

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT  
FOR PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT SUBMISSIONS**

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife - **50 CFR 17.84**; Experimental Populations.

A. Justification - Information collection requirements for experimental populations:

The following experimental populations described under Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations contain information collection requirements:

<u>50CFR Section</u>	<u>Species (scientific name)</u>	<u>Type of reporting</u>
17.84(c)	Red Wolf ( <i>Canis rufus</i> ):	Take in defense of human life, incidental take Take related to livestock depredation
17.84(g)	Black footed ferret ( <i>Mustela nigripes</i> ):	Incidental take, specimen collection/reporting
17.84(h)	Whooping crane ( <i>Grus americana</i> ):	Specimen collection/reporting
17.84(i)	Gray wolf ( <i>Canis lupus</i> ):	Take in defense of human life, incidental take Take related to livestock depredation
17.84(j)	California condors ( <i>Gymnogyps californianus</i> ):	Specimen collection/reporting, incidental take
17.84(k)	Mexican gray wolf ( <i>Canis lupus baileyi</i> ):	Take in defense of human life, incidental take Take related to livestock depredation
17.84(l)	Grizzly bear ( <i>Ursus horribilis</i> )	Take in defense of human life, incidental take Take related to livestock depredation

\*Future Rules:

Publication of 2 final experimental population rules per year for a total of 6 over the next 3 years.

\*We are incorporating into the calculations and number of reports, figures for the publication of two additional final experimental population rules per year in order to streamline the number of future Paperwork Reduction Act submissions. The type of reporting necessary for these new rules would be the same as the information collection requirements called for in the existing published experimental population rules.

1. Because individuals of designated experimental populations for species listed as threatened or endangered under the ESA are categorically protected, documentation of human-related mortalities, recovery of dead specimens and other types of take related to the status of experimental populations is important to the Service in order to monitor the success of reintroduction efforts, and recovery efforts in general. In order to minimize potential conflict with humans which could undermine recovery efforts, livestock depredations connected with experimental populations of listed species require prompt attention for purposes of determining

the location, timing, and nature of the predatory behavior involved, accurate determination of the species responsible for a livestock kill, and the timely application of necessary control measures. The Service, in cooperation with the USDA/APHIS Division of Wildlife Services or other cooperating State or Federal agencies, relies on prompt public reporting of depredation in order to resolve livestock related problems, and therefore a time sensitive requirement for reporting problems (generally within 24 hours) to the appropriate Service office is necessary.

2. The Service is collecting this information to help further the recovery of the species listed in this supporting statement. The Service will use this information when assessing the success of the reintroduced populations. Experimental populations established under section 10(j) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), as amended, require information collection and reporting to the Service. Information collection is achieved by means of telephone calls by members of the public to Service offices specified in the individual rules. The vast majority of the information supplied to the Service as a result of experimental population regulations, is provided by cooperating State and Federal agencies under cooperative agreements for the conduct of these recovery programs. However, some of the information collected by the Service under the experimental population rules is provided by the public. Some of the collected information can be categorized as general take or removal information. This type of information relates to human related mortality including unintentional taking incidental to otherwise lawful activities (e.g. highway mortalities), take in defense of human life, take related to defense of property (if authorized) or take in the form of authorized harassment. A second type of information collection category would be depredation related take. This type of reporting involves take for management purposes where livestock depredation has been documented and may include authorized harassment or authorized lethal take of experimental animals in the act of attacking livestock. Another category of collected information relates to specimen collection, recovery, or reporting of dead individuals from experimental populations. This type of information collection is for the purpose of documenting incidental or authorized scientific collection. Most of the contacts with the public deal primarily with the reporting of sightings of experimental population animals, or the inadvertent discovery of an injured or dead individual. Some of these contacts are necessary follow-up reports under rules where the Service has authorized harassment or lethal take of experimental animals (e.g., livestock depredation or in defense of human life). Standard information collected include name of reporting party, address, location of reported incident, member of the species, and phone number of reporting party. Reporting parties include, but are not limited to, individuals or households, businesses, farms, and other non-profit organizations.

3. Not applicable at this time. The information is unique to each respondent. Each reported incident is unique and those individuals responding generally are able to communicate details verbally via telephone or in writing.

