

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 61, No. 183

Thursday, September 19, 1996

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. FV96-958-4 NC]

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

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice 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 for and revision of a currently approved information collection for Onions Grown in Certain Designated Counties in Idaho, and Malheur County, Oregon, Marketing Order No. 958.

DATES: Comments must be received by November 18, 1996.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Contact Robert J. Curry, Northwest Marketing Field Office, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1220 SW Third Avenue, room 369, Portland, OR 97204; telephone: (503) 326-2724; Fax: (503) 326-7440.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Onions Grown in Certain Designated Counties in Idaho, and Malheur County, Oregon, Marketing Order 958.

OMB Number: 0581-0087.

Expiration Date of Approval: December 31, 1996.

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), marketing order programs are established if favored by producers in referenda. The handling of the commodity is regulated. The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to oversee order operations and issue regulations recommended by a committee of representatives from each commodity industry.

The Idaho-Eastern Oregon onion marketing order, which has been operating since 1957, authorizes the issuance of grade, size, quality, maturity, pack, inspection, and reporting requirements. Regulatory provisions apply to onions shipped both within and outside of the production area to any market, except those specifically exempt.

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 Idaho-Eastern Oregon onion marketing order program.

Under the Idaho-Eastern Oregon onion marketing order, onions shipped for processing, planting, livestock feed, and charity are exempt from minimum grade, size, maturity, assessment, and inspection requirements. Shipments for such onions may only be made under a special purpose shipment exemption granted by the Idaho-Eastern Oregon Onion Committee (Committee), which locally administers the marketing order. Such an exemption, termed a Certificate of Privilege, helps to ensure that special purpose onions do not enter fresh market channels. Any handler desiring to ship onions under a Certificate of Privilege must first apply to the Committee for an exemption from the regulations. Such exemptions must be approved annually. Once an exemption is granted, the handler must submit a diversion report to the Committee on each individual shipment made to the authorized outlets. Further, any processor purchasing onions that fail to meet fresh market grade, must certify such onions will not be diverted to the

fresh market. Any time a handler alters inspected onions by peeling, chopping, or slicing, a report must be filed with the Committee indicating the intended use and destination of the onions. These forms enable the Committee, and thus, the Secretary to better monitor special purpose onion shipments and ensure compliance with provisions of the marketing order and the AMAA.

Onion producers and handlers who are nominated by their peers to serve as representatives on the Committee must file nomination forms with the Secretary.

Formal rulemaking amendments to the order must be approved in referenda conducted by the Secretary. Also, the Secretary may conduct a continuance referendum to determine industry support for continuation of the order. Handlers are asked to sign an agreement to indicate their willingness to abide by the provisions of the order whenever the order is amended. These forms are included in this request.

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

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.1368 hours per response.

Respondents: Onion producers, handlers, and processors handling fresh and processed onions produced in designated counties in Idaho, and in Malheur County, Oregon.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 484.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 3.035.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 215 hours.

Comments are invited on:

(1) Whether the proposed collection of the 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. 0581-0087 and Marketing Order No. 958, and be sent to USDA in care of Robert J. Curry, Northwest Marketing Field Office, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1220 SW Third Avenue, room 369, Portland, OR 97204. 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 become a matter of public record.

Dated: September 13, 1996.

Robert C. Keeney,

Director, Fruit and Vegetable Division.

[FR Doc. 96-24041 Filed 9-19-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

Forest Service

Environmental Impact Statement, Sedona Alternate Crossing of Oak Creek, Coconino National Forest, Sedona Ranger District, Yavapai County, Sedona, AZ

