Dated: July 23, 1998.

David S. Cristy,

Director, IRM Policy and Management Division.

Title of Proposal: Loan Guarantee Recovery Fund established pursuant to the Church Arson Prevention Act of 1996.

Office: Community Planning and Development.

OMB Approval Number: 2506–0159.

Description of the Need for the Information and Its Proposed Use: Section 4 of the Church Arson Prevention Act of 1996 authorizes the Secretary of HUD to guarantee loans made to certain nonprofit organizations whose properties have been damaged by an act or acts or arson or terrorism. The information will be used to evaluate the organizations to determine whether: (1) the borrower is an eligible section 501(C)(3) nonprofit organization; (2) the financial institution is eligible under the regulations, and utilizes sufficient underwriting standards; (3) the use of guaranteed loan funds is limited to assisting property damaged or destroyed by acts of arson or terrorism; (4) the organizations which will be assisted by the loan are eligible under 24 CFR Section 573.3; (5) the required certifications are made; and (6) the assisted organizations will comply with all applicable environmental laws and requirements.

Form Number: SF–424, 40076–LGA.

Respondents: Not-For-Profit Institutions and Businesses or Other For-Profit.

Frequency of Submission: Recordkeeping, On Occasion, and Monthly.

Reporting Burden:

	Number of respondents	×	Frequency of response	×	Hours per response	=	Burden hours
Application:							
Nonprofits	50		1		16		800
Other	50		1		32		1600
Recordkeeping	50		52		2		5200
Progress Reports	50		52		1		2600

Total Estimated Burden Hours: 10,200.

Status: Reinstatement, with changes.

Contact: Tony Johnston, HUD, (202) 708–1871 x4560, Joseph F. Lackey, Jr., OMB, (202) 395–7316.

Dated: July 23, 1998.

[FR Doc. 98–20664 Filed 8–3–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Endangered and Threatened Species Permit Application

ACTION: Notice of receipt of application.

SUMMARY: The following applicant applied for a scientific research permit to conduct certain activities with endangered species pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*)

Permit No. 778102

Applicant: Assistant Regional Director-Ecological Services, Region 7, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Anchorage, Alaska.

The applicant requests authorization to renew U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Endangered Species Permit PRT–778102, from September 15, 1998, through December 31, 2003. This permit would allow ''take'' associated with propagation and scientific research (i.e., harass by survey, capture, hold, radio tag, mark, collect biological samples, release, and captive breed) of individuals of threatened and endangered species. The taking would be in conjunction with recovery efforts, for the purpose of enhancing species' survival. The species for which the permit would apply are the spectacled eider *(Somateria fischeri)*, Steller's eider *(Polysticta stelleri)*, Aleutian Canada goose *(Branta canadensis leucopareia)*, and American peregrine falcon *(Falco peregrinus anatum)*.

DATES: Written comments on this permit application must be received on or before September 3, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Written data or comments concerning this permit renewal should be sent to Karen Boylan, Endangered Species Permits Coordinator, Ecological Services, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1011 East Tudor Road, Anchorage, Alaska, 99503 (facsimile: 907/786–3350). Please refer to the permit number when submitting comments. All comments, including names and addresses, received will become part of the official administrative record may be made available to the public.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Documents and other information submitted with this application are available for review, subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act and the Freedom of Information Act, by any party who submits a written request for a copy of such documents within 20 days of the date of publication of this notice. Requests for information should be submitted to the Endangered Species Permit Coordinator, at the above address (telephone: 907/786–3431). Please refer to the permit number when requesting copies of documents.

Dated: July 24, 1998.

Everett Robinson-Wilson,

Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, Region 7, Anchorage, Alaska.

[FR Doc. 98–20685 Filed 8–3–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–55–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Geological Survey

Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC); Public Review of the Biological Data Profile of the Content Standard for Digital Geospatial Metadata

ACTION: Notice; Request for comments.

SUMMARY: The FGDC is conducting a public review of the Biological Data Profile of the Content Standard for Digital Geospatial Metadata. The purpose of this public review is to provide software vendors, data users and producers with an opportunity to comment on this standard in order to ensure that it meets their needs. Specifically, the FGDC requests responses in identifying issues concerning: (1) Extended elements and doman changes, (2) utility and functionality of the production rules and (3) the standard's comprehensiveness for documenting biological data.

Participants in the public review are encouraged to provide comments that address specific issues/changes/additions that may result in revisions to the draft Biological Data Profile of the Content Standard for Digital Geospatial Metadata. All participants who make

comments during the public review period will receive an acknowledgment of the receipt of their comment. After comments have been considered, participants will receive notification of how their comments were addressed. After the formal adoption of the standard by the FGDC, the revised standard and a summary analysis of the changes will be made available.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before October 30, 1998.

CONTACT AND ADDRESSES: The draft standard is posted at Internet address: http://www.fgdc.gov/Standards/Documents/Standards/BioData/

Requests for written copies of the standard should be addressed to ''Biological Data Profile of the Content Standard for Digital Geospatial Metadata'', FGDC Secretariat (attn: Jennifer Fox), U.S. Geological Survey, 590 National Center, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, Virginia, 20192; or telephone 703–648–5514; facsimile 703–648–5755; or Internet at gdc@usgs.gov.

