

Estimated Number of Respondents: 50,000.

Estimated Time per Response: 30 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 25,000.

Estimated Total Annual Cost: The estimated cost to the respondents is \$643,000.

Respondent's Obligation: Mandatory.

Legal Authority: Title 13, United States Code, sections 182, 224, and 225.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: September 24, 2009.

Glenna Mickelson,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. E9-23531 Filed 9-29-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-09-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

U.S. Census Bureau

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Government Employment Forms

AGENCY: U.S. Census Bureau.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: To ensure consideration written comments must be submitted on or before November 30, 2009.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 7845, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at DHynek@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Ellen Thompson, Chief, Employment Branch, Governments Division, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC 20233-6800 (301-763-1531) (or via the Internet at ellen.ann.thompson@census.gov).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The Census Bureau plans to request clearance for the forms necessary to conduct the public employment program which consists of an annual collection of information and a quinquennial collection in a census environment in years ending in "2" or "7". During the upcoming three years, we intend to conduct the 2010 and 2011 Annual Survey of Government Employment and the 2012 Census of Governments—Employment phase.

Under Title 13, section 161 & 182, of the United States Code, the Secretary of Commerce is authorized to conduct the public employment program, which collects and disseminates data by function for full-time and part-time employees, payroll, and number of part-time hours worked. The number and content of the data items collected are the same in the annual and census cycles.

The burden hours we will request are based on the expected 2010 annual survey mail out of 16,956 forms.

The State and local government statistics produced cover national, State, and local aggregates on various functions with comparative detail for individual governments for the pay period that includes March 12. The public employment program provides the only comprehensive count of employees and payrolls in State and local governments. Government employees constitute approximately one-sixth of the entire U.S. workforce and their salaries are a major source of personal income.

The Census Bureau provides this employment data to the Bureau of Economic Analysis for constructing the functional payrolls in the public sector Gross Domestic Product, payroll being

the single largest component of current operations. Other government users include the Bureau of Labor Statistics, as a benchmark for its monthly employment programs, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development, to establish payroll guidelines for local public housing authorities.

The public employment program has increasingly been used as the base for reimbursable programs of other Federal agencies such as: (1) The government portion of the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey commissioned by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality to provide timely, comprehensive information about health care use and costs in the United States, and (2) The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) survey Criminal Justice Expenditure and Employment Survey which provides criminal justice expenditure and employment data on spending and personnel levels.

Statistics are produced as data files in both electronic and printed formats. The program has made possible the dissemination of comprehensive and comparable governmental statistics since 1940.

The many users of the public employment program data include Federal agencies, State and local governments and related organizations, public interest groups, and many business, market, and private research organizations.

II. Method of Collection

Approximately 16,956 State agencies, county governments, consolidated city-county governments, independent cities, towns, townships, special district governments, and public school systems designated for the annual survey will be sent an appropriate form or the data will be collected through a data sharing arrangement between the Census Bureau and the State government.

We developed cooperative agreements with State and large local government officials to collect the data from their dependent agencies and report to us as one central respondent. These arrangements eliminate the need for a mail canvass of approximately 3,464 State agencies and 129 school systems. The agreements reduce burden by greatly reducing the number of people who have to look at a form and complete, and by pulling data from an already centralized source instead of from multiple sources. Currently we have central collection agreements with 45 states, four local school district governments, and ten local governments. We continue to work at expanding the conversion of paper

submissions into electronic formats, for both individual units and central collection units.

Since the 2003 annual collection cycle, all form types can be completed on the Internet. For the 2007 Census, 18,708 governments responded using our Web site. For the 2008 Annual survey, 6,589 or 31% of the governments sample responded using our Web site.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0607-0452.

Form Number: E-1, E-2, E-3, E-4, E-5, E-6, E-7, E-9.

Type of Review: Regular.

Affected Public: State governments, county governments, consolidated city-county governments, independent cities, towns, townships, special district governments, and public school systems.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 16,956.

