



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Geological Survey

[GX23BA000AD0100; OMB Control Number 1028-0103]

Agency Information Collection Activities; USA National Phenology Network– The Nature’s Notebook Plant and Animal Observing Program

AGENCY: U.S. Geological Survey, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of information collection; request for comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is proposing to renew an information collection.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before [INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*].

ADDRESSES: Send your comments on the information collection request (ICR) by mail to the U.S. Geological Survey, Information Collections Clearance Officer, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive MS 159, Reston, VA 20192; or by email to gs-info_collections@usgs.gov. Please reference Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Control Number 1028-0103 in the subject line of your comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request additional information about this ICR, contact Melanie J. Steinkamp by email at msteinkamp@usgs.gov, or by telephone at 703-261-3128.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with the PRA, we provide the general public and other Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public’s reporting burden. It also helps the public understand our information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format.

We are soliciting comments on the proposed ICR that is described below. We are especially interested in public comment addressing the following questions: is the collection necessary to the proper functions of the USGS? Will this information be processed and used in a timely manner? Is the estimate of burden accurate? How might the USGS enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected? How might the USGS minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology?

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. We will include or summarize each comment in our request to OMB to approve this ICR. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personally identifiable information (PII) in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment - including your PII - may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your PII from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Abstract: The USA National Phenology Network (NPN) is a program sponsored by the USGS that uses standardized forms for tracking plant- and animal activity as part of a project called Nature's Notebook. The Nature's Notebook forms are used to record phenology (e.g., timing of leafing or flowering of plants and reproduction or migration of animals) as part of a nationwide effort to understand and predict how plants and animals respond to environmental variation and changes in weather and climate. Contemporary data collected through Nature's Notebook are quality-checked, described, and made publicly available and are used to inform decision-making in a variety of contexts including agriculture, drought monitoring, and wildfire-risk assessment. Phenological information is also critical for the management of wildlife, invasive species, and agricultural pests, as well as for understanding and managing risks to human health and welfare, including allergies, asthma, and vector-borne diseases. Participants may

contribute phenology information to Nature's Notebook through a browser-based web application or via mobile applications for iPhone and Android operating systems which meet Government Paperwork Elimination Act (GPEA) and Privacy Act requirements. The web-application interface consists of several components: user registration, a searchable list of 1,756 observable plant and animal species, and a "profile" that contains information about each species including its description and the appropriate monitoring protocols. The application also consists of a series of interfaces for registering an observer, a site, and plants and animals found at a site, and a data-entry page that mimics downloadable datasheets that can be taken into the field.

Title of Collection: USA NATIONAL PHENOLOGY NETWORK – THE NATURE'S NOTEBOOK PLANT AND ANIMAL OBSERVING PROGRAM

OMB Control Number: 1028-0103

Form Number: None

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection

Respondents/Affected Public: Members of the public registered with Nature's Notebook, state cooperative extension employees, and Tribal members.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Respondents: 6,640

Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 4,094,800

Estimated Completion Time per Response: When joining the program, responders spend 13 minutes each to register and read guidelines, and 210 minutes to complete the Observer Certification Course. After that, responders may spend about two minutes on each observation and submission of a phenophase status record.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours: 141,418

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary

Frequency of Collection: On occasion; depends on the seasonal activity of plants

and animals.

Total Estimated Annual Non-hour Burden Cost: \$11,484

Table: Annual Responses and Burden Hours: 4,102,436 responses, 141,418 burden hours

Response Type	Annual Responses (projected)	Completion Time per Response (minutes)	Annual Burden (hours)
Registrations	6,640	13 minutes (3 minutes to register + 10 minutes to read guidelines)	1,439
Certification Course*	996	210 minutes (to complete the Observer Certification Course)	3486
Observation records	4,094,800	2 minutes (includes observation and reporting time)	136,493
Total	4,102,436		141,418

*Note that the Certification Course is optional, and we estimate a completion rate of 15% during the clearance period.

Table: Annual Non-Hour Burden Costs

	Cost per unit	Estimated Number of Respondents Expected to Use	Non-Hour Burden Cost
Clipboard	\$2.23	1,328	\$2,961
Pencils	\$0.10	1,328	\$133
Flags	\$0.05	1,328	\$66
Markers	\$0.10	1,328	\$133
Stakes	\$0.30	1,328	\$398

Tags	\$0.30	1,328	\$398
Popsicle Sticks	\$0.30	1,328	\$398
Average Marking Material Cost	\$0.19		
Cost Per Response	\$2.52	Total Non-Hour Burden Cost	\$4,489

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, nor is a person required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

The authorities for this action are the PRA (44 U.S.C. 3501, et seq.).

Melanie J. Steinkamp,

Program Coordinator,

USGS Species Management Research Program.

[FR Doc. 2023-16617 Filed: 8/3/2023 8:45 am; Publication Date: 8/4/2023]