

information and descriptive information on livestock operations. Questions on age, education, employment, primary language spoken in the household, and years of residence in the area provided demographic data. Information on livestock operations consists of questions concerning number of years the permittee and his family have owned livestock and have had Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management grazing permits. The number and type of animals owned is also requested. A third section deals with costs and benefits of owning livestock with questions focused on the costs of the livestock operation and on the economic contribution of the livestock to family income. Use of the animals and their by-products for household consumption and exchange with relatives and neighbors is also included.

The remaining four sections emphasize social, lifestyle, and cultural contributions of livestock ownership, including the reasons for owning livestock, community activities related to owning livestock, a rancher's preferred means of saving money, uses of the money earned from the livestock operation, and plans to use the livestock operation as a retirement activity. Questions also elicit information on the role of livestock ownership in selecting a place of residence, the social and business activities that result from livestock ownership, and whether a permittee grazes his cattle with relatives or neighbors or both.

A section on family goals requests respondents to prioritize statements concerning increasing family income, increasing the quality of life, maintaining traditional lifestyles and values, and having greater respect within the community. Another question asks respondents to prioritize family goals for the livestock operation, such as making more money from the operation, increasing the family's quality of life, avoiding being forced out of ranching, and increasing the size of the operation. The section on land ownership and use attitudes contains questions concerning the merits of hiring local versus non-local workers, selling land to local versus non-local buyers, and managing federal lands primarily for the benefit of local residents or for all U.S. citizens. Other questions deal with a rancher's willingness to sell inherited land and their views on what factors constitute land ownership.

*Estimated Burden:* 1 hour and 15 minutes per respondent.

*Type of Respondents:* Voluntarily responding grazing permittees on the Canjilon and Espanola Ranger districts.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 112.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 1.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 140 hours.

#### Interviews

Forest Service researchers intent to conduct personal interviews with a randomly selected sample of one-third of the questionnaire respondents from each district (or at least 18 individuals per district). These interviews will be used to discuss views and opinions about the livestock operations in greater depth. The interviews will also expand the discussion concerning the role of livestock operations in family life and the maintenance of cultural traditions.

The questions for the interviews are the following:

1. Please describe your feelings about the land and livestock operation you own and what role they play in your family's life.

2. Do you use your land and livestock to teach your children about traditional values and their heritage? If so, how do you accomplish this?

3. Please give your opinion concerning who has the right to own land and make decisions concerning its use.

4. What are your views on the implementation of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo signed in 1848 by the United States and Mexico?

5. Describe your experiences and feelings concerning working with the government (Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management) on your allotment(s).

6. Please discuss the most serious problems you face in your livestock operation today. How would you solve these problems?

Since we seek to record the respondent's own story and opinions in the interview section, there may be some instances where questions are expanded or added to clarify or more fully develop a response due to the ethnographic nature of this portion of the study.

*Estimate of Burden:* 2 hours per respondent.

*Type of Respondents:* Voluntarily responding sample of grazing permittees from the Canjilon and Espanola Districts, who filled out the questionnaire.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 36.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 1,

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 72 hours.

#### Comment is Invited

The agency invites comments on the following: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

#### Use of Comment

All comments, including name and address when provided, will become a matter of public record. Comments received in response to his notice will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval.

Dated: April 3, 1998.

**Ronald E. Stewart,**

*Acting Associate Chief,*

[FR Doc. 98-9234 Filed 4-7-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

#### DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

##### Rural Utilities Service

##### Information Collection Activity; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended), the Rural Utilities Service's (RUS) invites comments on these information collections for which RUS intends to request approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by June 8, 1998.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** F. Lamont Heppe, Jr., Director, Program Development Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., STOP 1522, Room 4036 South Building, Washington, DC 20250-1522. Telephone: (202) 720-9550. FAX: (202) 720-4120.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Office of Management and Budget's (OMB)

regulation (5 CFR 1320) implementing provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) require that interested members of the public and affected agencies have an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping activities (see 5 CFR 1320.8(d)). This notice identifies information collection that RUS is submitting to OMB for an extension.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether this proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to: F. Lamont Heppe, Jr., Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 1522, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-1522. FAX: (202) 720-4120.

