of the generic clearance (OMB control number 0596-0236).

Justification for Submission under Federal Lands Transportation Generic Clearance (OMB Control Number 0596-0236)

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| **U.S. Department of Agriculture-Forest Service**  Office of Regulatory and Management Services | Forest Service Tracking Number: (for internal use only) |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | | | Date Submitted to Forest Service/USDA: |  |
| 1. | **IC Title:** | Nolin Lake Boating Capacity Study | | |
| 2. | **Bureau/Office:** | US Army Corps of Engineers, Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, Louisville District | | |

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| 3. | **Abstract:** (not to exceed 150 words)  The purpose of this voluntary survey is to gather information about boat use characteristics at Nolin Lake in Edmonson, Grayson, and Hart Counties, Kentucky. Collected data will be analyzed to determine boater perceptions of social and resource conditions of the lake. Further, the collected data will be used to evaluate and compare effects of recreational development scenarios and estimate thresholds of boating capacity. Results of this study will be used by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to guide management of the lake into the future and to Support management decisions on potential expansions of marinas, ramp parking lots, and shoreline permits; designation of lake zones; and concessionaire decision-making processes. |
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| **4.** | **Bureau/Office Point of Contact Information** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | **First Name:** | | | Deryck | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | **Last Name:** | | | **Rogers** | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | **Title:** | | | USACE- Natural Resources Project Manager | | | | | | | | | | |
|  |  | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | **Bureau/Office:** | | | **Nolin River Lake - USACE** | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | **Street Address:** | | | 2150 Nolin Dam Road | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | **City:** | | | Mammoth Cave | | | **State:** | | | KY | | **Zip code:** | | **42259** |
|  | **Phone:** | | | 270-286-6605 | | | **Fax:** | | |  | | | | |
|  | **Email:** | | | [Deryck.V.Rodgers@usace.army.mil](mailto:Deryck.V.Rodgers@usace.army.mil) | | | | | | | | | | |
| **5.** | **Principal Investigator (PI) Information [If different from #4]** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | **First Name:** | | | Same as POC | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | **Last Name:** | | |  | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | **Title:** | | |  | | | | | | | | | | |
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|  | **Bureau/Office:** | | |  | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | **Address:** | | |  | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | **City:** | | |  | | | **State:** | | |  | | **Zip code:** | |  |
|  | **Phone:** | | |  | | | **Fax:** | | |  | | | | |
|  | **Email:** | | |  | | | | | | | | | | |
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| **6.** | **Lead agency IC Clearance Officer Reviewing the IC:** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | **First Name** | | | | Reginald | | | | | | | | | |
|  | **Last Name** | | | | Lucas | | | | | | | | | |
|  | **Title** | | | | DoD PRA Clearance Officer | | | | | | | | | |
|  | **Phone** | | | | (571) 372-7574 | | | | | | | | | |
|  | **Email** | | | | reginald.t.lucas2.civ@mail.mil | | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **7.** | **IC Dates** | | | | *(mm/dd/yyyy)* | | | to | | | *(mm/dd/yyyy)* | | | |
|  | 06/09/2025 | | |  | | | 09/28/2025 | | | |
| **8.** | **Type of Information Collection Instrument (Check ALL that Apply)** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **\_x\_Intercept** | | **\_\_Telephone** | **\_x\_Mail** | | **\_x\_Electronic** | \_\_**Interviews** | | | **\_\_Focus Groups** | | | | **\_\_Comment Cards** | |
| **\_\_Other** | | **Explain:** Survey instrument will be entirely online. Intercept (with postcard either handed to the potential respondent or placed on vehicle windshields at boat ramp parking, Attachment A), e‑mail (email, Attachment B) or letter (same as email, Attachment D) will be used based on population. Public boat ramp users will be intercepted post boating trip with a post card (Attachment A) requesting they use URL/QR Code link to the survey. Marina Tenants and Dock Permit holders will be contacted by mail or e-mail depending on the available information in the relevant customer data systems. | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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| **9. Instrument and Method Development:**  Who assisted in development of the methodology, questionnaire and/or statistics? Describe any pre-testing and/or peer review that was conducted. How were improvements integrated?  