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: Yavapai County in the vicinity of Sedona, Arizona, proposes to develop a safe and fully functional 2-lane, paved, through-route between the Village of Oak Creek and State Route 89A for general traffic, but especially for medical, fire and law enforcement emergencies. Ultimately, this development, much of which is within the Coconino National Forest and an existing transportation easement, will require, over time and in phases, the replacement of a vehicular crossing of Oak Creek, segmented realignment of both the Verde Valley School and Upper Red Rock Loop roads, segment surfacing, construction of scenic viewpoints, mitigation of driveway safety issues, etc. In the short run (the next 5 years), because the existing roads are capable of safely handling the anticipated low volume increases in traffic during this time as is, the County

proposes to focus on the construction of a replacement vehicular crossing of Oak Creek at what is known as Red Rock Crossing. The only exception and inclusion besides the bridge and its approaches may be the upgrading of selected drainage crossings (concrete or asphalt bottoms) along the unpaved Verde Valley School Road corridor. The remaining improvements would be scheduled after the crossing installation on an as-needed basis in conformance with the Yavapai County Road Ordinance 1995-1 and in response to traffic changes. While the County is unable to "obligate" future funding, it appears likely (because of the route's predicted popularity and therefore increasing traffic) that subsequent improvements that may be needed will rank high in the County's priority and appropriation processes.

The recently completed Design Concept Report for the crossing calls for a 4-span concrete bridge designed for 2-lane traffic (2 twelve foot wide travel lanes). The proposed bridge is characterized by the various colors, shapes, textures, and forms found in the adjoining landscape to partially mitigate its presence in this location, such as exposed faces of the structure will be textured and colored to match the red rock of the area. In addition, the bridge as conceived includes numerous provisions for pedestrians (walkways on both sides), a bike path on the bridge, access to the creek, parking, etc., all further design features to reduce or eliminate concern for its presence.

An alternate route needs determination was completed by Yavapai County in January 1995. The conclusion was drawn that an alternate crossing/route is needed to address traffic flow, reduce public risk, particularly for movement of emergency vehicles and enhancing the viability of public transit. A subsequent corridor evaluation indicated four crossing locations that would best meet Yavapai County's objectives. Red Rock Crossing was one of the four locations and was chosen by the County as its preferred route. Its advantages included existing roads, existing easements, and the strongest potential for phased improvement. This analysis also predicted a potential use of 6000 vehicles per day once fully upgraded to a 2-lane, paved roadway, potentially reducing State Route 179 congestion by 38%.

As noted earlier, inherent in the phased improvement of the corridor are the impacts associated with potential realignment, surfacing, scenic viewpoints, mitigation of driveway safety issues, dust abatement, etc.

Yavapai County's Road Ordinance prioritizes road improvements within the county system based on number of residents, number of vehicles per day, right of way, road geometrics, accident history, maintenance cost, future growth, placement in the Regional Road system, and benefit to the public. The County Engineer would make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on when additional improvements to the remainder of the roadway corridor leading to the crossing would be necessary based on the above criteria and how this corridor relates with other county roadway needs and the limited funding for these types of improvements.

This EIS will include analysis of the proposed improvements within the easement area granted to Yavapai County in 1983 and alternatives to those improvements.

DATES: Public scoping will begin in September 1996 and will continue over the life of the analysis. The Draft EIS is scheduled for publication in April 1997 and the Final EIS in September 1997. Written comments concerning this proposed action should be received on or before November 4, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Questions and written comments and suggestions concerning the analysis should be sent to Ken Anderson, District Ranger, Sedona Ranger District, P.O. Box 300, Sedona, AZ 86339, phone (520) 282-4119, FAX (520) 282-4119 (FAX is available during office hours Monday through Friday, 7:30 am to 4:30 pm, MST).

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: The Forest Supervisor, Coconino National Forest, will be the responsible official and will make the decision on the Sedona Alternate Oak Creek Crossing.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sedona District Ranger, Ken Anderson or Judy Adams, Sedona Lands Officer at (520) 282-4119.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A public scoping letter with information similar to this notice will be sent to all persons indicating or having previously indicated interest in the project by responding to the needs assessment, corridor analysis and correspondence to the Forest Service or Yavapai County or who otherwise notify the Sedona Ranger District that they are interested in the Sedona Alternate Crossing of Oak Creek. Public scoping meetings will be scheduled during September or October.

The EIS will evaluate Yavapai County's proposed improvements for the corridor. The EIS will also evaluate the no action alternative which would disapprove the proposed improvements and alternatives to those improvements