

Department of the Interior
 Report on Status of Retrospective Review Efforts
 July 2015

Agency	Sub-Agency	Title	RIN or OMB Control Number	Summary of Initiative	Status – New, Ongoing, or Completed	Actual or Target Completion Date	Progress updates	Regulatory Flexibilities – Pilot projects, safe harbor exemptions, sunset provisions, trigger provisions, streamlined requirements, state flexibilities, or similar strategies	Methods to identify improvements – public comment, analyses, third party assessments, etc.	Anticipated savings in costs and/or information collection burdens, together with any anticipated changes in benefits
DOI	BIA	Grants to Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities and Dine College	1076-AF08	This rule will make technical changes for consistency with statutory language, clarify the process of how tribal colleges and universities can receive a grant and the intended use of such funds, and update the regulation to meet plain language standards.	New	Proposed rule published 8/18/2015. Final rule targeted for May 2016.	Proposed rule published. Currently in comment period.	Clarification and simplification of language for easier compliance.	Public comment	

Department of the Interior
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DOI	BIA	Federal Acknowledgement of Indian Tribes	1076-AF18	This rule will reform the process and criteria by which the Secretary acknowledges an Indian tribe to allow for faster decisions, reduce the documentary burden, and ensure transparency and predictability through objective standards.	Completed	Final rule in 2015.	Final rule published July 1, 2015.	Reduces documentary burden by limiting time period for which Department will conduct an evaluation.	Public comment, and estimated hour burden reduction under the Paperwork Reduction Act	Information collection burden reduction of 6,390 hours. Revisions will result in a more efficient and transparent review and approval process.

Department of the Interior
 Report on Status of Retrospective Review Efforts
 July 2015

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DOI	BIA	Rights-of-Way on Indian Land	1076-AF20	This rule is necessary to update provisions promulgated in 1968, clarify, and streamline practices and procedures for obtaining rights-of-way across Indian trust or restricted land, and eliminate unnecessary approvals.	Ongoing	Final rule anticipated in 2015.	Proposed rule was published in June 2014. Public hearings and tribal consultations were held in August through November 2014. The public comment period ended November 2014. Final rule is expected to be ready for OMB review by August 2015.	Removal of an approval requirement for surveys that will affect every right-of-way application.	Public comment.	A reduction in burden is expected. This rule will eliminate unnecessary BIA approvals and improve the efficiency of the process.

Department of the Interior
 Report on Status of Retrospective Review Efforts
 July 2015

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DOI	BIA	Housing Improvement Program	1076-AF22	This rule would revise existing regulations governing BIA implementation of the Housing Improvement Program to ensure that those most in need of housing improvement services are eligible for the service provided by the program.	Ongoing	Final rule anticipated August 2015	Proposed rule was published in January 2015; consultations were held in February 2015. The public comment period ended in March 2015.	Leverages other housing assistance programs to better meet housing goals.	Public comment	This rule’s revisions will make it easier for those in need of housing improvement services to leverage other Federal programs to improve housing on Indian land.

Department of the Interior
 Report on Status of Retrospective Review Efforts
 July 2015

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DOI	BIA	Indian Child Welfare Act	1076-AF25	Currently, the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) is applied inconsistently by jurisdiction. This rule will provide consistency throughout the country on implementing the ICWA.	Ongoing	Final rule anticipated December 2015.	The proposed rule was published in March 2015 and the public comment period closed in May 2015. IA received over 2,100 comments.	Establishes trigger provisions to clarify when ICWA requirements apply.	Working with DHHS to determine whether more data on ICWA compliance can be gathered.	This rule will address the widely varying levels of compliance with ICWA across States by establishing uniform standards for compliance. This will improve fairness and consistency, decrease legal and other costs to those affected, and make it easier for those affected to understand the impacts of the regulations.

Department of the Interior
 Report on Status of Retrospective Review Efforts
 July 2015

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DOI	BIA	Forestry Regulations	1076-AFXX	This rule will provide updates to streamline the process for obtaining BIA approval for forestry activity on Indian land.	New	Proposed: April 2016	Anticipate draft by February 2016.	Streamlined requirements	Public comment	This rule is expected to decrease information collection burdens and remove unnecessary steps in the process for conducting forestry on Indian land.

Department of the Interior
 Report on Status of Retrospective Review Efforts
 July 2015

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DOI	BIA	Tribal Energy Resource Agreements (25 CFR 224)	TBD	The Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act in 2005 authorizes Indian Affairs to enter into Tribal Energy Resource Agreements (TERA) with tribes, which in turn allow tribes to authorize energy rights-of-way and other agreements without the review and approval of the Secretary. To date, no TERAs have been completed. BIA will review the existing requirements and seek feedback on potential improvements.	New	March 2016	Planning stage	Streamlined requirements	Public comment	TERAs were meant to reduce burden by transferring the management of energy development to tribal governments, thereby empowering tribes and advancing their self-determination.

