

[EXTERNAL] OMB Control Number 1018-Friends

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To: Info_Coll, FWHQ <info_coll@fws.gov>

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In response to the Federal Register notice of November 9, 2020, information collection request for Friends groups, please consider the following comments:

These comments are submitted on behalf of Friends of Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge, a non-profit established to benefit Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge. This Friends organization operates a gift shop in the visitor center and recruits volunteers to operate the gift shop and to participate in volunteer work days. Funds collected from memberships and nature shop sales are used to fund refuge projects and activities.

Comments are requested on whether information collection is necessary.

Response: Most of the information collection seems appropriate. More clarity should be provided on the reason for resume collection. Most of the volunteers used by our organization are retired and may not have a biological background or meet employment requirements of a federal job. Therefore, the notice should clarify that this requirement is for persons hired by Friends groups as statutory employees to work on the refuge, not for volunteers who may help out in the visitor center or help out at a refuge work day planting trees or spreading prairie plant seed. Any resume-type information needed on the volunteers should be requested on the FWS volunteer agreement completed on or before the volunteer workday, not by requesting a resume.

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