

[EXTERNAL] OMB Control Number "1018-Friends"

STEVEN L HATLEBERG <s.hatleberg@myactv.net>

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To: Info\_Coll, FWHQ <info\_coll@fws.gov>

Cc: Ellen Andersen <wormstress@gmail.com>; Dixon, Ora <ora\_dixon@fws.gov>

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Dear Sirs- My name is Steven Hatileberg and I have served as a board representative on the Friends of NCTC group for over ten years. I am currently the secretary of the group. I am submitting a comment regarding the OIG audit of Friends groups supporting the Fish & Wildlife service in the Department of the Interior. I believe that the OIG defined the benefits involved in our program in a manner that is too restrictive. Some of the benefits that the Friends group provides to the FWS are intangible and hard to define, such as the goodwill of the local community. Other benefits involve reaching out to a broader community, such as collaborating with other groups that also sponsor a eagle cam for the public. We also support the production of online programs about visiting different national wildlife refuges. These activities may not specifically mention our site, however they benefit the FWS and the general public as a whole. Finally I believe that the OIG estimates of the time it takes to provide the FWS with annual reports and data are too low. Many of the volunteers are not familiar with these activities. I know that is the case for me! Sincerely  
Yours Steven Hatileberg