

of Homeland Security Delegation No. 0170.1, has authorized the following members and employees of the Coast Guard to serve, without compensation, on the Board of Control of the Coast Guard Mutual Assistance. Participation of the designated officials in the activities of Coast Guard Mutual Assistance will not extend to participation in day-to-day operations.

*Officers:* Commandant of the Coast Guard, Admiral Thomas H. Collins, USCG (Chairman) (term began May 2002 and continues while ADM Collins serves as Commandant);

Assistant Commandant for Human Resources, Rear Admiral Kenneth T. Venuto, USCG (President) (term began July 2002 and continues while RADM Venuto serves as Assistant Commandant for Human Resources); and

Commander Pat Hannifin, USCG (Vice President) (July 2003–June 2006).

*Members:* Commander William J. Ziegler, USCG (July 2003–June 2006); Lieutenant Commander Sheryl L. Dickinson, USCG (May 2003–June 2006);

Ensign Cari Bower, USCGR (May 2003–June 2006);

Chief Warrant Officer Jamie A. Rambo, USCG (July 2002–June 2005);

Master Chief Petty Officer Frank Welch, USCG (term began October 2002 and continues while MCPOCG Welch serves as the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard);

Master Chief Petty Officer Charles W. Bowen, USCG (July 2002–June 2005);

Petty Officer First Class John E. Healy, USCG (July 2002–June 2005);

Petty Officer First Class Lawrence J. Connell, USCG (July 2003–June 2006);

Ms. Janice L. Gray (July 2002–June 2005);

Ms. Marta E. Denchfield (July 2001–June 2004);

Mr. Jay Fowler (July 2003–June 2006); and

Mrs. Jennifer Rechsteiner (July 2003–June 2006).

*Alternates:* Chief Petty Officer Rockwood Ennis, USCG (term began December 2000 and continues while MCPOCG Welch serves as the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard);

Master Chief Petty Officer Edna M. Doak, USCGR (July 2002–June 2005);

Petty Officer Third Class Caleb C. Mitson, USCG (July 2003–June 2006).

**Authority:** 10 U.S.C. 1033, 1589; Department of Homeland Security Delegation No. 0170.1 (2) (14).

Dated: December 29, 2003.

**Kenneth T. Venuto,**

Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard, Assistant Commandant for Human Resources.

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BILLING CODE 4910–15–P

**DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**

**Federal Emergency Management Agency**

**Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request**

**AGENCY:** Federal Emergency Management Agency, Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate, Department of Homeland Security.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Federal Emergency Management Agency, 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 continuing information collections. In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), this notice seeks comments on the information FEMA requires to address close basin lake continuous flooding events. The information is required by FEMA regulation 44 CFR part 61, Appendix A(2), Standard Flood Insurance Policy, section VII., General Conditions, T., Continuous Lake Flooding and FEMA Policy Guidance for Closed-Basin Lakes.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The information collections for closed basin lake endorsement under the standard flood insurance policy allows policyholders to file a total loss claim for an insured building that is actually damaged or under imminent threat of flooding before the structure has been inundated 90 days by lake water. State, local and tribal governments and property owners must meet specific requirements set forth in FEMA regulatory and policy guidance before policyholders can qualify for insurance claim benefits.

**Collection of Information**

*Title:* Closed-Basin Lake Endorsement Requirements.

*Type of Information Collection:* Revision of a currently approved collection.

*OMB Number:* 1660–0050.

*Abstract:* A closed basin lake is a natural lake from which water leaves primarily through evaporation and whose surface area now exceeds or has exceeded one square mile at any time in the recorded past. FEMA Regional Directors shall determine that State, local and tribal governments satisfy the FEMA regulatory and policy guidance

(including that the local government or tribe has established new building restrictions and the State is providing the support needed to eliminate future flood losses) before policyholders can qualify for insurance claim benefits under the closed basin lake standard flood insurance policy endorsement.

The following information is required from State, local and tribal governments and property owners:

(1) A community, county, or other local jurisdiction must request in writing to the FEMA Regional Director, through the State National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Coordinating Agency, that a community or area be designated a “closed basin lake in order for homeowners and commercial interests to be eligible for a total loss claim under the closed basin lake standard flood insurance policy endorsement.

(2) State, local or tribal governments may request FEMA to amend the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) area of special consideration (ASC) to remove areas protected by the construction of additional certified flood control projects.

