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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket No. FV99-917-1 NC]

Notice of Request for Extension and Revision of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of revision and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), this notice announces the Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) intention to request an extension and revision to the currently approved information collection for Peaches Grown in California, Marketing Order No. 917 and Winter Pears Grown in Oregon and Washington, Marketing Order No. 927.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by January 10, 2000 to be assured of consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Contact Tershirra T. Yeager, Marketing Assistant, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, Post Office Box 96456, Room 2525-S, Washington, DC 20090-6456, Telephone: (202) 720-2491, Fax: (202) 720-5698; or E-mail: moabdocket_clerk@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Peaches Grown in California, Marketing Order No. 917; OMB number 0581-0080; Winter Pears Grown in Oregon and Washington, Marketing Order No. 927; OMB number 0581-0089.

Expiration Date of Approval: 0581-0080 expires on May 31, 2000 and 0581-0089 expires on July 31, 2000.

Type of Request: Extension and revision of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: Marketing order programs provide an opportunity for producers of fresh fruits, vegetables and specialty crops, in a specified production area, to work together to solve marketing problems that cannot be solved individually. Order regulations help ensure adequate supplies of high quality product and adequate returns to producers. Under the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 (AMAA), as amended (7 U.S.C. 601-674), industries enter into marketing order programs. The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to oversee the order operations and issue regulations recommended by a committee of representatives from each commodity industry.

California Peaches

The California peach marketing order program, which has been operating since 1939, authorizes the issuance of grade, size, and maturity regulations, inspection requirements, and marketing and production research including paid advertising. Regulatory provisions apply to peaches shipped within and out of the area of production to any market, except those specifically exempted by the marketing order.

The information collection requirements in this request are essential to carry out the intent of the AMAA, to provide the respondents the type of service they request, and to administer the California peach marketing order program.

The order, and rules and regulations issued thereunder, authorize the Peach Commodity Committee (Committee), the agency responsible for local administration of the order, to require handlers to submit certain information. Much of this information is compiled in aggregate and provided to the industry to assist in marketing decisions.

The Committee has developed forms, as a convenience to persons who are required to file information with the Committee relating to peach production and supplies, shipments, inventories, and other information needed to effectively carry out the purposes of the AMAA and the order. A USDA form is used to allow growers to vote on amendments or continuance of the marketing order. In addition, peach growers and handlers who are nominated by their peers to serve as representatives on the Committee must

file nomination forms with the Secretary.

These forms require a minimum of information necessary to effectively carry out the requirements of the order, and their use is necessary to fulfill the intent of the AMAA as expressed in the order.

The information collected is used only by authorized representatives of the USDA, including AMS, Fruit and Vegetable Programs' regional and headquarter's staff, and authorized employees of the Committee. Authorized Committee employees and the industry are the primary users of the information and AMS is the secondary user.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.726 hours per response.

Respondents: California peach producers and for-profit businesses handling fresh peaches produced in California.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 721.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.957.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 1,411 hours.

Winter Pears

The winter pear marketing order authorizes the issuance of grade, size, quality, inspection, and reporting requirements for any variety of winter pear. Currently grade, size, quality, and inspection requirements are not being used. The marketing order also provides authority to fund projects involving production research, marketing research and development, and marketing promotion, including paid advertising. The order, and rules and regulations issued thereunder, authorize the Winter Pear Control Committee (WPCC), which is responsible for locally administering the program, to require handlers and growers to submit certain information. Much of the information is compiled in aggregate and provided to the industry to assist in marketing decisions.

The WPCC has developed forms as a convenience to persons who are required to file information with the WPCC relating to winter pear production and supplies, shipments, inventories, and other information needed to effectively carry out the purposes of the AMAA and the order. A USDA form is used to allow growers to

vote on amendments or continuance of the marketing order. In addition, winter pear growers and handlers who are nominated by their peers to serve as representatives on the WPCC must file nomination forms with the Secretary.

These forms require the minimum information necessary to effectively carry out the requirements of the order, and their use is necessary to fulfill the intent of the AMAA as expressed in the order.