Department of the Interior
Report on Status of Retrospective Review Efforts
July 2015

Agency	Sub-Agency	Title	RIN or OMB Control Number	Summary of Initiative	Status – New, Ongoing, or Completed	Actual or Target Completion Date	Progress updates	Regulatory Flexibilities – Pilot projects, safe harbor exemptions, sunset provisions, trigger provisions, streamlined requirements, state flexibilities, or similar strategies	Methods to identify improvements – public comment, analyses, third party assessments, etc.	Anticipated savings in costs and/or information collection burdens, together with any anticipated changes in benefits
DOI	BLM	Solar/ Wind Competitive Process	1004-AE24	The BLM determined that a comprehensive, long-term wind and solar energy development program on public lands requires a robust regulatory framework that establishes a competitive process for awarding rights-of-way under current FLPMA authority.	Ongoing	Proposed rule published on September 30, 2014. Target date of final rule is October 2015.	ANPRM published in the <i>Federal Register</i> on December 29, 2011 at 76 FR 81906. Public comment period for the ANPRM closed February 27, 2012. The NPRM published on September 30, 2014, and the comment period closed on December 16, 2014. The BLM is reviewing and responding to public comments and drafting final regulation and preamble language.	Streamlined requirements.	Public comment	The rule’s regulatory framework will mitigate uncertainties for developers. Its provisions regarding bids, acreage rents, and MW capacity fees will assist the BLM in collecting fair market value for the use of public lands. Bonding provisions will mitigate potential liabilities that may result from development on public lands.

Department of the Interior
Report on Status of Retrospective Review Efforts
July 2015

Agency	Sub-Agency	Title	RIN or OMB Control Number	Summary of Initiative	Status – New, Ongoing, or Completed	Actual or Target Completion Date	Progress updates	Regulatory Flexibilities – Pilot projects, safe harbor exemptions, sunset provisions, trigger provisions, streamlined requirements, state flexibilities, or similar strategies	Methods to identify improvements – public comment, analyses, third party assessments, etc.	Anticipated savings in costs and/or information collection burdens, together with any anticipated changes in benefits
DOI	NPS	Commercial Filming and Similar Projects and Still Photography Activities – Location Fee Schedule	NA	The location fee schedule implements Public law 106-206 and will be used by DOI bureaus and the U.S. Forest Service to provide a fair return to the United States for the use of Federal lands for permitted commercial filming, similar projects, and still photography activities.	Ongoing	November 2015	The related final rule to manage commercial filming, similar activities, and still photography was published August 22, 2013 (78 FR 52087). This rule referenced the proposed location fee schedule that was published for public comment on the same date.	Streamlined requirements. This will provide one schedule across all land management agencies.	Public comment	The fee schedule will provide a fair return for use of Federal land and will provide the commercial filming industry with consistent predictable fees for their activities.

Department of the Interior
Report on Status of Retrospective Review Efforts
July 2015

Agency	Sub-Agency	Title	RIN or OMB Control Number	Summary of Initiative	Status – New, Ongoing, or Completed	Actual or Target Completion Date	Progress updates	Regulatory Flexibilities – Pilot projects, safe harbor exemptions, sunset provisions, trigger provisions, streamlined requirements, state flexibilities, or similar strategies	Methods to identify improvements – public comment, analyses, third party assessments, etc.	Anticipated savings in costs and/or information collection burdens, together with any anticipated changes in benefits
DOI	FWS	ESA Section 7 Consultation Regulations; Incidental Take Statements	1018-AX85	Court decisions rendered over the last decade regarding the adequacy of incidental take statements have prompted FWS, along with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA, Commerce), to consider clarifying the regulations concerning two aspects of issuance of incidental take statements during section 7 consultation under the Endangered Species Act. The regulatory changes address the use of surrogates to express the limit of exempted take and how to determine when deferral of an incidental take exemption is appropriate.	Completed	The final rule published May 11, 2015 (80 FR 26832).	Rule became effective June 10, 2015.	NA	Public comment, EO 12866 interagency review.	Increased clarity, consistency, and certainty associated with how the Services issue incidental take statements during interagency consultation would reduce the transaction costs incurred by Federal agencies and non-federal applicants and reduce the potential for further litigation that can have financial impacts on the Services as well as Federal and non-federal applicants.