(3) State, local and tribal governments will conduct a risk assessment that:

(a) Identifies the number of structures at risk around the lake within the published ASC;

(b) Provides the current elevation of the structures and an assessment of insurance coverage;

(c) Identifies properties that have received previous flood insurance claim payments; and

(d) Identifies any new or ongoing construction within the published ASC.

(4) The State will enter into an agreement with FEMA prior to the provision of insurance claim payments. The agreement sets forth the actions the State will take to contribute to a permanent solution to the closed basin lake flooding problem and include the State’s acknowledgment that relocation and acquisition of structures and property in the ASC may become a priority use of HMGP funds. Commitments in this agreement must be reflected in future FEMA/State agreements for Presidential disaster declarations.

(5) Tribes and local governments must:

(a) Participate in the NFIP (approved under OMB Number 1660–0004);

(b) Develop, adopt, and enforce permanent land use ordinances, or a temporary moratorium for a period not to exceed 6 months to be followed by a permanent land use ordinance, which prohibits the construction of any

residential or commercial buildings within the ASC.

(c) Agree to notify in writing by "certified mail/return receipt requested" all owners of structures within the ASC. The notification must inform property owners of the requirement that flood insurance must be purchased by the date specified by the FEMA Regional Director and maintained continuously thereafter in order to be eligible to receive a claim payment.

(d) Agree to maintain any property acquired with FEMA grant funds as open space, and to hold, manage, and enforce all property protected by easements, unless the property with the easement is donated by the owner to a non-profit land trust organization.

(e) Agree to declare and report any violations of the ordinance to FEMA so that flood insurance to the building can be denied.

(f) Complete and submit a biennial report to FEMA on Closed Basin Lake

Conservation Easements. This report enables FEMA to assist communities in maintaining the open space requirements of the endorsement easements and ensuring future accelerated claim benefits for structures in a community's flood prone ASC.

(6) Property owners who are eligible for the closed basin lake endorsement must:

(a) Buy flood insurance by the designated date and maintain it continuously until a claim is filed.

(b) Under an endorsement claim, buy back their structure at negotiated salvage value.

(c) Obtain an elevation certificate of the new structure location (approved under OMB Number 1660-0008).

(d) Agree to relocate their structure outside the ASC. Property owners have several options concerning the disposition of their vacated land located in the ASC. They can either:

(1) Donate vacated property to the local government or a land use management organization that will deed-restrict it; or

(2) Establish an easement on the property that permits only certain agricultural or recreational uses and continue to use it for one of these exclusive purposes; or

(3) Apply to the local government and the State to have the land acquired through the HMGP or FMA programs. This option requires an easement or deed restriction in perpetuity regardless of future certified flood control projects. An easement or deed restriction must be in place prior to the approval of any insurance claim under the closed basin lake endorsement.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or Households, Business or Other For Profit, and State, Local or Tribal Government.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 8,379.

FEMA information collections/forms	No. of respondents (A)	Frequency of response (B)	Hours per response (C)	Annual burden hours (A x B x C)
Letter Request to FEMA Through State NFIP For Designation in Program.	5	1	.30	2.5
Request FEMA to amend Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM)/Area of Special Consideration (ASC).	5	1	4	20
Conduct Risk Assessment	5	1	84	4,200
Agreement Between FEMA & Tribal, State, and local Government. For A Solution to Closed-Basin Lake Flooding.	5 (Meeting with the Governor.)	1	1	5
Develop, adopt, enforce permanent land use ordinance or establish a 6-month moratorium followed by a permanent land use ordinance.	5	1	3	15
Notification of Property Owners By Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested.	16,000	1	.15	4,000
Agree to maintain any property acquired and hold, manage, and enforce all property protected by easements.	5	1	2	10
Declare and report violations of ordinances or complete and submit to FEMA the biennial report on closed basin lake easements.	330	1 (once every two years).	.50	825 (annually).
Agree to relocate outside the ASC and donate vacated property, establish an easement, or apply to local government and the State to have land acquired.	100	1	4	400
Buy back their structure at negotiated salvage value.	100	1	4	400
<b>Totals</b>	<b>16,031</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>88.45</b>	<b>8,379</b>

*Comments:* Written comments are solicited to (a) Evaluate whether the proposed data collection is necessary for the proper performance of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) verify and evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and

assumptions used; (c) enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) 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 responses. Comments should be received within 60 days of the date of this notice.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons should submit written comments to Muriel B. Anderson, Chief, Records Management Branch, Information Resources Management Division, Information Technology Services Directorate, Federal Emergency Management

Agency, Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate, Department of Homeland Security, 500 C Street, SW., Room 316, Washington, DC 20472, e-mail address:

[InformationCollection@fema.gov](mailto:InformationCollection@fema.gov), or facsimile number (202) 646-3347.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Contact Timothy Johnson, Insurance Examiner, Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration, (202) 646-2791, facsimile number (202) 646-4327 or e-mail address:

[Timothy.Johnson@fema.gov](mailto:Timothy.Johnson@fema.gov) for additional information. You may contact Ms. Anderson for copies of the proposed information collection.

