

Dated: August 12, 2005.
Jayson P. Ahern,
Assistant Commissioner, Office of Field Operations.
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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, U.S. 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 revised information collections. In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c) (2) (A)), this notice seeks comments concerning the Elevation Certificate and the Floodproofing Certificate. The Elevation Certificate is required by the NFIP to certify the elevations of the buildings to determine the proper flood insurance rate. It can also be used by communities to document to what height new buildings and substantial improvements in Special Flood Hazard Areas were elevated so that communities can verify building compliance including the lowest floor determination.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) regulations require the elevation or floodproofing of new or substantially improved structures in designated

Special Flood Hazard Areas. As part of the agreement for making flood insurance available in a community, the NFIP requires the community to adopt a floodplain management ordinance containing minimum NFIP requirements intended to reduce future flood losses. One such requirement is that the community require that buildings be elevated to or above the base flood elevation and, obtain the elevation of the lowest floor (including basement) of all new and substantially improved structures, and maintain a record of all such information. These data should be generated and retained as part of the community's permit records. The Elevation Certificate is one convenient way for a community to document building compliance; however, it is not a prescribed form. The Floodproofing Certificate may similarly be used to establish the floodproofed design elevation in those instances when floodproofing of non-residential structures is permitted.

The Elevation Certificate and Floodproofing Certificate are used in conjunction with the application in order to properly rate Post-FIRM structures in Special Flood Hazard Areas (44 CFR 61.7, 61.8) for flood insurance. Post-FIRM are those buildings constructed after publication of the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). In addition, the Elevation Certificate is needed for Pre-FIRM structures being rated under Post-FIRM flood insurance rules. The standardized format of the Elevation Certificate (FEMA Forms 81-31) and Floodproofing Certificate for Non-Residential Structures (FEMA Forms 81-65) provide community officials with needed data in order to verify building elevation information and determine compliance with the community's floodplain management ordinance.

Collection of Information

Title: Post Construction Elevation Certificate/Floodproofing Certificate.

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

OMB Number: 1660-0008.

Form Numbers: FEMA Form 81-31, Elevation Certificate, and FEMA Form 81-65, Flood Proofing Certificate.

Abstract: The Elevation Certificate and Floodproofing Certificate are used in conjunction with the application for flood insurance. The certificates are required for proper rating of post Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) structures, which are buildings constructed after the publication of the FIRM, for flood insurance in Special Flood Hazard Areas. In addition, the Elevation Certificate is needed for pre-FIRM structures being rated under post-FIRM flood insurance rules. The certificates provide community officials and others standardized documents to readily record needed building elevation information.

The certificates are supplied to insurance agents, community officials, surveyors, engineers, architects, and NFIP policyholders/applicants. Surveyors, engineers, and architects complete the Elevation Certificate. Engineers and architects complete the Floodproofing Certificate. Community officials are provided the building elevation information required to document and determine compliance with the community's floodplain management ordinance. NFIP policyholders/applicants provide the appropriate certificate to insurance agents. The certificate is then used in conjunction with the flood insurance application so that the building can be properly rated for flood insurance.

Affected Public: Individuals or households, business or other for-profit, not-for-profit institutions, farms, and State, local or tribal governments.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:

ANNUAL BURDEN HOURS

Project/Activity (Survey, Form(s), Focus Group, etc.)	No. of Respondents (A)	Frequency of Responses (B)	Burden Hours Per Respondent (C)	Annual Responses (AxB)	Total Annual Burden Hours (AxBxC)
Elevation Certificate, FEMA Form 81-31 and Instructions.	48,300	One per structure	3.50 hours	48,300	169,050
Floodproofing Certificate, FEMA Form 81-65	130	One per structure	3.25 hours	130	423
Web-based Training Module (Surveyors Video, Surveyors Guide for EC, and Bldg. Diagrams and Photo).	48,300	One per structure	0.25 hour	48,300	12,075
Total	48,430	48,430	181,548

Estimated Cost: The cost to the respondent is estimated to be a fee of \$200–\$500 charged to the applicant by the private sector professional completing the Elevation or Floodproofing Certificate. The annual cost to 48,300 respondents × an average cost of \$350 is estimated to be approximately \$16,950,500 annually.