The instrument was developed by staff from Nolin Lake, USACE Louisville District using prior survey instruments developed for and used by USACE in the Baltimore District and Little Rock District. The questionnaire used at Raystown Lake in the Baltimore District, which is the basis of the Nolin Lake survey instrument was originally developed with assistance from the USACE Institute for Water Resources Bonnie Bryson, PhD Consultant, Bowhead Total Enterprise Solutions. The methodology was developed by Bonnie Bryson, PhD. The survey questions in the Nolin Lake survey instrument have been used in two recent studies, at Raystown Lake in 2018 and at Beaver Lake in 2016 (Both OMB Control # 0596-0236). Those surveys incorporated or modified questions from a 2013 Coast Guard survey (OMB Control # 1625-0089) and 1988 boating study at Raystown Lake (OMB Control # 0702-0016). The Nolin Lake survey instrument incorporates or modifies questions from the current Federal Land Management Agencies: Compendium of Questions (OMB Control # 0596-0236)  No pretesting was performed as the survey questions have been reviewed and used in their current format multiple times. | | | |
| **10. Which of the six areas from the Compendium of Questions will be addressed in your IC?** (Check all that apply).  X Topic Area #1: Respondent Characteristics   * Topic Area #2: Traveler Information   X Topic Area #3: Trip Behaviors  X Topic Area #4: Transportation Use and Travel Related Conditions  X Topic Area #5: Assessment of Visitor Experience   * Topic Area #6: Economic Impact and Visitor Spending/Costs   **In addition, for each question in your survey instrument (or discussion guide, comment card, etc), please indicate the Compendium Topic Area and the unique question identifier from the Compendium. If the question is not taken from the Compendium, indicate “NEW.”** See the instructions for a sample table.   |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Survey Question Number** | **Compendium Topic Area** | **Compendium Subtopic Area** | **Compendium Question Identifier** | **Modifications and Justification** | | **Boating Survey** (online survey screenshots, Attachment C1) | | | | | | 1 | #1 - Respondent Characteristics | Residence/Type of Community | RES1 | This question was not modified. | | 2 | #3 – Trip Behaviors | Trip Duration and Accommodations | TDUR6 | This question was not modified.  The *list of appropriate responses* includes:   * Campgrounds/camping in the undeveloped area at or near Nolin Lake * Rented accommodations at or near Nolin Lake * Private home of friend or relative at or near Nolin Lake * Owned accommodations (home/land) at or near Nolin Lake * Day trip only, no arrangements for overnight accommodations   These responses are a simplified version of TDUR5 responses. | | 3 | #3 – Trip Behaviors | Trip Activity | TACT2a | Question modified to consider more than one trip and to ask about a recent past trip. Instead of subheadings of “Did on this Trip” and “Did Not do on this Trip,” the options are “Participate In” and “Do Not Participate In.” Instead of “Which of the following activities did you [/will you] do during this trip to [site]?” the instructions read, “Which of the following activities have you participated in during your trip(s) to Nolin Lake?”  The order of the responses was modified to place ‘boating’ as the first option as this is primarily a boating study. The “Camping in [X] (# of nights):\_\_\_\_\_\_” response option was simplified to “Camping.” | | 4 | #3 - Trip Behaviors | Trip Activity | TACT2b | Question modified to consider more than one trip. | | 5 | #1 - Respondent Characteristics | Visitation History | VHIS18 | Question modified by removing "on this lake" from compendium question to make question about total boating experience. Clarification on whether to round years of boating experience up or down added. | | 6 | #1 - Respondent Characteristics | Visitation History | VHIS18 | Question modified to clarify whether to round years of boating experience up or down. | | 7 | #1 - Respondent Characteristics | Visitation History | VHIS11 | Question modified to focus on boating activities only, add more categories for very frequent visitors, and simplify question from descriptor plus frequency to frequency only. | | 8 | NEW | NEW | NEW | Inclusion of question from 2016-2017 Beaver Lake Survey (OMB Control # 0596-0236) and 2018-2019 Raystown Lake Survey (OMB Control #: 0596-0236). Question modified from 2013 Coast Guard survey (OMB control # 1625-0089) and old Raystown survey (OMB control # 0702-0016). | | 9 | #3 - Trip Behaviors | Trip Destinations and Routes | TDEST7 & TDEST9B | Question merges TDEST7 and TDEST 