Dated: December 30, 2003.

**Edward W. Kernan,**

*Division Director, Information Resources Management Division, Information Technology Services Directorate.*

[FR Doc. 04-167 Filed 1-5-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 9110-11-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Fiscal Year 2004 Private Stewardship Grants Program; Request for Grant Proposals

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

**ACTION:** Notice of request for proposals.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), are soliciting project proposals for Federal assistance under the Private Stewardship Grants Program (PSGP). This document describes how to access the required information for applying for funding under the PSGP through Grants.gov. In the future all notices of Federal assistance and requests for proposals for the PSGP will be made available through Grants.gov. The Service will discontinue the use of the **Federal Register** for such announcements following this notification.

The PSGP provides grants and other assistance on a competitive basis to individuals and groups engaged in private, voluntary conservation efforts that benefit species listed or proposed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act), candidate species, or other at-risk species on private lands within the United States.

**DATES:** Project proposals must be received by the appropriate Regional Office (see Table 1 in **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**) no later than March 8, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** For additional information, contact the Service's Regional Office that has the responsibility for the State or Territory in which the proposed project would occur. The contact information for each Regional Office is listed in Table 1 under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** below. Information on the PSGP is available through the Internet site Grants.gov (<http://www.grants.gov>), from the Branch of State Grants, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 420, Arlington, VA 22203, or electronically from our Web site at [http://endangered.fws.gov/grants/private\\_stewardship.html](http://endangered.fws.gov/grants/private_stewardship.html) or e-mail: [Privatestewardship@fws.gov](mailto:Privatestewardship@fws.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** The Program Contact in the appropriate Regional Office identified in Table 1 under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** or Don Morgan, Acting Chief, Branch of State Grants (703-358-2061).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

#### Background

The majority of endangered and threatened species depend, at least in part, upon privately owned lands for their survival. The help of landowners is essential for the conservation of these and other imperiled species. Fortunately, many private landowners want to help. Often, however, the costs associated with implementing conservation actions are greater than a landowner could undertake without financial assistance. The PSGP provides grants or other Federal assistance on a competitive basis to individuals and groups engaged in private, voluntary conservation efforts that benefit species listed or proposed as endangered or threatened under the Act, candidate species, or other at-risk species on private lands within the United States.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Endangered Species Program is soliciting project proposals for Federal assistance under the PSGP (Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 15.632). This document describes how to access the required information for applying for funding under the PSGP through the Grants.gov website.

**Dates:** Proposals must be submitted to our Regional Offices within 60 days of this announcement.

#### Additional Information

Eligible PSGP projects include those by landowners and their partners who need technical and financial assistance to improve habitat or implement other activities on private lands. Under the PSGP, privately owned means land that is not owned by a governmental entity. The PSGP supports on-the-ground conservation actions as opposed to planning or research activities, and we will not fund the acquisition of real property either through fee title or easements.

Private landowners, individually or as a group, are encouraged to submit project proposals for their properties. Additionally, individuals or groups (for example land conservancies, community organizations, or conservation organizations) working with private landowners on conservation efforts are also encouraged to submit project proposals provided they identify specific private landowners who have confirmed their intent to participate on the project or provide other evidence in the project proposal to demonstrate landowner participation will occur.

A PSGP proposal must include at least 10 percent cost sharing (*i.e.*, at least 10 percent of total project cost) on the part of the landowner or other non-Federal partners involved in the project. The cost share must come from sources other than the PSGP or other Federal funds.

A complete program announcement and request for proposals may be accessed by visiting Grants.gov ([www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov)). Grants.gov is the new single point of entry for posting Federal government grant and other assistance opportunities. Potential applicants for the PSGP may access program overview information, the full text of the announcement, and the application package for this request for proposals by accessing Grants.gov and then using the FIND utility ("Find Grant Opportunities," or <http://fedgrants.gov/grants/servlet/SearchServlet/>) to access this information. Potential applicants may use the FIND utility by searching for the PSGP either by entering the title "Private Stewardship Grants Program" or by using the PSGP's Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number of 15.632.