provides recommendations and advice to the TMC on: (1) The effectiveness of management actions in achieving restoration goals and alternative hypotheses (methods and strategies) for study, (2) the priority for restoration projects, (3) funding priorities, and (4) other components of the Trinity River Restoration Program.

We have filed a copy of the Working Group’s charter with the Committee Management Secretariat, General Services Administration; the Committee on Environment and Public Works, United States Senate; the Committee on Natural Resources, United States House of Representatives; and the Library of Congress.

Certification

I hereby certify that the Trinity River Adaptive Management Working Group is necessary and in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed on the Department of the Interior by Public Laws 94–386 and 96–325 (Trinity River Stream Rectification Act), 98–541 and 104–143 (Trinity River Basin Fish and Wildlife Management Act of 1984), and 102–575 (Central Valley Project Improvement Act). The Working Group will assist the Department of the Interior by providing advice and recommendations on all aspects of implementation of the Trinity River Restoration Program.

Dated: December 13, 2016.

Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior.
information we need from applicants. Hunters often apply for import permits before leaving on safari and therefore are not in a position to provide information on the specific elephant and population. In addition, hunters are not necessarily in a position to know what portion of their hunting fees will support conservation. This is information that we acquire from the countries of origin, not from permit applicants.

Comment 2: With regard to the cost burden, the International Fund for Animal Welfare and the Natural Resources Defense Council claim that the permit application fee is too small and that it should be increased to fully compensate FWS for costs associated with performing individualized (as opposed to country-wide) enhancement findings. They note that the 2015 market rate for an African elephant hunting package was between $25,000 and $60,000, and that the $100 permit application fee “imposes trivial additional costs on the importer.”

Response to Comment 2: We are currently reevaluating our permit fees and may, in the future, publish a proposed rule to revise our fee structure.

Comment 3: The Humane Society of the United States and Humane Society International jointly submitted comments in support of the request for extension of approval for information collection through FWS Form 3–200–19 from all importers of African elephant sport-hunted trophies. They stated their belief that it is critically important that this information is collected from applicants for import permits under the Endangered Species Act (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), because the information “is essential for FWS to comply with its statutory duties to protect African elephants from threats that jeopardize the species’ continued existence.” They also believe that FWS Form 3–200–19 requests the “bare minimum information needed” from an applicant.

These joint commenters also stated that the current “paltry” applicant fee of $100 for an African elephant sport-hunted trophy import permit is too low and should be increased. They assert that the $100 application fee for import of trophies “cannot possibly reimburse the agency for all of its costs associated with ensuring that applicants are eligible for permits,” and they “urge OMB to formally request that FWS amend this fee structure.”

Response to Comment 3: See our response to Comment 2.

Comment 4: Conservation Force submitted comments in opposition to the information collection, stating that “it is unnecessary and over burdensome for both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service . . . and permit applicants/tourist safari hunters, and it will not provide any useful information.” They contend that it is “a burden without a benefit” and that the burden cannot be reduced unless the permit requirement is removed. Conservation Force also asserts that the burden estimate is inaccurate, because the Service has not considered its current backlog of applications in assessing its ability to process another 300 permits, the additional costs and demands for seizures and law enforcement actions, and the permit renewal fee.

Response to Comment 4: Our newly revised regulations require that we issue an ESA import permit for import of all African elephant sport-hunted trophies. We are seeking authorization to collect the information necessary for us to issue these permits. The burden estimates are developed in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act. In estimating the burden to the Service, we consider the time required to process an application, the cost of processing an application, including the salaries of the people doing the work, and the estimated number of applications. In estimating the burden to the applicant, we consider the time it takes to complete an application, including gathering the necessary information, an estimate of the salary of the person completing the form, and the permit fee. Based on our experience, we believe our burden estimates are accurate.

We again invite comments concerning this information collection on:
- Whether or not the collection of information is necessary, including whether or not the information will have practical utility;
- The accuracy of our estimate of the burden for this collection of information;
- Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask OMB in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that it will be done.