9B. Question modified to consider more than one trip and to focus on boating activities only. Accompanying map provides reference for response. | | 10 | #3 - Trip Behaviors | Trip Destinations and Routes | TDEST4 | Question modified to focus on boating activities only and to consider more than one trip. Accompanying map provides reference for response. | | 11 | #3 - Trip Behaviors | Trip Destinations and Routes | TDEST8 | Question modified to focus on boating activities only and to consider more than one trip. Accompanying map provides reference for response. | | 12, 13, 14, and 15 | #4 - Transportation Use and Travel Related Conditions | Use of Transportation Modes TO and WITHIN FLMA sites | TRANUSE27B | Question modified for boat categories to better fit boat types used at Nolin Lake, to simplify boat transport question, to separate boat transport question from boat ownership question, and to add boat storage question. The boat ownership question is similar to BOAT1 but considers the possibility of boat rental or borrowing and the boat storage question is similar to BOAT2 but expands the question for other boat storage options available at Nolin Lake.  In addition, “during the summer” is added to the question prompt as most people cannot leave their boats on the lake over the winter due to water level fluctuations at Nolin Lake. This question variation will help the Corps address management goals. | | 16 | #3 - Trip Behaviors | Trip Activity | TACT5 | Question modified to consider more than one trip and prompt modified to focus primarily on boating instead of recreating. Additional water activity categories of “general boating,” “tubing, etc.” and “personal watercraft” added to activity options. | | 17 | NEW | NEW | NEW | Inclusion of question from 2016-2017 Beaver Lake Survey (OMB Control # 0596-0236) and 2018-2019 Raystown Lake Survey (OMB Control #: 0596-0236). Original question modified from 2015 Coralville Lake Recreational Boating Study (OMB Control # 0710-0001) to allow an open-ended response for location and request to identify location on map. Accompanying map provides reference for response. | | 18 | NEW | NEW | NEW | Inclusion of question from 2016-2017 Beaver Lake Survey (OMB Control # 0596-0236) and 2018-2019 Raystown Lake Survey (OMB Control #: 0596-0236). Original question modified from 2015 Coralville Lake Recreational Boating Study (OMB Control # 0710-0001) to allow an open-ended response for location and request to identify location on map. Accompanying map provides reference for response. | | 19 | NEW | NEW | NEW | Inclusion of question from 2016-2017 Beaver Lake Survey (OMB Control # 0596-0236) and 2018-2019 Raystown Lake Survey (OMB Control #: 0596-0236). Original question modified from 2015 Coralville Lake Recreational Boating Study (OMB Control # 0710-0001) to allow an open-ended response for location and request to identify location on map. Accompanying map provides reference for response. | | 20 | NEW | NEW | NEW | Inclusion of question from 2016-2017 Beaver Lake Survey (OMB Control # 0596-0236), 2018-2019 Raystown Lake Survey (OMB Control #: 0596-0236), and 1988 Raystown boating survey (OMB control # 0702-0016) to allow for analytical comparison of visitor experiences. | | 21 | #5 – Assessment of Visitor Experience | Evaluations Related to Boating/Water Conditions | EVALBOAT3 | This question was not modified. | | 22 | #5 – Assessment of Visitor Experience | Evaluation of Safety | SAFE18 | Question modified to create a grid of three different locations instead of just one, to focus on boating activities only, and to consider more than one trip. The responses are modified slightly but remain at just five options: four ranging from ‘not at all safe’ to ‘extremely safe’ and one ‘not applicable.’ ‘Check one’ is added per location to clarify that just one answer is desired per location. | | 23 | #5 – Assessment of Visitor Experience | Crowding Issues | CROWD1 | Question modified to focus on boating activities only, to consider more than one trip, and to use checkboxes instead of circled numbers for ease of use for people taking the survey online. | | 24 | #5 – Assessment of Visitor Experience | Evaluations Related to Boating/Water Conditions | EVALBOAT7 | Question modified to consider more than one trip. ‘Mark one’ added to clarify that only one box should be checked. | | 25 | #5 – Assessment of Visitor Experience | Evaluations Related to Boating/Water Conditions | EVALBOAT13 | This question was not modified except that ‘Mark one’ was added to clarify that only one box should be checked. | | 26 | #5 – Assessment of Visitor Experience | Opinions about System Management and Overall Visitor Preferences | MGMTPREF33 | Question modified to add evaluation of ‘Waterways Conservation Officers’ and ‘Park Rangers’ and to use checkboxes instead of circled numbers for ease of use for people taking the survey