Department of the Interior
Report on Status of Retrospective Review Efforts
July 2015

Agency	Sub-Agency	Title	RIN or OMB Control Number	Summary of Initiative	Status – New, Ongoing, or Completed	Actual or Target Completion Date	Progress updates	Regulatory Flexibilities – Pilot projects, safe harbor exemptions, sunset provisions, trigger provisions, streamlined requirements, state flexibilities, or similar strategies	Methods to identify improvements – public comment, analyses, third party assessments, etc.	Anticipated savings in costs and/or information collection burdens, together with any anticipated changes in benefits
DOI	FWS	Implementing Changes to the Regulations for Designating Critical Habitat	1018-AX86	This proposed rule would amend existing regulations governing the designation of critical habitat under section 4 of the Endangered Species Act. A number of factors, including litigation and the Services' experience over the years in interpreting and applying the statutory definition of critical habitat, have highlighted the need to clarify or revise the current regulations. This is a joint rule between the Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA, Commerce).	Ongoing		Proposed rule published in the Federal Register May 12, 2014 (79 FR 27066). The Services extended the comment period on June 26, 2014 (79 FR 36284) until October 9, 2014.		Public comment, EO 12866 interagency review.	Increased clarity, consistency, and certainty associated with how the Services designate critical habitat would reduce the transaction costs incurred by the regulated community (e.g., Federal agencies, States, Tribes, local governments, industry, private landowners).

Department of the Interior
Report on Status of Retrospective Review Efforts
July 2015

Agency	Sub-Agency	Title	RIN or OMB Control Number	Summary of Initiative	Status – New, Ongoing, or Completed	Actual or Target Completion Date	Progress updates	Regulatory Flexibilities – Pilot projects, safe harbor exemptions, sunset provisions, trigger provisions, streamlined requirements, state flexibilities, or similar strategies	Methods to identify improvements – public comment, analyses, third party assessments, etc.	Anticipated savings in costs and/or information collection burdens, together with any anticipated changes in benefits
DOI	FWS	Policy for the Designation of Critical Habitat Under Section 4 of the Endangered Species Act	1018-AX87	This proposed policy would articulate the purpose of critical habitat, provide a clear interpretation of the statutory definition of "critical habitat," and describe a comprehensive approach for designating critical habitat under section 4 of the Endangered Species Act. This policy will help provide clarity and consistency in the designation of critical habitat in an effort to ensure that the purposes of the Endangered Species Act are fully met. We will seek public review and comment on the proposed policy. This is a joint policy with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA, Commerce).	Ongoing		Proposed policy published in the Federal Register May 12, 2014 (79 FR 27052). The Services extended the comment period on June 26, 2014 (79 FR 36330) until October 9, 2014.		Public comment, EO 12866 interagency review.	Increased clarity, consistency, and certainty associated with how the Services designate critical habitat would reduce the transaction costs incurred by the regulated community (e.g., Federal agencies, States, Tribes, local governments, industry, private landowners).

Department of the Interior
Report on Status of Retrospective Review Efforts
July 2015

Agency	Sub-Agency	Title	RIN or OMB Control Number	Summary of Initiative	Status – New, Ongoing, or Completed	Actual or Target Completion Date	Progress updates	Regulatory Flexibilities – Pilot projects, safe harbor exemptions, sunset provisions, trigger provisions, streamlined requirements, state flexibilities, or similar strategies	Methods to identify improvements – public comment, analyses, third party assessments, etc.	Anticipated savings in costs and/or information collection burdens, together with any anticipated changes in benefits
DOI	FWS	Definition of "Destruction or Adverse Modification" of Critical Habitat	1018-AX88	The proposed rule would amend the existing regulations governing section 7 consultation under the Endangered Species Act to revise the definition of "destruction or adverse modification" of critical habitat. The current regulatory definition has been invalidated by the courts for being inconsistent with the language of the Endangered Species Act. We therefore need to propose a revised definition and seek public review and comment. This is a joint rulemaking with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA, Commerce).	Ongoing		Proposed rule published in the Federal Register May 12, 2014 (79 FR 27060). The Services extended the comment period on June 26, 2014 (79 FR 36284) until October 9, 2014.	NA	Public comment, EO 12866 interagency review.	Increased clarity, consistency, and certainty associated with how the Services define "destruction or adverse modification" of critical habitat would reduce the transaction costs incurred by Federal agencies and non-federal applicants and reduce the potential for further litigation that can have financial impacts on the Services as well as Federal and non-federal applicants.

