

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT
FOR PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT SUBMISSIONS**

**MONITORING RECOVERED SPECIES AFTER DELISTING
AS REQUIRED UNDER SECTION 4(g) OF THE
ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT**

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife - Section 4(g) of the U.S. Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) - Monitoring of Delisted Species. This request consolidates information collection requirements pursuant to the monitoring of all recovered species, including the American peregrine falcon, that will require identical questions posed to ten or more non-Federal persons per 12-month period. A three-year term of approval, from approximately January 1, 2002, to December 31, 2004, is requested for this information collection activity.

A. Justification - Information collection requirements for monitoring of species that have been removed from the lists of endangered and threatened species (delisted) due to recovery.

1. Section 4(g) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) requires that all species that are recovered and removed from the lists of endangered and threatened species (delisted) be monitored for a period of not less than five years. The purpose of this requirement is to detect any failure of a recovered species to sustain itself without the protections of the ESA.

2. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) works with relevant State agencies and other species experts to develop appropriate plans and procedures for systematically monitoring recovered wildlife and plants. Data will be collected and evaluated by Service endangered species biologists to determine whether the recovered species is sustaining itself without the protections of the ESA. If monitoring reveals that the species is not maintaining its recovered status, the species can be promptly relisted as threatened or endangered under the ESA.

OMB control number 1018-0101, Information Collection Requirements for Monitoring Peregrine Falcons Once the Species is Delisted, was issued by OMB on October 17, 1998, but formal collection of American peregrine falcon monitoring data under Section 4(g) of the ESA has not yet commenced. OMB approval under control number 1018-0101 expires on December 31, 2001. On July 31, 2001 the Service announced availability for review and comment of a Proposed Monitoring Plan for the American Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus anatum*) (66 FR 39523). Collection of information pursuant to the proposed plan for monitoring American peregrine falcons is consolidated with anticipated requirements for monitoring of other delisted species in this request to OMB, thereby streamlining fulfillment of monitoring requirements for all recovered species.

3. Responses may be requested and transmitted via facsimile or electronic mail. However, data collected are unique to each respondent, precluding automated information collection. Response preparation will generally be performed by professional biologists employed by Federal and State

agencies and other organizations that have been involved in past species conservation efforts and who routinely communicate this type of information to other organizations.

4. The Service is the primary Federal agency responsible for monitoring the status of recovered species after delisting. Duplication of information collection is not expected.

5. Most information requests will be directed to State agencies that have cooperative management agreements with the Service under section 6 of the ESA. Any requests to small businesses or entities would likely be limited to those whose primary mission is wildlife or rare plant monitoring and research.

6. Failure to collect this information and evaluate the species' status in a timely fashion could cause a species to suffer an undetected decline. The Service would fail to meet its responsibilities under section 4(g) of the ESA.

7. There are no special circumstances that would require respondents to report information to the Service more often than quarterly. Information will generally be collected no more often than annually.

There are no special circumstances that would require respondents to prepare a written response to a collection of information in fewer than 30 days after a request.

There are no special circumstances that would require respondents to submit more than an original and two copies of any document.

There are no circumstances that would require respondents to retain records for more than three years.

There are no special circumstances that would require respondents to, in connection with a statistical survey, produce valid and reliable results that can be generalized to the universe of study.

There are no special circumstances that would require respondents to use a statistical data classification that has not been reviewed and approved by OMB.

There are no special circumstances that would require respondents to provide information that includes a pledge of confidentiality that is not supported by authority established in statute or regulation, that is not supported by disclosure and data security policies that are consistent with the pledge, or that unnecessarily impedes sharing of data with other agencies for compatible confidential use.

There are no special circumstances that would require respondents to submit proprietary trade secrets, or other confidential information unless the agency can demonstrate that it has

instituted procedures to protect the information's confidentiality to the extent permitted by law.

8. A Federal Register notice of Oct. 10, 2001 (66 FR 51680) solicited information on this information collection prior to submission to OMB (copy attached). The Service's Information Collection Clearance Officer indicates that no comments were received in response to this notice. The Service routinely makes formal and informal efforts to obtain comments on monitoring plans and data collection procedures to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its procedures.

9. Not applicable. No gift or payment to respondents will be made, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees.

10. Not applicable. No confidential information is solicited. Information collected is subject to Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act guidelines.

11. Not applicable, no sensitive questions are asked.

12. Burden hours will vary depending on the type of information requested from a particular respondent and the number of animals or plants for which the respondent has information. Data will usually be provided in written format, and preparation and transmission of responses will average two hours, with a range of one to three hours. Time estimates are based on extensive Service experience with compilation and communication of similar data. The Service estimates that 95 requests imposing an annual burden of 190 hours will be made in 2002, 110 requests imposing a burden of 220 hours in 2003, and 135 requests imposing a burden of 270 hours in 2004. Estimated annual costs for information collection at \$15.00 per hour are \$2850 in calendar year 2002, \$3300 in year 2003, and \$4050 in year 2004.

Year	Estimated number of respondents per year	Estimated average time required per report	Estimated total annual burden	Estimated annual cost @15.00/hour
2002	95	2 hours	190 hours	\$ 2850
2003	110	2 hours	220 hours	\$ 3300
2004	135	2 hours	270 hours	\$ 4050

13. No annual costs beyond the hour costs discussed under question #12 are anticipated.

14. The Service estimates that endangered species biologists will spend an average of 15 hours compiling and evaluating each annual data collection for each recovered species. This work is typically performed by staff biologists, and no equipment, printing, or overhead expenses will be incurred. The estimated annual cost in 2002-2004 will be, respectively, \$450, \$675, and \$900.

15. ~~No program changes or adjustments are anticipated.~~ All species that will be monitored
Program change - increase in hours of burden is due
to expansion of program to include all delisted
species requiring monitoring, rather than just
the peregrine falcon.

checked
12/21/01
by Don B.

following delisting have necessitated considerable time and attention from endangered species biologists during the recovery process.

16. Publication costs are not expected.

17. The expiration date will be displayed.

18. Exceptions to "Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions" are not expected.

B. Collections of Information Employing Statistical Methods

No statistical methods are employed.

Derivation of burden estimates:

2002: peregrine - 35 responses

eagle - 60 responses

total - 95

2003: eagle - 60

2 other species @ 25 responses each - 50

total - 110

2004: eagle - 60

3 other species @ 25 responses each - 75

total - 135

2 hours (average) per response

Annual cost of FWS compilation and evaluation:

15 hours/species @ \$15/hour

2002: 2 species - \$450

2003: 3 species - \$675

2004: 4 species - \$900

electronic files in t:/brd/delist.paperwork

delist.30day

delist.60day

delist.supplement

delist.note to reviewers

delist.worksheet