online. The order of items being evaluated is slightly modified. | | 27 and 28 | #5 – Assessment of Visitor Experience | Evaluations Related to Boating/Water Conditions | EVALBOAT2 | This question was not modified except that ‘please describe any effects below’ was deleted as it is directly follows ‘please describe the changes’ and appears to be extraneous. | | 29 | #5 – Assessment of Visitor Experience | Evaluations Related to Boating/Water Conditions | EVALBOAT1 | Question modified to ascertain ‘expectation’ instead of ‘preference’ and to refer specifically to the last outing instead of the current outing or general outings. The order of the three potential responses has also been modified. ‘Please mark one’ simplified to ‘mark one.’ | | 29a | #1 - Respondent Characteristics | Visitation History | VHIS5-8 | Question merges and simplifies the intent of VHIS5 through VHIS8, which are questions about site visitation history, in order to identify date of last outing at Nolin Lake as a precursor question to 29 and 30. | | 30 | #5 – Assessment of Visitor Experience | Evaluations Related to Boating/Water Conditions | EVALBOAT1 | Question modified to refer specifically to the last outing instead of the current outing or general outings. Responses to question modified to reflect preference rather than expectation. The order of the three potential responses has also been modified. ‘Please mark one’ simplified to ‘mark one.’ | | 31a-l | NEW | NEW | NEW | Inclusion of question from 2016-2017 Beaver Lake Survey (OMB Control # 0596-0236) and 2018-2019 Raystown Lake Survey (OMB Control #: 0596-0236). Question is very similar to questions in the CROWD and EVALBOAT sections but compiled as twelve opinion statements about boating activities and conditions. | | 32 | #5 – Assessment of Visitor Experience | Crowding Issues | CROWD10 | Question modified "people" to "boats" so photos could show boats on the water. Photo ‘number’ changed to photo ‘letter.’ | | 33 | #1 - Respondent Characteristics | Gender | GEN1 | This question modified to reflect Executive Order 14168 per DOD IC feedback. “Gender” changed to “sex”, “other” option removed, and ‘please mark one’ was simplified to ‘mark one.’ | | 34 | #1 - Respondent Characteristics | Age | AGE1 | This question was not modified except that ‘mark one’ was added. | | 35 | #1 - Respondent Characteristics | Education | EDU1 | This question was not modified except that ‘please mark only one’ was simplified to ‘mark one.’ | | | | |
| **11. Methodology:**  (Use as much space as needed; if necessary, include additional explanation on separate page). | | | |
| 1. **Population (i.e., Respondent Universe)** | | Nolin Lake receives over 1 million visits (person-trips) annually. The study population for this study are boaters that use the lake during the summer peak use season. There are three sources for this population of lake users:  1. Marina slip holders. Marinas at USACE Civil Works Projects (reservoirs/lakes/rivers) are private concessionaires that operate at the lake under an outgrant lease agreement. These operators maintain slip rental documentation for individual wet and dry slips utilized by individuals. According to the 2021 Nolin Lake Master Plan, there are 380 marina slips available at Nolin Lake as of 2019, distributed across three marinas: Wax Marina, Moutardier Marina, and Ponderosa Marina. Due to the limited size of this subpopulation, all slip renters will be contacted to provide enough responses for analysis.  2. Dock slip permit holders. There are 3,147 dock slip permits issued to boat owners at Nolin Lake. Dock slip permits are issued to landowners with property adjacent to or near the lake that also meet other criteria for a dock slip. All dock slip permit holders will be contacted  3. Day-Use Lake Users. There are 7 boat ramps available for the general public at Nolin Lake and another 16 boat ramps associated with residential subdivisions. Many of the subdivision ramps are also used by the general public. Similar lakes with visitation of approximately 1 million visits per year such as Raystown Lake in Pennsylvania receive around 130,000 visits (people) per month during the peak summer season. This extrapolates into about 60,000 vehicle-based parties per month based on USACE visitation estimates. However, the seven general use boat ramps are in activity areas that include 330 day use and 13 camping parking spaces available for boat trailer. Therefore, the general use ramps might be expected to support approximately 10,290 vehicle-based parties per month. The subdivision ramps vary in the number of parking spaces available and most users park on their own nearby properties. Intercepts at the boat ramps will be scheduled over multiple summer days at Nolin Lake to provide a representative sample of users during the peak use season.  Because many ramp users do not park at the ramp, local landowners will also be contacted to solicit responses from these day-use lake users. Subdivision ramps account for 56 percent of the boat ramps at Nolin Lake; therefore, a proportional number of responses will be solicited from local landowners. Some local landowners who respond may not engage in boating activities and thus the survey invitation distribution will be adjusted to allow for 11 percent non-boater responses. | |