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) 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 George S. Trotter, Acting Chief, Information Resources Management Branch, Information Technology Services Division, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 500 C Street, SW., Room 316, Washington, DC 20472.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Contact Jhun de la Cruz, Insurance Examiner, Mitigation Division, (202) 646–2650 for additional information. You may contact Ms. Anderson for copies of the proposed collection of information at telephone number (202) 646–2625 or facsimile number (202) 646–3347 or e-mail muriel.anderson@dhs.gov.

Dated: August 11, 2005.

George S. Trotter,

Acting Branch Chief, Information Resources Management Branch, Information Technology Services Division.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Draft Post-Delisting Monitoring Plan for Eggert's Sunflower (*Helianthus eggertii*)

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (we) announces the availability of the Draft Post-delisting Monitoring Plan for Eggert's Sunflower (*Helianthus eggertii*) (PDM). We propose to monitor the status of Eggert's sunflower over a 5-year period, from the date of final delisting under the Endangered Species Act (Act) in 2005 through 2010. Monitoring will be through (1) annual evaluation of information already routinely being collected by 7 agencies that have entered into long-term management agreements with us covering 27 populations of *H. eggertii*, and (2) a total census of these populations during the 2nd and 5th year of the monitoring period. We solicit review and comment on this Monitoring Plan from local, State and Federal agencies, and the public.

DATES: We will accept and consider all public comments received on or before September 19, 2005.

ADDRESSES: If you wish to comment on this proposed PDM, you may submit your comments by any one of several methods:

1. You may submit written comments and information to the Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 446 Neal Street, Cookeville, TN 38501.

2. You may hand-deliver written comments to our Tennessee Field Office at the above address or fax your comments to 931/528–7075.

Comments and materials received, as well as supporting documentation used in preparation of this draft PDM, are available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the Tennessee Field Office at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Timothy Merritt at the above address (telephone 931/528–6481, extension 211).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Public Comments Solicited

We intend that the final PDM for *H. eggertii* will be accurate and effective in helping us assess whether removal of the protections of the Act leads to a deterioration of the status, and potential need for emergency relisting, of *H. eggertii*. Therefore, we solicit

comments or suggestions from the public, other concerned governmental agencies, the scientific community, industry, or any other interested parties concerning this proposed PDM.

Comments may be submitted as indicated under **ADDRESSES**. Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. A respondent may request that we withhold their home address from the rulemaking record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There also may be circumstances in which we would withhold from the rulemaking record a respondent's identity, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. However, we will not consider anonymous comments. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses available for public inspection in their entirety.

In making a final decision on the PDM, we will take into consideration the comments and any additional information we receive. Comments and materials received, as well as supporting information used to write the PDM, will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the address indicated in the **ADDRESSES** section.

Background

The 1988 amendments to the Act require us to implement a system, in cooperation with the States, to monitor all species that have been delisted, or removed from the list of endangered and threatened species listed under the Act, due to recovery efforts for at least 5 years following delisting (section 4(g)(1)). The purpose of this PDM is to verify that a species that is delisted, due to recovery, remains secure from risk of extinction after it no longer has the protections of the Act. If the species does not remain secure, we can use the emergency listing authorities under section 4(b)(7) of the Act. Section 4(g) of the Act explicitly requires cooperation with the States in development and implementation of PDM programs. However, we are responsible for compliance with section 4(g) and must remain actively engaged in all phases of the PDM.

By a separate rulemaking being published elsewhere in today's issue of the **Federal Register**, the Service is delisting Eggert's sunflower, a perennial herb found in Alabama, Kentucky, and Tennessee, due to recovery and new information. The Service has drafted a