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Comment On: FWS-HQ-ES-2026-1883-0001
Agency Information Collection Activities; Policy Regarding Voluntary Prelisting Conservation Actions

Document: FWS-HQ-ES-2026-1883-0003
Comment from Anonymous

Submitter Information

Name: Anonymous Anonymous

General Comment

I support renewal of the information collection associated with the Policy Regarding Voluntary Prelisting Conservation Actions. Encouraging conservation before species require listing under the Endangered Species Act provides an important incentive for proactive rather than reactive conservation. Maintaining accurate records is necessary to ensure that conservation actions and any credits associated with them can be appropriately tracked and applied.

I encourage the Service to consider a standardized electronic reporting system or template for participating states. The current approach allows states to maintain information using Access, Excel, or another database and submit information annually by email. A standardized system could reduce administrative burden while improving consistency, clarity, and comparability of information across participating states. The Service could also consider incorporating standardized measures of conservation outcomes where practical, such as acres of habitat restored or protected or other measurable benefits to the species. This could improve the utility of the information and help demonstrate that conservation credits correspond to meaningful conservation benefits. Any additional reporting requirements should remain proportional to the conservation action so that documentation requirements do not discourage voluntary participation. A streamlined, standardized system could strengthen accountability while preserving the incentive for landowners and other entities to undertake conservation before listing becomes necessary.