| 1. **Sampling Plan/Procedure** | | The three populations will all be directed to the same online survey instrument (Attachment C) but will be contacted in different manners. Response is voluntrary.  Marina Slip Holders: As part of the outgrant lease agreement, marina owners agree to provide slip holder contact information to USACE. As such, marina owners will provide slip holders email addresses to USACE. USACE will send emails (Attachment B) to all Nolin Lake Marina slip holders (approximately 380) with a link to the online survey and a request for responses. If the original email does not yield sufficient responses, USACE may send up to two follow up emails.  Boat Slip Permit Holders: USACE maintains a database with contact information for all holders of USACE permits. USACE will send emails (Attachment B) or letters (Attachment D), based on available customer contact information, to all boat slip permit holders (3,147) with a link to the online survey and a request for responses. If the original email does not yield sufficient responses, USACE may send up to two follow up emails.  Day-Use Lake Users: Personal intercepts at boat ramps will be scheduled over multiple summer days at Nolin Lake to disperse postcards with a QR code that will lead people to the online survey when scanned (Attachment A). USACE staff will hand these postcards out to boating parties and place postcards on the windshields of cars and trucks.  Additionally, in order to solicit responses from likely lake users who may not be otherwise intercepted (e.g., because they use a subdivision ramp that does not have parking), tax assessor records will be pulled to identify the addresses of approximately 1,960 local landowners with a goal of receiving approximately 490 responses. This sample size assumes a 25 percent response rate and that approximately 11 percent of those who respond will be non-boaters. The total number of anticipated responses from boaters who use subdivision ramps would then be proportional to the number of anticipated responses from boaters using general public ramps. USACE will send emails (Attachment B) or letters (Attachment D) to the local landowners with a link to the online survey. There will be no follow up contact to either boat ramp users or local landowners. Thus, the number of solicitations will be higher as a percentage of expected responses for the day-use lake users population.  To avoid multiple responses from respondents, they will be required to enter an email address to begin the survey. Once an email address is used, it cannot be used again to complete the survey. Email addresses will not be associated with the responses in any way. | |
| 1. **Instrument Administration** | | An effort has been made to reduce costs by producing one survey instrument (Attachment C) that is suitable for all subpopulations.  Marina Slip Holders: contacting local landowners by email (Attachment B) will minimize contact with the public and reduce paper waste. Individuals eligible to complete the survey are marina slip holders who have not completed the survey before. The intent is for the individual associated with a marina slip rental agreement or a member of their household to participate in the survey; the email sent to marina slip holders will include language to that effect.  Boat Slip Permit Holders: USACE will contact all boat slip permit holders (3,147) via email (Attachment B) where an email address is available or via U.S. postal mail (Attachment D) if there is no email address on file. The email or postcard will include the survey information, invite recipients to participate in the online survey, and a link to the survey form.  Day-Use Lake Users: Nolin Lake staff will place postcards (Attachment A) on windshields of vehicles with boat trailers at ramps, campgrounds, and day use areas throughout the summer to solicit input from day-use lake users. The intent is that only one individual per boating party participates in the survey and that repeat visitors to the lake would not be eligible to complete the survey more than once. The postcard will include language to that effect.  