The information collected is used only by authorized representatives of the USDA, including AMS, Fruit and Vegetable Programs regional and headquarter's staff, and authorized employees of the WPCC. Authorized WPCC employees and the industry are the primary users of the information and AMS is the secondary user.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.764 hours per response.

Respondents: Winter pear producers and for-profit businesses handling fresh winter pears produced in Oregon and Washington.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,890.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.8873

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 3,567 hours.

Comments are invited on: (1) 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; (2) 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; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments should reference OMB No. 0581-0080 and California Peach Marketing Order No. 917; and OMB No. 0581-0089 and the Winter Pear Marketing Order No. 927, and be mailed to Docket Clerk, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, Post Office Box 96456, Room 2525-S, Washington, DC 20090-6456; Fax: (202) 720-5698; or E-mail: moabdocket_clerk@usda.gov. All comments received will be available for public inspection during regular business hours at the same address.

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: November 4, 1999.

Robert C. Keeney,

Deputy Administrator, Fruit and Vegetable Programs.

[FR Doc. 99-29488 Filed 11-9-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Revision of the Land and Resource Management Plan for the Bighorn National Forest located in Sheridan, Johnson, Big Horn, and Washakie Counties, Wyoming

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement in conjunction with revision of the Land and Resource Management Plan for the Bighorn National Forest.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service will prepare an environmental impact statement in conjunction with the revision of its Land and Resource Management Plan (hereafter referred to as Forest Plan or Plan) for the Bighorn National Forest.

This notice describes the proposed action, specific portions of the current Forest Plan to be revised, environmental issues considered in the revision, estimated dates for filing the environmental impact statement, information concerning public participation, and the names and addresses of the agency officials who can provide additional information.

DATES: The public is asked to provide comments identifying and considering issues, concerns, and the scope of analysis with regard to the proposed action, in writing by January 31, 2000. The Forest Service expects to file a Draft Environmental Impact Statement with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and make it available for public comment in February of 2001. The Forest Service expects to file a Final Environmental Impact Statement in February of 2002.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to: Abigail R. Kimbell, Forest Supervisor, Bighorn National Forest, 1969 South Sheridan Avenue, Sheridan, Wyoming 82801.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bob Daniels, Forest Planner, (307 672-0751) or Joel Strong, Alternate Planning Team Leader (307 672-0751).

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: Rocky Mountain Regional Forester at P.O. Box 25127, Lakewood, CO 80225-0127.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to Part 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 219.10(g), the Regional Forester for the Rocky Mountain Region gives notice of the agency's intent to prepare an environmental impact statement for the revision of the Land and Resource Management Plan (hereafter referred to as Forest Plan or Plan) for the Bighorn National Forest. According to 36 CFR 219.10(g), land and resource management plans are ordinarily revised on a 10 to 15 year cycle. The existing Forest Plan was approved on October 4, 1985.

The United States has a unique legal relationship with Native American tribal governments as set forth in the Constitution of the United States, treaties, statutes, Executive orders and Court decisions. The Forest Service will establish regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration with the tribal nations on a government to government basis.

Forest plans describe the intended management of National Forests. Agency decisions in these plans do the following:

1. Establish multiple-use goals and objectives (36 CFR 219.11(b)).
2. Establish forestwide management standards and guidelines applying to future activities (resource integration requirements, 36 CFR 219.13 to 219.27).
3. Establish management areas and management area direction (management area prescriptions) applying to future activities in that management area (resource integration and minimum specific management requirements) 36 CFR 219.11(c).
4. Establish monitoring and evaluation requirements (36 CFR 219.11(d)).
5. Determine suitability and potential capability of lands for resource production. This includes designation of suitable timber land and establishment of allowable timber sale quantity (36 CFR 219.14 through 219.26).
6. Where applicable, recommend designations of special areas such as Wilderness (36 CFR 219.17) and Wild and Scenic Rivers (The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act) to Congress.

Need for Change In The Current Forest Plan

Since our existing Forest Plan was approved in 1985, experience in implementing the plan and monitoring the effects of that implementation indicates that we need to make some changes in management direction.