Estimated Time per Response: The average for all forms is 49 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 13,973.

Estimated Total Annual Cost: \$ 316,524.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

Legal Authority: Title 13 United States Code, section 161 & 182.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Gwelnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XR62

Endangered and Threatened Species; Recovery Plans

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of Availability.

SUMMARY: The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announces the adoption of an Endangered Species Act (ESA) recovery plan for the Middle Columbia River Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) Distinct Population Segment (DPS), which spawns and rears in tributaries to the Columbia River in central and eastern Washington and Oregon. The Plan includes four locally developed management unit plans that address tributary conditions, included as appendices to the Plan, as well as two "modules" developed by NMFS to address conditions affecting all steelhead populations in the Columbia River mainstem and estuary - the Hydro Module, based on the NMFS 2008 Biological Opinion on the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS BiOp), and the Estuary Module (NMFS 2007). The Plan also incorporates Hatchery and Genetic Management Plans (HGMPs); site-specific actions in the FCRPS BiOp Reasonable and Prudent Alternative 39 for updating HGMPs, Artificial Production for Pacific Salmon (FCRPS BiOp, Appendix C of Supplemental Comprehensive Analysis, NMFS 2008); and fishery management planning through *U.S. v. Oregon* for mainstem fisheries, the Pacific Salmon Treaty and Pacific Fishery Management Council guidelines and constraints for marine fisheries, and Fisheries Management Evaluation Plans (FMEPs) and Tribal Resource Management Plans for tributary fisheries.

ADDRESSES: Additional information about the plan may be obtained by writing to Lynn Hatcher, National Marine Fisheries Service, 304 S. Water Street, Suite 1201, Ellensburg, WA 98926, or by calling (509) 962-8911. Electronic copies of the Plan and a summary of and response to public comments on the Proposed (Draft) Recovery Plan are available online at <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Salmon-Recovery-Planning/Recovery-Domains/Interior-Columbia/Mid-Columbia/Mid-Col-Plan.cfm>. A CD ROM of these documents can be obtained by calling

Sharon Houghton at 503-230-5418 or by emailing a request to sharon.houghton@noaa.gov with the subject line "CD ROM Request for Final ESA Recovery Plan for Middle Columbia River Steelhead."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Lynn Hatcher, NMFS Middle Columbia Steelhead Salmon Recovery Coordinator, at 509-962-8911, or Elizabeth Gaar, NMFS Salmon Recovery Division, at 503-230-5434.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Recovery plans describe actions beneficial to the conservation and recovery of species listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). The ESA requires that recovery plans, to the extent practicable, incorporate: (1) objective, measurable criteria which, when met, would result in a determination that the species is no longer threatened or endangered; (2) site-specific management actions necessary to achieve the plan's goals; and (3) estimates of the time required and costs to implement recovery actions. The ESA requires the development of recovery plans for each listed species unless such a plan would not promote its recovery.

NMFS is responsible for developing and implementing ESA recovery plans for listed salmon and steelhead. In so doing, NMFS' goal is to restore endangered and threatened Pacific salmonids to the point that they are again self-sustaining members of their ecosystems and no longer need the protections of the ESA. Local support of recovery plans by those whose activities directly affect the listed species, and whose actions will be most affected by recovery efforts, is essential. NMFS therefore supports and participates in locally led collaborative efforts to develop recovery plans that involve local communities, state, tribal, and Federal entities, and other stakeholders.

NMFS recognizes that to achieve recovery of ESA listed salmon and steelhead in the Columbia River Basin, site-specific actions addressing all limiting factors and threats (habitat, hydropower, hatcheries, harvest) are necessary. In this recovery plan, the relative impacts of this full range of limiting factors and threats are identified and evaluated, although effective site-specific actions may be better developed or more feasible to implement in some sectors than in others. At this time, site-specific management actions are more fully developed for tributary habitat and