4. The Service works with the USDA/APHIS Division of Wildlife Services and other Federal and State agencies as necessary when investigating or confirming information received regarding any of the nonessential experimental populations. There is some potential for

duplication if someone contacts another agency and the Service regarding an experimental animal but generally there is sufficient information available to the public through interagency outreach efforts to make reporting well known. The Service and cooperating agencies are working closely together to minimize any duplication in reporting.

5. Small businesses or small entities report the same information as individual applicants. The information requested is limited to the minimum necessary to fulfill reporting requirements established in the rules.

6. The requested information is necessary to assess the status of the nonessential experimental populations. The information is used by Service recovery specialists to determine the success of reintroductions in relation to established recovery plan goals for the threatened and endangered species involved.

7. Information that may be reported to the Service include: 1) the general taking or removal of individuals of an experimental population, and 2) the authorized taking of individuals related to reports of depredation on livestock or pets caused by individuals that are part of an experimental population and 3) the collection of specimens or the recovery of dead animals that are part of an experimental population. This information would be reported at the time of occurrence which may occur more than once per quarter or not at all.

8. This is a renewal request. Previously the Service solicited public comments for a 60 day period on this information collection in a May 1, 2001 Federal Register Notice (copy attached). No comments were received in response to that notice. These regulations have been used by other Federal and State agencies, and for some of those regulations that are final, private individuals may have reported the information requested in the rules to the Service.

9. Not applicable, no payment or gift to respondents is made.

10. Not applicable, no specific statutory authority for confidential information applies to the reported data.

11. Not applicable, no sensitive questions about the reporting individuals are asked. The reports are not part of a Privacy Act system of records.

12. This information is requested for reporting information of listed species that have been introduced to suitable habitat and is used for documenting the locations of reintroduced animals, determining causes of mortality and conflict with human activities to enable Service managers to minimize conflicts with people and improve management techniques for reintroduction. Notifying the Service regarding take of the individuals or for depredation purposes enables the Service to assess the effectiveness of control activities and better develop means to reduce problems with livestock for those species where depredation is a problem.

The Service estimates it will take an individual an average of 15 minutes per report to fulfill this requirement. Therefore, the annual burden to 62 individuals to complete the reporting requirements totals 15.5 hours. Cost to applicants is estimated at \$3.00 each (phone calls, or facsimile), or a total of \$186.00, plus an additional \$232.50 based on an estimated cost of \$15 per hour for time spent compiling required information.

Burden Estimates for Reporting Requirements for Experimental Populations -Endangered Species

Type of report	Number of reports annually	Average time required per report	Annual burden (@\$3 per call)	Burden hours (@\$15/hour)	Total costs/year
General take or removal <sup>a</sup>	20	15 minutes	\$60.00	\$75.00	\$135.00
Depredation related take <sup>b</sup>	22	15 minutes	\$66.00	\$82.50	\$148.50
Specimen collection <sup>c</sup>	20	15 minutes	\$60.00	\$75.00	\$135.00

- a) General take or removal includes human related mortality including unintentional taking incidental to otherwise lawful activities (e.g. highway mortalities), take in defense of human life, take related to defense of property (if authorized) or take in the form of authorized harassment.
- b) Depredation related take is take for management purposes where livestock depredation has been documented and may include authorized harassment or authorized lethal take of experimental animals in the act of attacking livestock.
- c) Specimen collection, recovery, or reporting of dead individuals from experimental populations for documentation purposes or authorized scientific collection purposes.

The total burden hours for the reporting requirement is 46.5 hours for 3 years.

13. No costs to applicants beyond costs of hour burden described above and estimated costs of phone calls are anticipated.

14. The Service estimates it will take an average of 30 minutes per report for the Service to process the information collected on the species. Therefore, the annual burden to the Service resulting from 62 individuals reporting information totals 31 hours. Cost is estimated at \$30.00 per hour, or a total of \$930.00.

15. The renewal of the currently approved collection reflects the following; 1) combining the burden estimates for reporting requirements for the Mexican gray wolf obtained previously under a separate emergency approval; 2) the renewal of the currently approved collection to

accommodate an expected increase in the number of experimental animals in the wild as well as additional animals that will be added as experimental population rules over the next three years.

16. Not applicable. No publication of information is anticipated. The information is only for internal tracking and use.

17. Not applicable. The Service is not seeking a waiver from the requirement to display the expiration date of the OMB approval of the information collection.

18. Not applicable. There are no exceptions to the certification statement in item 19 of OMB 83-I.

**B. Collection of Information Employing Statistical Methods:**

There is no statistical sampling or information program involved in this process.