

[EXTERNAL] OMB Control Number "1018-Friends"

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Friends of the Wildlife Corridor
November 18, 2020

OMB Control Number "1018—Friends"

Comments on Agency Information Collection Activities; US Fish and Wildlife Service Agreements with Friends Organizations

The following comments address areas of focus suggested in the Federal Register request for comments.

1. Whether the collection of this information is necessary for the proper performance of functions of the agency.

Comment: The Friends of the Wildlife Corridor has been supporting our refuges since 1997 with great success, with consistent gratitude from the agency, and with no indication that it is impeding proper performance of functions of the agency.

2. The accuracy of estimates of the burden

Comments:

- These actual estimates of the burden seem reasonable. Using these estimates, the proposal will increase the burden on the Friends of the Wildlife Corridor by adding approximately 928 hours of work/year. Our Friends' group is non-membership, composed of 9 to 16 Board directors, many of whom hold full-time jobs and are drawn to the Friends' group as a way to donate any spare time they have on refuge projects rather than refuge record-keeping. Using the July 2020 Independent Sector estimate of the value of a volunteer hour at \$27.20/hour, an additional 928 hours of required work from the Friends of the Wildlife Corridor is the annual equivalent of \$25,241.60.
- In addition, if the Service develops a digital platform, the Friends will need to have access to that platform, potentially creating additional in-kind (time and access) and financial burdens (software licensing) on the Friends.

3. Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information

Comment: Friends' groups are organized differently to accommodate most efficiently the needs of their individual refuges and of their unique community. Any determination of specific Friends' documentation or data needed by the Service should be done at the Refuge level and with Friends' input. Any documentation or data provided by the Friends but needed in a Service-wide format should be reformatted and input by Service personnel who take care not to change the meaning of the Friends' information.

4. How the agency can minimize the burden of collection

Comment: Each Friends' group should create and maintain its own organizational documents, such as the internal financial documentation, and provide those documents to the Service if appropriate and agreed upon in advance. The Service can then ask any questions or enter the data from the documents into their digital platform as needed.

Thank you,

Sharon Slagle, Secretary

Friends of the Wildlife Corridor