Department of the Interior
Report on Status of Retrospective Review Efforts
July 2015

Agency	Sub-Agency	Title	RIN or OMB Control Number	Summary of Initiative	Status – New, Ongoing, or Completed	Actual or Target Completion Date	Progress updates	Regulatory Flexibilities – Pilot projects, safe harbor exemptions, sunset provisions, trigger provisions, streamlined requirements, state flexibilities, or similar strategies	Methods to identify improvements – public comment, analyses, third party assessments, etc.	Anticipated savings in costs and/or information collection burdens, together with any anticipated changes in benefits
DOI	FWS	Revised Petitions Regulations	1018-BA53	The ESA and implementing regulations sets forth standards for identifying what constitutes a petition to list, delist or reclassify a species under the ESA and the procedures for processing a petition. The Services are proposing to change the regulations at 50 CFR 424.14 pertaining to the petition process to provide greater clarity to the public on the petition submission process, including coordination with the affected States, and expanded content requirements and guideline which will assist petitioners in providing complete petitions.	Ongoing	Proposed rule published in the Federal Register May 21, 2015 (80 FR 29286).	The comment period on the proposed rule closes on Sept 18, 2015.	NA	Public comment, EO 12866 interagency review.	The public will have better instructions on how to submit a petition and include necessary information; the Services will gain efficiency in processing petitions and producing 90-day findings as a result of the higher quality and completeness of petitions received; coordination with State partners will be improved.

Department of the Interior
Report on Status of Retrospective Review Efforts
July 2015

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DOI	FWS	50 CFR Part 14- Importation, exportation, and transportation of wildlife.	1018-AZ71	Revision of port structure and declaration processes to accommodate changes under the International Trade Data System (ITDS). To be incorporated in planned updates of 50 CFR Part 14 [Subpart A (definitions), Subpart B (ports), Subpart E (inspection and clearance of wildlife), Subpart F (declarations), Subpart H (marking), Subpart I (licenses and fees), Subpart J (humane transport)].	Ongoing	Target date for publication of the proposed rule is December 2015.	In Progress.	NA	Public comment	Once completed, electronic collection through ITDS promises to provide businesses engaged in international trade with a coordinated government response on admissibility of a shipment or allowance for export. We anticipate these rule changes will simplify the wildlife inspection process and resolve current areas of confusion.

Department of the Interior
 Report on Status of Retrospective Review Efforts
 July 2015

Agency	Sub-Agency	Title	RIN or OMB Control Number	Summary of Initiative	Status – New, Ongoing, or Completed	Actual or Target Completion Date	Progress updates	Regulatory Flexibilities – Pilot projects, safe harbor exemptions, sunset provisions, trigger provisions, streamlined requirements, state flexibilities, or similar strategies	Methods to identify improvements – public comment, analyses, third party assessments, etc.	Anticipated savings in costs and/or information collection burdens, together with any anticipated changes in benefits
DOI	FWS	Migratory Bird Hunting; 2016-17 Migratory Game Bird Hunting Regulations	1018-BA70	A new schedule will be used for setting annual migratory bird hunting regulations. The current early and late season regulatory actions will be combined into a single process--based on predictions derived from long-term biological information and established harvest strategies-- that will establish seasons much earlier than the current system.	New	Target date for publication of the proposed rule is July 2015.	EO Review	State agencies can select/publish their season dates much earlier than the current system.	There will be increased opportunity for public comment.	There will be greater predictability with respect to hunting seasons and harvest limits. Fewer meetings will be required to establish seasons, lowering administrative costs by 40% per year and substantially lowering the Service's carbon footprint due to a decrease in travel.

Department of the Interior
 Report on Status of Retrospective Review Efforts
 July 2015

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DOI and DOC	FWS and NMFS	Section 7 Net Conservation Benefit	TBD	This regulation would streamline the section 7 process for projects that are intended to restore habitats when the effect of the project on listed species will be beneficial.	New	October 2015	Drafting in progress	This regulation would streamline the section 7 process.	We anticipate internal and early federal agency review, as well as public comment in order to improve the regulation prior to finalization.	This regulation would help expedite implementation of restoration projects, thereby reducing costs and promoting the recovery of listed species.

Department of the Interior
 Report on Status of Retrospective Review Efforts
 July 2015

Agency	Sub-Agency	Title	RIN or OMB Control Number	Summary of Initiative	Status – New, Ongoing, or Completed	Actual or Target Completion Date	Progress updates	Regulatory Flexibilities – Pilot projects, safe harbor exemptions, sunset provisions, trigger provisions, streamlined requirements, state flexibilities, or similar strategies	Methods to identify improvements – public comment, analyses, third party assessments, etc.	Anticipated savings in costs and/or information collection burdens, together with any anticipated changes in benefits
DOI	OCIO	Enterprise forms System (EFS)		Consolidate all DOI forms electronically in a way that they can be pre-populated and completed online.	Ongoing	10/2017	DOI has identified 160 forms to be converted to an electronic form for online access. As of July 2015, 105 forms are available electronically. DOI expects to have all 160 forms completed in FY 2016.	NA		30,000 hours This will make the forms more accessible, save time and money, increase consistency, and decrease the potential for human error. It will also improve tracking and reporting capability.