Reviewer's comments may be sent to the FGDC via Internet mail to: gdc-bioprof@usgs.gov. Reviewer comments may also be sent to the FGDC Secretariat at the above address. Please send one hardcopy version of the comments and a soft copy version, preferably on a 3.5×3.5 diskette in WordPerfect 5.0 or 6.0/6.1 format.

For answers to general questions related to this standard, please contact the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) Biological Data Working Group, U.S.G.S. Biological Resources Division, Center for Biological Informatics, Bldg 810 Denver Federal Center, PO Box 25046, MS 302, Denver, CO 80225–0046; voice telephone number: Maury Nyquist (303) 202–4217; facsimile telephone number: (303) 202–4219, Internet address: maury__nyquist@usgs.gov.

For answers to questions related to the content of this standard, please contact Susan Stitt U.S.G.S. Biological Resources Division, Center for Biological Informatics, Bldg 810 Denver Federal Center, PO Box 25046, MS 302, Denver, CO 80225–0046; voice telephone number: (303) 202–4234; facsimile telephone number: (303) 202–4219, Internet address: susan__stitt@usgs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Following is the complete proposal for the ''Biological Data Profile of the Content Standard for Digital Geospatial Metadata''

Project Title: Metadata Content Standard for Biological Data.

Submitting Organization: Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) Biological Data Working Group (BDWG).

Objectives: The purpose of this proposed standard is to provide a user-defined or theme-specific profile of the FGDC metadata content standard for geospatial data to increase its utility for documenting biological resources data and information. This standard will thus support increased access to and use of biological data among users on a national (and international) basis. It will also help to broaden the understanding and implementation of the FGDC metadata content standard within the biological resources community.

Scope: This standard will be used to specify metadata content for the full range of biological resources data and information. This includes biological data which are explicitly geospatial in nature, as well as data which are not explicitly geospatial (such as data resulting from laboratory-based research). It also includes ''information'' categories, such as research reports, field notes or specimen collections.

Justification/benefits: The USGS Biological Resources Division (BRD) is charged with fostering a broad cooperative effort for sharing of biological resources information: the National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII). As a component of the National Information Infrastructure and a biological complement to the NSDI, NBII functions as a widely distributed federation of biological data and information sources. A key element in fostering development of a distributed federation of biological data and information is the availability of a standardized approach to metadata documentation that is adapted for use by the biological science community. Although the Federal Geographic Data Committee's (FGDC) metadata content standard provides excellent documentation of a data set from the geospatial perspective, it is limited and, in some aspects, inadequate, for describing data from the biological science perspective. For example, one consistent need in describing different biological data sets so that they can be compared, shared, integrated, etc. is to document the necessary bio-systematics aspects of the data (i.e., taxonomy and nomenclature for species and higher toxonomic groups). Mutual understanding of what species are being discussed (or at least which classification system is being used to classify and name the species) is basic. Obviously, the existing FGDC geospatial metadata standard was not designed to focus on this type of community-specific requirement.

In addition, a significant portion of the available body of biological resources data and information was not collected or intended to be applied in a way that is explicitly geospatial, for example, data resulting from *in vitro* laboratory research. Rather than have these types of ''non-geospatial'' data and information be documented using an entirely different metadata content standard, BRD wanted to provide, as part of the NBII, an inclusive biological metadata standard that could be used to describe biological data and information in all its forms.

Therefore, the BRD has identified a need for a special profile version of the FGDC geospatial metadata content standard that incorporates all elements of the base standard, while adding user-defined elements to this ''base'' standard that will support its implementation within the biological sciences user community. The benefits to this approach include support for further development of the NBII biological data federation, and broader understanding, acceptance, and implementation of the FGDC metadata standard to an important community.

In the clearinghouse arena, any metadata created with the proposed biological resource metadata standard should function in harmony with metadata created in compliance with the FGDC's geospatial metadata standard. Search tools developed for FGDC-compliant metadata should function identically on standard biological resource metadata. In addition, the proposed standard will allow for searching the additional biological information documented, such as on biological taxonomy and nomenclature.

Approach: BRD has taken the following approach to developing the proposed biological resource metadata standard. At the end of 1994, BRD (then, NBS) assembled a small *ad hoc* work group, composed of NBS specialists familiar with the FGDC metadata standard, as well as representatives from the FGDC and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This group started with the FGDC standard, extracting key or core elements from it that pertained equally to data that are explicitly geospatial, as well as those that are not explicitly geospatial. Then additional elements were added to these core elements of the FGDC standard to provide needed coverage for biological resource data. These elements were also evaluated in the context of USMARC. The result was a basic structure (architecture) and elements for the Biological Resource Metadata Standard (i.e., a strawman standard).

