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            </b>9/17/26, 8:32 AM <br/>
            <b>Received: </b>September 15, 2026
            <br/>
            <b>Status: </b>Pending_Post <br/>
            <b>Tracking No.
                </b>mu3-31tu-y859 <br/>
            <b>Comments Due: </b>September 15, 2026
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            <b>Submission Type: </b>Web</p>
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<p><b>Docket: </b>USGS-2026-0298 <br/>
USGS-ECO-2026-0004
</p>
<p><b>Comment On: </b>USGS-2026-0298-0001 <br/>
Agency Information
Collection Activities; Interior Regional Climate Science Centers
</p>
<p><b>Document: </b>USGS-2026-0298-DRAFT-0004 <br/>
Comment on FR Doc
# 2026-14449
</p>
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<h2 class="western">Submitter Information</h2>
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<h2 class="western">General Comment</h2>
<p>Public Comment Submission <br/>
Docket ID: USGS-ECO-2026-0004 <br/>
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OMB

Control Number: 1028-0096

Title: Information Collection

Renewal: Department of the Interior Regional Climate Adaptation Science Centers (CASCs)1. Necessity and Practical Utility of Information Collection

The periodic collection of information for host institution re-competitions and routine performance/financial reporting is essential for maintaining governance and scientific integrity across the National and nine Regional Climate Adaptation Science Centers (CASCs). Standardized reporting ensures that federal research funds yield actionable climate adaptation tools, upholds stewardship of public funds, and provides clear benchmarks across university-hosted partnerships.2. Evaluation of Estimated Burden Hours

The proposed annual burden of 2,590 total hours across 307 responses provides a baseline, though specific reporting categories warrant administrative re-evaluation:Host Recompete Applications (200 hours/response): This estimate accurately captures the heavy multi-departmental coordination, budgetary modeling, and institutional commitments required of university applicants during competitive cycles.Host & Research Performance Reports (2.5 – 5 hours/response): The 2.5-hour allocation per research report and 5-hour allocation per host report may underestimate real-world effort. Principal investigators (PIs) and institutional staff often spend additional time aggregating interdisciplinary metrics, partner outreach data, and publication tracking. Adjusting research performance estimates to 3.5–4 hours would more accurately reflect operational compliance demands.3.

Enhancing Data Quality, Utility, and Clarity

To maximize the value of collected data for federal agency officials, researchers, and public land managers:Standardize Outcome Metrics: Utilize structured drop-down taxonomies for key performance indicators, such as actionable management decisions, coproduced science deliverables, and student/trainee engagement.Public Repository Integration: Automatically link completed non-proprietary performance outputs to public USGS science portals so research findings reach natural resource managers without redundant dissemination workflows.4.

Minimizing Respondent Burden Through Automation

USGS can streamline administrative requirements for academic and state host institutions through targeted technological enhancements:Unified Online Portal: Transition all host and research reporting into a single web-based portal that pre-populates recurring grant metadata, institutional details, and historical award numbers.System Interoperability: Support direct XML or CSV financial data batch uploads from standard university research administration software to eliminate duplicate manual entry on financial reports.Harmonized Submission Timelines: Align annual host performance/financial reporting deadlines with individual research award schedules to permit single-window institutional review and submission.

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