Department of the Interior
 Report on Status of Retrospective Review Efforts
 July 2015

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DOI	USGS	Bird banding	OMB control number 1028-0082	Create new streamlined online bird banding permit and reporting website.	Ongoing	December 2016	The BANDIT system was completed in July 2012. The target completion date for the electronic permitting system is expected in July 2015.			6,898 hours Online tools save significant time and money and make the process more accessible. They also reduce the potential for human error.

Department of the Interior
 Report on Status of Retrospective Review Efforts
 July 2015

Agency	Sub-Agency	Title	RIN or OMB Control Number	Summary of Initiative	Status – New, Ongoing, or Completed	Actual or Target Completion Date	Progress updates	Regulatory Flexibilities – Pilot projects, safe harbor exemptions, sunset provisions, trigger provisions, streamlined requirements, state flexibilities, or similar strategies	Methods to identify improvements – public comment, analyses, third party assessments, etc.	Anticipated savings in costs and/or information collection burdens, together with any anticipated changes in benefits
DOI	NPS	Electronic Backcountry Use Reservation System	1024-0022	Develop an automated reservation system for Backcountry Use Permits.	Ongoing	9/2016	Still in planning stage. The NPS anticipates being able to automate the system by Fall 2016.			5,938 hours An automated reservation system will greatly increase convenience and accessibility for users. It will speed the process and require fewer resources of users and the NPS.

Department of the Interior
 Report on Status of Retrospective Review Efforts
 July 2015

Agency	Sub-Agency	Title	RIN or OMB Control Number	Summary of Initiative	Status – New, Ongoing, or Completed	Actual or Target Completion Date	Progress updates	Regulatory Flexibilities – Pilot projects, safe harbor exemptions, sunset provisions, trigger provisions, streamlined requirements, state flexibilities, or similar strategies	Methods to identify improvements – public comment, analyses, third party assessments, etc.	Anticipated savings in costs and/or information collection burdens, together with any anticipated changes in benefits
DOI	FWS	Electronic submission of permit applications and reports	1018-0022, 1018-0092, 1018-0093, and 1018-0094	Upgrade the Service Permit Issuance and Tracking System (SPITS) to incorporate the e-Permits online website for submission of application forms and annual reports. The E-permits system is an electronic submission system for permit applications and reports for migratory birds, law enforcement, CITES, and endangered species.	Ongoing	12/2016	The E-Permits system was launched on January 23, 2013, with one approved application form for the Division of Management Authority. We have brought a contractor onboard for the forms development. The first application form for the migratory bird program is currently being developed with a proposed launch by the end of 2015.	NA	Public comment, pilot program	9,100 hours. The E-permits system will make it easier and require less time and resources for applicants and those who must submit reports. It will allow access from anywhere with an Internet connection.

Department of the Interior
Report on Status of Retrospective Review Efforts
July 2015

Agency	Sub-Agency	Title	RIN or OMB Control Number	Summary of Initiative	Status – New, Ongoing, or Completed	Actual or Target Completion Date	Progress updates	Regulatory Flexibilities – Pilot projects, safe harbor exemptions, sunset provisions, trigger provisions, streamlined requirements, state flexibilities, or similar strategies	Methods to identify improvements – public comment, analyses, third party assessments, etc.	Anticipated savings in costs and/or information collection burdens, together with any anticipated changes in benefits
DOI	ONRR	Lease Sale Payment Terms	1012-AA16	ONRR is amending and clarifying regulations concerning oil, gas and coal lease sale payment terms. In the direct final rule, ONRR will amend those sections that identify payment options to DOI stating that directions for payment will be specified in the lease sale offering terms.	New	9/2015	ONRR completed a draft rule	Goal is to increase payment flexibility and to promote further use of electronic payment methods. DOI can notify potential bidders of their payment options during the pre-sale notification process, which occurs 90 days prior to the lease sale date. This will promote the DOI's effort to consolidate revenue streams as well as promote electronic payments, in which the Treasury highly encourages.	n/a	This will provide the flexibility to transition to having bidders make payments directly to ONRR. There will be cost savings associated with ONRR directly collecting the rent and bonus revenues instead of BLM collecting them and sending the rent and bonus collections to ONRR via IPAC.