Many of the subdivision boat ramps do not have parking and users drop off their boat and then park at their local property and walk back to the lake and their boat to recreate. To survey this important user component, local landowners will be contacted by email (Attachment B) or letter (Attachment D) and invited to participate in the online survey. The online survey will include a question about the respondent’s boating activity on the lake. If a respondent does not boat on the lake, they will be directed to skip the questions related to boating activities. The proposed sample size of local landowners is adjusted to account for a percentage of non-boating respondents. If a local landowner is also a marina slip renter or a dock slip permit holder, they will only be allowed to complete the survey once.  Once in the online survey, respondents will have the option to print a PDF copy (Attachment C2) and return by mail. This is offered to be inclusive to individuals that may not be able to respond effectively from their phone or computer. We anticipate this option will be rarely used. | |
| 1. **Expected Response Rate and Confidence Levels** | | Based on past surveys of this nature we anticipate:  50 percent returned surveys from marina slip renters (190 responses)  50 percent of boat slip permit holders (1,573 responses)  25 percent of general public boat ramp users (371 responses)  25 percent of local landowners (490 responses; of which 89 percent are expected to be boaters providing 442 responses from local boaters that use subdivision ramps)  Based on <http://www.raosoft.com/samplesize.html>, this response rate will yield results at the 95% confidence level with 5% margin of error.   |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Population** | **Sub-population** | **Responses solicited** | **Percent of expected response** | **Expected responses** | | Marina Slip Holders | n/a | 380 | 50% | 190 | | Boat Slip Permit Holders |  | 3,147 | 50% | 1,573 | | Day-Use Lake Users | Public Ramp Users | 1,484 | 25% | 371 | | Local landowners | 1,960 | 25% | 490 | | **Totals** |  | **6,971** |  | **2,624** |   Based on http://www.raosoft.com/samplesize.html, this response rate will yield results at the 95% confidence level with 5% margin of error.  Response rates will be monitored over the course of the sampling period. An additional reminder or additional sampling at boat ramp intercepts may be used to ensure the minimum number of responses to meet the confidence interval is met. If unable to meet the minimum number of responses, the reported confidence levels and margin of error will be accurately reported. Given prior experience at USACE locations, we anticipate having an adequate sample size with the described administration plan. | |
| 1. **Strategies for maximizing response rate and dealing with potential non-response bias** | | The potential size of the various respondent populations varies, and responses will be evaluated to ensure that a representative sample from each is captured. Follow up emails or additional distribution of solicitation postcards may be used to boost response rates from non-responding populations.  Zip code analysis will be used to evaluate the representativeness of marina slip holder responses. Responses to survey questions 27-29 (demographic questions) will be evaluated in comparison to population statistics within a 30 to 50 mile range of the lake. | |
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| **12.** | **Total Number of Initial Contacts and Expected Number of Respondents** | | Per the table in 11.d., 6,971 initial contacts will be made, and 2,624 responses are expected |
| **13.** | **Estimated Time to Complete Initial Contact and Time to Complete Instrument** | | Initial contact involves reading an email or postcard – 1 minute for each contact.  Complete the online survey instrument - 12 minutes to complete the survey including time to read instructions and disclaimers. |
| **14.** | **Total Burden Hours**  **Contacts**  **Respondents**  **-----------------**  **Total** | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Using the highest numbers of responses solicited from the table in 11.d.: | | | | |  | **Number of Contacts** | **Time (hours per contact)** | **Burden Hours** | | **Marina Slip Renters and Dock Slip Permit Holders** |  |  |  | | Initial Contact (read email - 1 minute) | 3,527 | 0.02 | 70.5 | | Second Contact (read email - 1 minute) | 3,527 | 0.02 | 70.5 | | Complete Survey (12 minutes) | 1,763 | 0.2 | 352.6 | | **Total** |  |  | **493.6** | |  |  |  |  | | **Day-Use Lake users:** |  |  |  | | Initial Contact (receive postcard - 1 minute) | 3,444 | 0.02 | 68.9 | | Complete Survey (12 minutes) | 861 | 0.2 | 172.2 | | **Total** |  |  | **241.1** | |  |  |  |  | | **Grand Total** |  |  | **734.7** | |
| **15. Reporting Plan:**  The data from this study will be reported in aggregate and will be combined with other relevant data as part of a report to the USACE Louisville District to represent current boating use levels, user opinions and preferences at Nolin Lake. Results may be published in peer-reviewed scientific publication discussing methods, results and conclusions. | | | |

