

[Back to Document Comments](#)

Comment Icon
PUBLIC SUBMISSION

Share 

Comment from Smith, Megan

Posted by the **Fish and Wildlife Service** on Mar 20, 2026

[Docket](#) / [Document \(FWS-HQ-ES-2025-1464-0001\)](#) / [Comment](#)

Comment

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments regarding whether the information collected by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is necessary and how the collection process could be improved. I support renewal of the information collection requirements for all experimental populations, including those specific to gray wolves and grizzly bears, with minor improvements as noted below.

(1) Necessity and Practical Utility

The collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of agency functions and has clear practical utility. Accurate, timely reporting supports science-based wildlife management, regulatory compliance, and informed decision-making for endangered and threatened species. This data is essential to evaluating conservation outcomes, improving general management and conflict mitigation strategies, and ensuring accountability under the Endangered Species Act.

(2) Accuracy of Burden Estimates

The estimated burden of 30 minutes for reporting and 30 minutes for recordkeeping appears understated. A more realistic estimate would be approximately one hour for reporting and one hour for recordkeeping, given the time required to compile records, verify information, and ensure accuracy. It is also unclear whether burden estimates account for travel time associated with any in-person coordination or meetings, which may be necessary in some cases. If not already included, these logistical requirements should be factored into the estimate.

(3) Enhancing Quality, Utility, and Clarity

The Federal Register notice states that “there are no forms associated with this information collection.” Standardized forms would improve consistency, completeness, and efficiency. Forms help ensure that:

- Required information is not omitted
- Respondents clearly understand expectations

- Agency staff can review submissions more efficiently
- Data is more easily compiled and analyzed

Structured reporting tools would improve both data quality and administrative efficiency.

(4) Minimizing Burden While Maintaining Effectiveness

Given the significance of monitoring endangered and threatened wildlife, minimizing effort should not come at the expense of data quality or completeness. The current time estimates already appear insufficient for careful reporting.

That said, burden can be reduced through improved systems rather than reduced expectations. For example:

- Secure online submission forms and portals
- Clear digital guidance and instructions
- Ability to upload supporting materials electronically
- Flexible communication options (email, phone, virtual meetings)

These tools would streamline reporting, reduce follow-up requests for missing information, and support both respondents and agency staff.

Thank you for considering these comments and for your continued work to conserve imperiled wildlife.

Comment ID

FWS-HQ-ES-2025-1464-0023

Shape Tracking Number

mmz-9skf-5g8l

Comment Details

Submitter Info

Document Subtype

Comment(s)

Received Date

Mar 20, 2026

Page Count

1



[About](#) [Bulk Data Download](#) [Agencies](#) [Learn](#) [Reports](#) [FAQ](#) [Commenting Guidance](#)

[Privacy & Security Notice](#) | [User Notice](#) | [Accessibility Statement](#) | [Support](#)
[API Requests](#) | [FOIA](#)