

(4) continued implementation of the Forest Plan and (5) economics. In preparing the environmental impact statement, the Forest Service will consider the proposal against a range of reasonable alternatives to address issues identified through scoping. Alternatives may be other combinations of potential sites, on demand sources of supply, (direct withdrawal, wells) and the required No Action Alternative.

Permits and licenses to implement the proposed action may include a Wetlands Permit, State of New Hampshire dam permits and Alteration of Terrain permit. The issuing authority will be a term special use permit under the Term Permit Act of March 4, 1915 as amended (16 U.S.C. 497).

Donna Hepp, Forest Supervisor, White Mountain National Forest, 719 Main Street, Laconia, New Hampshire, is the responsible official.

Public participation will be important at several points during the analysis. The first point is during the scoping process (40 CFR 1501.7). The Forest Service will be seeking information and comments from Federal, State, and local agencies and other individuals or organizations who may be interested in or affected by the proposed action. This input will be used in preparation of the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS). The scoping process includes;

1. Identifying potential issues.
2. Identifying issues to be analyzed in depth.
3. Eliminating insignificant issues or those which have been covered by a relevant previous environmental analysis.
4. Exploring additional alternatives.
5. Identifying potential environmental effects of the proposed action and alternatives (i.e., direct, indirect, and cumulative effect and connected actions).
6. Determining potential cooperating agencies and task assignments.

The State of New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services has been invited to participate as a cooperating agency. The Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, the U.S. Corps of Engineers and the Town of Waterville Valley have been informed and will be assisting in the analysis.

Public scoping meetings will be held in the Spring of 1996. Meeting dates will be advertised in the media.

The draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and to be available for public review in Summer, 1996. At that time EPA will publish a notice of

availability of the DEIS in the Federal Register.

The comment period on the draft environmental impact statement will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency's notice of availability appears in the Federal Register.

The Forest Service believes that, at this early stage, it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First reviewers of draft environmental impact statements must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewer's position and contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft environmental impact stage that are not raised until after completion of the final environmental impact statement may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F. 2d 1016, 1022 (9th cir. 1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). Because of these court rulings, it is very important that those interested in this proposed action participate by responding to the DEIS by the close of the 45 day comment period so that substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider them and respond to them in the final environmental impact statement.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the draft environmental impact statement should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft statement. Comments may also address the adequacy of the draft environmental impact statement or the merits of the alternatives formulated or discussed in the statement. Reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

After the comment period ends on the DEIS, the comments will be analyzed and considered by the Forest Service in preparing the final environmental impact statement (FEIS). The FEIS is scheduled to be completed by the Fall of 1996. In the FEIS the Forest Service is required to respond to the comments received (40 CFR 1503.4). The responsible official will consider the

comments, responses, environmental consequences discussed in the FEIS, and applicable laws, regulations, and policies in making a decision regarding this proposal. The responsible official will document the decision and reasons for the decision on the Record of Decision. The decision will be subject to appeal under 36 CFR 217 and 36 CFR 251.

Dated: April 22, 1996.

[FR Doc. 96-10359 Filed 4-25-96; 8:45 am]

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Rural Housing Service

Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Rural Housing Service, USDA.
ACTION: Proposed collection; comments request.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Rural Housing Service (RHS) intention to request an extension for a currently approved information collection in support of the program for the Housing Preservation Grant Program.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by June 25, 1996 to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sue M. Harris-Green, Senior Loan Specialist, RHS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, AG BOX 0781, Washington, D.C. 20250, Telephone (202) 720-1606.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: RHS/Housing Preservation Grant Program.

OMB Number: 0575-0115.

Expiration Date of Approval: July 31, 1996.

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

Abstract: The primary purpose of the Housing Preservation Grant Program is to repair or rehabilitate individual housing, rental properties, or co-ops owned or occupied by very low- and low-income rural persons. Grantees will provide eligible homeowners, owners of rental properties, and owners of co-ops with financial assistance through loans, grants, interest reduction payments or other comparable financial assistance for necessary repairs and rehabilitation of dwellings to bring them up to code or minimum property standards.

These grants were established by Public Law 98-181, the Housing Urban-Rural Recovery Act of 1983, which amended the Housing Act of 1979 (Pub.

L. 93-383) by adding section 533, 42 U.S.C. § 2490(m), Housing Preservation Grants (HPG). In addition, the Secretary of Agriculture has authority to prescribe rules and regulations to implement HPG and other programs under 42 U.S.C. § 1480(j).

Section 533(d) is prescriptive about the information applicants are to submit to RHS as part of their application and in the assessments and criteria RHS is to use in selecting grantees. An applicant is to submit a "statement of activity" describing its proposed program, including the specific activities it will undertake, and its schedule. RHS is required in turn to evaluate proposals on a set of prescribed criteria, for which the applicant will also have to provide information, such as: (1) very low- and low-income persons proposed to be served by the repair and rehabilitation activities; (2) participation by other public and private organizations to leverage funds and lower the cost to the HPG program; (3) the area to be served in terms of population size and need; (4) cost data to assure greatest degree of assistance at lowest cost; (5) administrative costs projected; and (6) administrative capacity of the applicant to carry out the program. The information collected will be the minimum required by law and by the necessity for RHS to assure that it funds responsible grantees proposing feasible projects in areas of greatest need. Most data are taken from a localized area, although some are derived from census reports of city, county and Federal governments showing population and housing characteristics.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .96 hour per response.

Respondents: A public body or a public or private nonprofit corporation.

Estimated number of respondents: 1,850

Estimated number of responses per respondent: 6.5.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 11,614 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from the Director, Regulations and Paperwork Management Division at (202) 720-9725.

Comments: Comments are invited on: (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 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 may be sent to Director, Regulations and Paperwork Management Division, U.S. Department of Agriculture, RECD, Ag Box 0743, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250. 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 17, 1996.
Maureen Kennedy,
Administrator, Rural Housing Service.
[FR Doc. 96-10321 Filed 4-25-96; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3410-07-U

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of the Census

Current Population Survey (CPS) Voting and Registration Supplement; Proposed Agency Information Collection Activity; Comment Request

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Submit written comments on or before June 25, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Acting Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Julia Williams, Bureau of the Census, FOB 3, Room 3340, Washington, DC 20233-8400, (301) 457-3806.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The U.S. Census Bureau is requesting clearance for the collection of data

concerning the Voting and Registration Supplement to be conducted in conjunction with the November 1996 Current Population Survey (CPS). Title 13, United States Code, Section 182; and Title 29, United States Code, Sections 1-9, authorize the collection of this information. The Census Bureau sponsors these questions, which have been collected biennially in the CPS since 1964.

This survey has provided statistical information for tracking historical trends of voter and nonvoter characteristics in each Presidential and/or Congressional election since 1964. The data collected from the November supplement relates demographic characteristics (age, sex, race, education, occupation, and income) to voting and nonvoting behavior. The November CPS supplement is the only source of data that provides a comprehensive set of voter and nonvoter characteristics distinct from independent surveys, media polls, or other outside agencies. Federal, state, and local election officials use these data to formulate policies relating to the voting and registration process. College institutions, political party committees, research groups, and other private organizations also use the voting and registration data.

II. Method of Collection

The voting and registration information will be collected by both personal visit and telephone interviews in conjunction with the regular November CPS interviewing. All interviews are conducted using computer-assisted interviewing.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0607-0466.

Form Number: There are no forms. We conduct all interviewing on computers.

Type of Review: Regular.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 48,000.

Estimated Time Per Response: 1.2 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 960.

Estimated Total Annual Cost: \$250,000.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden