

Agriculture), Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

### Anticipated Permits and Authorizations

As described above, if an action alternative is selected, the Service expects to obtain a Migratory Bird Special Purpose permit under the MBTA to implement the selected management strategy. Depending on the location and landowners involved in implementation of the management strategy, barred owl management could require additional Federal and State permits. We anticipate the potential need for implementors to acquire permits from the States of Washington, Oregon, and California to carry out the proposed barred owl removal actions under the proposed management strategy.

### Public Involvement

The Service published a notice of intent to prepare an EIS, opening a public scoping period on July 22, 2022 (87 FR 43886), which closed on August 22, 2022. A virtual public scoping meeting was held July 28, 2022. The Service prepared a DEIS and opened a 60-day public comment period on the DEIS and draft management strategy on November 17, 2023 (88 FR 80329). Two virtual public meetings were held, on December 4, 2023, and December 14, 2023, during the comment period, which ended on January 16, 2024. A total of 8,613 public comments were received during the DEIS comment period, including duplicates.

In preparing the FEIS, the Service considered all of the public comments on the DEIS and draft strategy in accordance with the requirements of NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and pursuant to the CEQ's implementing NEPA regulations at 40 CFR parts 1500–1508.

### Environmental Protection Agency's Role in the EIS Process

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is charged under section 309 of the Clean Air Act with reviewing all Federal agencies' EISs and commenting on the adequacy and acceptability of the environmental impacts of proposed actions. Under the CEQ NEPA regulations, EPA is also responsible for administering the EIS filing process. EPA is publishing a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing this FEIS.

EPA serves as the repository (EIS database) for EISs prepared by Federal agencies. You may search for EPA comments on EISs, along with EISs themselves, at <https://cdxapps.epa.gov/cdx-eneпа-II/public/action/eis/search>.

### Next Steps and Decision To Be Made

The Service will evaluate the associated documents and public comments received during the public comment periods in reaching a final decision on the proposed management strategy and issuance of an MBTA permit. At least 30 days after the FEIS is published, the Service expects to complete a record of decision pursuant to 40 CFR 1505.2, in accordance with applicable timeframes established in 40 CFR 1506.11. The Service expects to issue a record of decision in August 2024.

### Authority

We provide this notice in accordance with the requirements of NEPA and its implementing regulations (40 CFR 1503.1 and 1506.6).

### Hugh Morrison,

*Regional Director, Pacific Region.*

[FR Doc. 2024–14724 Filed 7–3–24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4333–15–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

**[FWS–HQ–MB–2024–0092;  
FXMB1231092MFR0–245–FF09M28100;  
OMB Control Number 1018–0185]**

### Agency Information Collection Activities; Online Eastern Population Sandhill Crane Survey Data Entry Portal

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of information collection; request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, we, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), are proposing to renew information collection without change.

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before September 3, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** Send your comments on the information collection request (ICR) by one of the following methods (please reference “1018–0185” in the subject line of your comments):

- *Internet (preferred):* <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments on Docket No. FWS–HQ–MB–2024–0092.

- *U.S. mail:* Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 5275 Leesburg Pike, MS: PRB (JAO/3W), Falls Church, VA 22041–3803.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Madonna L. Baucum, Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, by email at [Info\\_Coll@fws.gov](mailto:Info_Coll@fws.gov), or by telephone at (703) 358–2503. Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States. You may also view the information collection request (ICR) at <http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA, 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) and 5 CFR 1320.8(d)(1), we provide the general public and other Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on new, proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. It also helps the public understand our information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format.

As part of our continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burdens, we are again soliciting comments from the public and other Federal agencies on the proposed ICR that is described below. We are especially interested in public comment addressing the following:

- (1) Whether or not the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether or not the information will have practical utility;
  - (2) The accuracy of our estimate of the burden for this collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
  - (3) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
  - (4) How might the agency minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, *e.g.*, permitting electronic submission of response.
- Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of

public record. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

**Abstract:** The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703–712) designates the Department of the Interior as the primary agency responsible for managing migratory bird populations frequenting the United States and setting hunting regulations that allow for the well-being of migratory bird populations. These responsibilities dictate that we gather accurate data on various characteristics of migratory bird populations.

The Service's fall survey for the eastern population of the sandhill crane was established in 1979. It is implemented by State and Federal agencies and public volunteers from eight States in the Atlantic and Mississippi Flyways, as well as Ontario, Canada. Sandhill cranes are widely dispersed during the breeding and wintering seasons and are difficult to count. The optimal time to survey cranes is during the last week of October, when the majority of eastern population cranes breeding in Canada migrate to traditional staging grounds in the Great Lakes States (e.g., the Jasper-Pulaski Fish and Wildlife Area, in Medaryville, Indiana). Since the initial survey in 1979, crane numbers have increased to over 90,000 birds.

The information collected through this survey is vital in assessing the relative changes in the geographic distribution of the species. We use the information primarily to inform managers of changes in sandhill crane distribution and population trends. Without information on the population's status, we might promulgate hunting regulations that:

- Are not sufficiently restrictive, which could cause harm to the sandhill crane population, or
- Are too restrictive, which would unduly restrict recreational opportunities afforded by sandhill crane hunting.

Notifications for the survey are sent to volunteers, and data results are entered into the data portal (<https://www.fws.gov/epsandhill/>) in order to calculate numbers of sandhill cranes. This survey is conducted via an online survey platform to reduce cost, improve

data quality, and decrease respondent burden. This survey has no statistical design. We collect the following information in conjunction with the account setup process and survey data submission:

- Account setup process:
  - Email address,
  - Username,
  - Photo (optional),
  - Option for other users to contact the registrant,
  - Time zone,
  - First and last name,
  - Phone number, and
  - Start date.
- Survey data submission:
  - Data submission location via online map,
  - Date and time of observation,
  - Number of cranes,
  - Method (ground count or point count),
  - Habitat (agricultural field, sandbar, wetland, or mixed-wetland agricultural field), and
  - Any additional notes the user would like to submit.

Upon request, copies of the screenshots for the web survey are available by sending a request to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer at [Info\\_Coll@fws.gov](mailto:Info_Coll@fws.gov).

**Title of Collection:** Online Eastern Population Sandhill Crane Survey Data Entry Portal.

**OMB Control Number:** 1018–0185.

**Form Number:** None.

**Type of Review:** Extension of a currently approved collection.

**Respondents/Affected Public:** Individuals and State agencies.

**Total Estimated Number of Annual Respondents:** 112.

**Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses:** 157.

**Estimated Completion Time per Response:** Varies from 3 minutes to 5 minutes, depending on activity.

**Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours:** 11.

**Respondent's Obligation:** Voluntary.

**Frequency of Collection:** One time for the initial registration, and on occasion for survey submission.

**Total Estimated Annual Nonhour Burden Cost:** None.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

The authority for this action is the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

**Madonna Baucum,**

*Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*

[FR Doc. 2024–14710 Filed 7–3–24; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

[Docket No. FWS–HQ–IA–2024–0116; FXIA1671090000–245–FF09A30000]

### Foreign Endangered Species; Receipt of Permit Applications

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of receipt of permit applications; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, invite the public to comment on applications to conduct certain activities with foreign species that are listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). With some exceptions, the ESA prohibits activities with listed species unless Federal authorization is issued that allows such activities. The ESA also requires that we invite public comment before issuing permits for any activity otherwise prohibited by the ESA with respect to any endangered species.

**DATES:** We must receive comments by August 5, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** *Obtaining Documents:* The applications, application supporting materials, and any comments and other materials that we receive will be available for public inspection at <https://www.regulations.gov> in Docket No. FWS–HQ–IA–2024–0116.

*Submitting Comments:* When submitting comments, please specify the name of the applicant and the permit number at the beginning of your comment. You may submit comments by one of the following methods:

- **Internet:** <https://www.regulations.gov>. Search for and submit comments on Docket No. FWS–HQ–IA–2024–0116.

- **U.S. mail:** Public Comments Processing, Attn: Docket No. FWS–HQ–IA–2024–0116; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Headquarters, MS: PRB/3W; 5275 Leesburg Pike; Falls Church, VA 22041–3803.

For more information, see Public Comment Procedures under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Brenda Tapia, by phone at 703–358–