**Title:** Report of Compliance and Participation.

**OMB Control Number:** 0572-0047.

**Type of Request:** Extension of a previously approved information collection without change.

**Abstract:** The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) manages programs in accordance with the Rural Electrification Act (RE Act) of 1936, 7 U.S.C. 901 *et seq.*, as amended, and as prescribed by OMB Circular A-129, Policies for Federal Credit Programs and Non-Tax Receivables.

RUS Form 268 is designed for use by RUS electric and telephone borrowers in complying with the reporting requirements outlined in RUS Bulletin 20-19:320-19, "Nondiscrimination Among Beneficiaries of RUS Programs." RUS is required to implement regulations of the Department of Justice and USDA and to provide for the collection of civil rights data and information from applicants for and recipients of Federal assistance sufficient to permit effective enforcement of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (ACTs). RUS Form 268 serves as a compliance report and facilitates RUS' responsibilities in enforcing compliance by electric and telephone borrowers with the requirements of the ACTs.

**Respondents:** Small businesses or organizations.

**Estimated Number of Respondents and Recordkeepers:** 1,840.

**Estimated Hours Per Respondent and Recordkeepers:** 0.67 hours.

**Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:** 1,233 hours.

Requests for copies of an information collection can be obtained from Gail Salgado-Duff, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, at (202) 205-3660. FAX: (202) 720-4120.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: April 2, 1998.

**Wally Beyer,**

*Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.*

[FR Doc. 98-9201 Filed 4-7-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-15-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Utilities Service

#### Information Collection Activity; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended), the Rural Utilities Service's (RUS) invites comments on these information collections for which RUS intends to request approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by June 8, 1998.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** F. Lamont Heppe, Jr., Director, Program Development Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., STOP 1522, Room 4036 South Building, Washington, DC 20250-1522. Telephone: (202) 720-9550. FAX: (202) 720-4120.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) regulation (5 CFR 1320) implementing provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) require that interested members of the public and affected agencies have an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping activities (see 5 CFR 1320.8(d)). This notice identifies information collection that RUS is submitting to OMB for reinstatement.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether this proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance

of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to: F. Lamont Heppe, Jr., Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 1522, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-1522. FAX: (202) 720-4120.

**Title:** Accounting Requirements for Electric and Telecommunications Borrowers and Manual for Preservation of Electric Borrowers Records.

**OMB Control Number:** 0572-0003.

**Type of Request:** Extension of a previously approved information collection, with change to combine 0572-0002 (Accounting Requirements for Electric Borrowers), 0572-0003 (Accounting Requirements for RUS Telephone Borrowers), and 0572-0012 (Manual for Preservation of Borrowers' Records, Electric.)

**Abstract:** The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) manages programs in accordance with the Rural Electrification Act (RE Act) of 1936, 7 U.S.C. 901 *et seq.*, as amended, and as prescribed by OMB Circular A-129, Policies for Federal Credit Programs and Non-Tax Receivables.

The combination of these regulations and bulletin will provide the system of accounts to be used by RUS electric and telecommunications borrowers to provide RUS management with the information necessary to evaluate their financial performance, provides consistency and comparability of financial information, and determines the period records are to be retained to meet RUS' audit objective as well as other financial considerations.

**Respondents:** Small businesses or organizations.

**Estimated Number of Recordkeepers:** 1,610.

**Estimated Annual Hours Per Recordkeeper:** 150 hours.

**Estimated Total Recordkeeping Hours:** 241,760 hours.

Requests for copies of an information collection can be obtained from Gail Salgado-Duff, Program Support and Regulatory Analysis, at (202) 205-3660. FAX: (202) 720-4120.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request