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| **16. Justification, Purpose, and Use:** | |
| **IC Justification and Purpose** | Recreation is a Congressionally authorized project purpose (Section 4 of the Flood Control Act of 1944 and Water Project Recreation Act of 1965 as amended) for USACE projects. USACE maintains Nolin Lake as both a recreational resource and a flood control facility. Nolin Lake is experiencing overcrowding. Boat launches are routinely full to capacity, trailers have gotten longer than current parking accommodates, there are conflicts with local landowners, and there is a high demand for fishing tournaments and special use and event permits. Development may increase capacity but would also increase the number of amenities available and thus the number of visitors to the area and boaters on the lake. Collected data will be analyzed to determine boater perceptions of social, resource, and management conditions at the lake. USACE will use the information to estimate appropriate boating carrying capacity thresholds and evaluate and compare the effects of recreational development scenarios. Results of this study will be used by the Corps to guide management of the lake into the future and to update the Nolin Lake Master Plan and Shoreline Management Plan when and as needed. |
| **IC Goals** | Results for the survey will provide lake managers information on boating density, user experience preferences related to boating experiences, environmental concerns, and lake management. The goals of this IC are to:   * Determine the impact current lake usage has on the quality of recreation, safety, and the environment. * Determine the effect the current facility mix has and future facilities will have on the carrying capacity, environmental quality, and distribution of recreation users on the lake. * Determine boater perceptions of the resource, social and managerial condition of Lake Nolin. |
| **How will the results be used (e.g., utility to Managers)?** | Results of this study will be analyzed to determine boater perceptions of social and resource conditions as well as management of the lake. Further, the collected data will be used to evaluate and compare effects of recreational development scenarios and estimate thresholds of boating capacity. In addition, results of this study will be used by USACE as part of the inputs to future updates of the Nolin Lake Master Plan and Shoreline Management Plan. |
| **How will the data be tabulated and analyzed? What statistical techniques will be used to generalize the results to the entire customer population? How will limitations on use of data be handled? If the survey results in a lower than anticipated response rate, how will you address this when reporting the results?** (Use as much space as needed; if necessary include additional explanation on separate page).  Online survey responses will be merged into a single database. Data summaries will be prepared with descriptive statistics and breakdown for each question and cross tabular reports for question comparison based on user characteristics such as boat type, lake zone, or boating frequency.  There is a desire to understand if there are differences in the preferences of marina slip renters, boat slip permit holders, and general day-use lake users. Descriptive statistics will be utilized to explore potential differences in these subpopulations. The data will ultimately be combined to explore boating capacity and upper tolerance thresholds for boating use at the lake. Data will be weighted (Warren and Rea, 1989) as appropriate to account for and balance any disproportion found in the sample and resulting responses based on analysis.  A range of statistical tests will be used, including t-test, chi-square, and linear/multivariate regression and performed at the .05 alpha level. This level of accuracy and statistical power is generally accepted as sufficient in peer-reviewed social science quantitative study findings. Thus, the proposed sample size will be adequate for multi-variate comparisons.  All data will be reported in the aggregate. | |
| **Is this survey intended to measure a Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) performance measure? If so, please include an excerpt from the appropriate document.** (Use as much space as needed; if necessary, include additional explanation on separate page).  This IC is NOT intended to measure GPRA performance. | |

