

4311-AM-P

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Geological Survey**

[GX15BA02EEW0200]

**Agency Information Collection Activities: Request for Comments; USA National Phenology Network – The Nature's Notebook Plant and Animal Observing Program**

**AGENCY:** U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of a revision of a currently approved information collection.

**SUMMARY:** We (the U.S. Geological Survey) will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve the information collection (IC) described below. As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, and as part of our continuing efforts to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, we invite the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on this IC. This collection is scheduled to expire on January 31, 2016.

**DATES:** To ensure that your comments are considered, we must receive them on or before [INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments on this information collection to the Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Geological Survey, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive MS 807, Reston, VA 20192 (mail); (703) 648-7197 (fax); or *gs-info\_collections@usgs.gov* (email). Please reference 'Information Collection 1028-0103,

USA National Phenology Network – The Nature's Notebook Plant and Animal Observing Program' in all correspondence.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jake Weltzin, U.S. Geological Survey, 1955 East 6th Street, Tucson, AZ 85721 (mail); (520) 626-3821 (phone); or [jweltzin@usgs.gov](mailto:jweltzin@usgs.gov) (email). You may also find information about this ICR at [www.reginfo.gov](http://www.reginfo.gov).

## **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

### **I. Abstract**

The USA–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; data 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, and 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, meeting GPEA requirements. The web application interface

consists several components: User registration, a searchable list of 1,016 plant and animal species which can be observed; a “profile” for each species that contains information about the species including its description and the appropriate monitoring protocols; a series of interfaces for registering as an observer, registering a site, registering plants and animals at a site, generating datasheets to take to the field, and a data entry page that mimics the datasheets.

## **II. Data**

*OMB Control Number:* 1028-0103.

*Form Number:* Various (4 forms).

*Title:* USA National Phenology Network – The Nature's Notebook Plant and Animal Observing Program

*Type of Request:* Notice of an extension of a currently approved information collection.

*Affected Public:* Members of the public, registered with Nature’s Notebook.

*Respondent’s Obligation:* None. Participation is voluntary.

*Frequency of Collection:* On occasion. During the Spring and Fall seasons when phenology is changing quickly, we recommend respondents make observations twice per week.

*Estimated Total Number of Annual Responses:* We project that 6,478 responders will register with Nature’s Notebook, and of those 648 will watch the training videos. The same 6,478 responders will contribute 2,627,155 observation records. In total, this will result in 2,634,269 responses.

*Estimated Time per Response:* When joining the program, responders spend 13 minutes each to register and read guidelines and 83 minutes to watch all training videos. After that responders may spend about 2 minutes per record to observe and submit phenophase status record.

*Estimated Annual Burden Hours:* 89,871.

*Estimated Reporting and Recordkeeping “Non-Hour Cost” Burden:* We estimate the total annual non-hour cost burden to be \$11,447. This cost applies to new observers and includes material used to mark sites or plants during the first observation. Marking helps to ensure reporting consistency for future observations.

*Public Disclosure Statement:* The PRA (44 U.S.C. 3501, et seq.) provides that an agency may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number and current expiration date.

### **III. Request for Comments**

We are soliciting comments as to: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the agency to perform its duties, including whether the information is useful; (b) the accuracy of the agency’s estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, usefulness, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) how to minimize the burden on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Please note that the comments submitted in response to this notice are a matter of public record. Before including your personal mailing address, phone number, email

address, or other personally identifiable information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including your personally identifiable information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personally identifiable information from public view, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

**Jake Weltzin**

*Program Manager, Status & Trends Program and Executive Director,*

*USA National Phenology Network*

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