BRD then commissioned the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS), a leading national professional society representing a cross-section of the biological science disciplines, to conduct an expert peer review of the strawman standard from the point of view of its completeness and utility for the biological science community. In May 1995 AIBS convened a panel of national biological science experts to review and analyze the draft standard. The panel released a draft report and recommendations in July 1995, which was then reviewed by BRD and its partners and cooperators. The panel's final report and recommendations were released in September 1995. BRD then used the recommendations of the AIBS review (and the results of limited test implementations) in revising the strawman standard. The resulting Draft Content Standard for NBII Metadata was originally presented to the FGDC Standards Working Group in January 1996 for formal consideration. Subsequently, the FGDC Biological Data Working Group has adopted and endorsed the draft biological metadata standard and has undertaken the responsibility for moving the draft standard through the FGDC standards process.

Related Standards: As a user-defined profile, the proposed biological resource metadata content standard is dependent upon the completion of the revision of the FGDC geospatial metadata standard which is currently underway. Depending on the outcome of the revision of the FGDC geospatial metadata standard, it may be necessary to make subsequent revision to the proposed biological resource metadata standard to ensure that it is fully compatible with new aspects of the FGDC standard (particularly as these apply to the development of user-defined profiles). The proposed biological resource metadata standard also relates to the vegetation, earth cover, soils, and wetlands classification standards which are adopted or currently under development.

Schedule: As noted above, the proposed biological resource metadata standard was originally presented for consideration by the Standards Working Group In January 1996. At that time, the SWG indicated that because this proposed standard was an enhancement of the FGDC geospatial metadata standard, formal action on the biological metadata standard would most appropriately be done after the revision of the FGDC geospatial metadata standard was completed. The SWG also indicated that since the design and structure of the proposed biological resource metadata standard was in agreement with the existing form of the FGDC metadata standard, it was acceptable for the BRD and its partners and cooperators in the NBII effort to begin implementation of the biological resource metadata standard in the interim.

Following the revision of the FGDC geospatial metadata standard, the BRD would make necessary revisions to the biological resource metadata standard to bring it into congruence and compatibility and would then present this revised version for formal review through the FGDC SWG process. It is anticipated that this revised version of the proposed standard could be represented to the SEG within six months of the end point of the current revision of the FGDC geospatial metadata standard.

Resources: This proposed standard has been developed using staffing and funding resources of the USGS BRD. It is anticipated that any necessary revisions to the proposed standard, based on the results of the current revi8sion to the FGDC geospatial metadata content standard, can be completed using existing BRD resources.

Potential Participants: To date, the BRD has consulted with a broad variety of government and non-government agencies and organizations in the development and refinement of this proposed standard (e.g. American institute of Biological Sciences, Ecological Society of America, The Nature Conservancy, Fish and Wildlife Information Exchange, Association of Systematics Collections, and several Federal agencies). Information on the standard was presented at the First IEEE International Metadata Conference in 1996 and at Eco-Informa 96. Subsequently, the FGDC Biological Data Working Group has adopted and endorsed the draft biological metadata standard and has undertaken the responsibility for moving the draft standard through the FGDC standards process.

We expect to continue to solicit involvement and input of all interested parties as the standard moves through the formal FGDC approval process.

Target Authorization Body: This proposed standard is not currently targeted for consideration by any other authorizing bodies. As a user-defined profile of the FGDC geospatial metadata standard, it is expected that this proposed standard (once approved by the FGDC) could be ''linked'' with the FGDC geospatial metadata standard in any subsequent authorization of that standard by ANSI, ISO, or other group.

Dated: July 27, 1998.

Richard E. Witmer,

Chief, National Mapping Division, U.S. Geological Survey.

[FR Doc. 98–20761 Filed 8–3–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–Y7–M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[MT–921–08–1320–01; NDM 86601]

Availability of Final Environmental Analysis and Request for Comments on the Fair Market Value and Maximum Economic Recovery; Coal Lease Application NDM 86601—Knife River Corporation

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management requests public comment on the final environmental analysis, maximum economic recovery, and the fair market value of certain coal resources it proposes to offer for competitive lease sale.

The land included in Coal Lease Application NDM 86601, located in Mercer County, North Dakota, and is described as follows:

T. 143 N., R. 88 W., 5th P.M.

Sec. 24: NW¼NW¼, S½NW¼, SW¼, S½SE¼,

Containing 360.000 acres

There are three principal minable coal seams in the tract. They are the School House, Upper Beulah-Zap, and Lower Beulah-Zap. The tract contains an estimated 6.21 million tons of recoverable reserves.

The School House seam averages 5.8 feet in thickness. Coal quality, as received, averages 6643 BTU/lb., 36.66 percent moisture, 10.43 percent ash, and 1.24 percent sulfur.

The Upper Beulah-Zap seam averages 10.9 feet in thickness. Coal quality, as received, averages 6776 BTU/lb., 38.52 percent moisture, 5.94 percent ash, and 0.49 percent sulfur.

The Lower Beulah-Zap seam averages 3.5 feet in thickness. Coal quality, as received, averages 6717 BTU/lb., 38.27 percent moisture, 7.32 percent ash, and 0.76 percent sulfur.

The public is invited to submit written comments on the environmental analysis, fair market value, and the maximum economic recovery of the tract.

In addition, notice is also given that a public hearing will be held on