**Checklist for Submitting a Request to Use Federal Lands Transportation Generic Clearance, OMB Control Number 0596-0236**

* *All* questions in the survey instrument are within the scope of one of the USDA-Forest Service Generic Clearance topic areas (see Compendium of Questions).
* The approval package is being submitted to the Forest Service Office of Regulatory and Management Services at least *45* days prior to the first day the PI wishes to administer the IC to the public.
* A qualified statistician has reviewed and approved your request [if survey].
* Your bureau/office Information Collection Clearance Officer has reviewed and approved the approval package.
* When you forward the approval package to USDA Forest Service, copy the FLMA Generic Clearance Coordinator (kenli.kim@usda.gov).

The approval package includes:

* A completed Justification
* A signed Certification Form
* A copy of the survey instrument, comment card, or discussion guide.
* Other supporting materials, such as:
  + Cover letters
  + Introductory scripts for initial contact of respondents
  + Necessary Paperwork Reduction Act compliance language
  + Follow-up letters/reminders sent to respondents

The survey methodology presented in the Justification includes a specific description of:

* The respondent universe.
* The sampling plan and all sampling procedures, including how respondents will be selected.
* How the instrument will be administered.
* Expected response rate and confidence levels.
* Strategies for maximizing response rate and dealing with potential non-response bias.
* A description of any pre-testing and peer review of the methods and/or the instrument.
* The burden hours reported in the Justification include the number of burden hours associated with the initial contact of all individuals in the sample (i.e., including refusals), if applicable, and the number of burden hours associated with individuals expected to participate.

The package is properly formatted (Word) and submitted to the Office of Regulatory and Management Services electronically.

**Certification Form for** **Submission Under OMB Control Number 0596-0236**

This form should only be used if you are submitting a collection of information for approval under the

the Federal Lands Transportation Generic Clearance Submission, OMB Control Number 0596-0236.

*If the collection does not satisfy the requirements of the Generic Clearance, you should follow the regular PRA clearance procedures described in 5 CFR 1320.*

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| 1. Bureau/Office 2. US Army Corps of Engineers, Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, Louisville District | | | | | | | |
| 1. IC Title *(Please be specific)* 2. Nolin Lake Boating Capacity Study | | | | | | | |
| 1. Estimated Number 2. Contacts 3. Respondents | | Total unique contacts: 6,971  Respondents: 2,624 | | Time per Response  Contacts: 0.02 hour per contact  Respondents: 0.2 hours per response | | |  |
|  | |  | | Total Burden Hours  Contacts: 209.9 hours  Respondents: 524.8 hours  -----------------  Total: 734.7 hours | | |  |
| 1. Bureau/Office Contact (who can best answer questions about content of the submission): | | | | | | | |
| 1. Name | Meredith Bridgers | | Phone | | 703-428-8458 | | |
|  | | | | | | | |
| 1. **Certification: The collection of information requested by this submission meets the requirements of OMB control number 0596-0236** | | | | | | | |
| 1. Bureau/Office Qualified Statistician 2. **Paul Gagnon, PhD, IWR Water Resources Center** | | | | | | DATE  5 May 2025 | |
| 1. Bureau/Office Information Collection Clearance Officer 2. **Reginald Lucas** | | | | | | DATE  4/30/2025 | |
| 1. Forest Service, Office of Regulatory and Management Services | | | | | | DATE | |