

# Notices

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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

### Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

**AGENCY:** Farm Service Agency and Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA.

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

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces that the Farm Service Agency (FSA) intends to request an extension for currently approved collection of information pertaining to FSA administered cost-share programs which have the common goal of conserving the Nation's basic soil and water resources and preserving the local environment. The programs that require forms covered by this request for extension are the Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP) for which the authority to engage in new activities was repealed by Section 336 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996, the interim Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) which provided temporary authority to engage in new ACP activities and those of three other programs through September 30, 1996, the Emergency Conservation Program, the Conservation Reserve Program, and the Forestry Incentives Program.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received on or before August 12, 1997 to be assured consideration.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS:** Contact Cheryl Zavodny, Branch Chief, Conservation Programs Branch, Conservation and Environmental Protection Division, USDA, FSA, STOP 0513, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-0513, (202) 720-7333.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Title:** Conservation and Environmental Programs OMB Number: 0560-0082

**Expiration Date:** July 31, 1997

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

**Abstract:** The FSA, in cooperation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Forest Service, and other agencies and organizations, provides eligible producers and landowners cost-share incentives through a number of conservation and environmental programs to help farmers, ranchers and other eligible landowners and operators conserve soil, improve water quality, maintain the fertility of the land, develop and improve forest areas, provide wildlife habitat, and rehabilitate land damaged by natural disasters. The conservation programs using these forms requires producers to provide information used to determine the producer's eligibility to participate and for payment purposes. Although the ACP was repealed by Section 336 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996, and the period for the interim EQIP program has ended, there are existing ACP as well as existing interim EQIP long-term agreements in effect which continue to obligate the participants to perform conservation practices and other contract requirements in future years. The CRP (which is CCC funded) has significant activity because of the continuous and recent general CRP signups. A considerable increase is possible in ECP activity due to the many severe natural disasters recently occurring all over the country. The FIP is estimated to have about the same activity as previous years.

**Estimate of Burden:** Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average: .25 hours for AD-245; .20 hours for FSA-18, and .5 hours for ACP-311.

**Respondents:** Farm and ranch owners and operators, farm managers, or attorneys.

**Estimated Number of Respondents:** 510,000.

**Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:** 2 (average).

**Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:** 205,000 hours.

*Proposed topics for comment include:* (a) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; and (c) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of the information on those who are to respond. Comments should be sent to the Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C. 20503 and to Cheryl Zavodny, Branch Chief, Conservation Programs Branch, Conservation and Environmental Protection Division, USDA, FSA, STOP 0513, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-0513, (202) 720-7333.

Signed at Washington, D.C., on June 8, 1997.

**Bruce R. Weber,**

*Acting Administrator, Farm Service Agency and Acting Executive Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.*

[FR Doc. 97-15581 Filed 6-12-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Farm Service Agency

### 1997-1998 Marketing Year Penalty Rates for All Kinds of Tobacco Subject to Quotas

**AGENCY:** Farm Service Agency, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice sets forth the determination of the 1997-1998 marketing year penalty rate for excess tobacco for all kinds of tobacco subject to marketing quotas. In accordance with section 314 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, as amended, (the 1938 Act) marketing quota penalty for a kind of tobacco is assessed at the rate of 75 percent of the average market price for that kind of tobacco for the immediately preceding marketing year.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** June 13, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Farm Service Agency (FSA), Tobacco and Peanuts Division, STOP 0514, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-0514.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
Misty L. Jones, Tobacco and Peanuts  
Division, telephone (202) 720-0200.

### Discussion

Section 314 of the 1938 Act, provides that the rate of penalty per pound for a kind of tobacco that is subject to marketing quotas shall be 75 percent of the average market price for such tobacco for the immediately preceding marketing year.

The Agricultural Statistics Board, National Agricultural Statistical Service (NASS), USDA, determines and announces annually the average market prices for each type of tobacco.

The penalty rates for the 1997-1998 marketing year have been determined based on the average market prices as published, by NASS in its May 12, 1997, Crop Production report.

Since the determination of the 1997-1998 marketing year rates of penalty reflect only mathematical computations which are required to be made in accordance with a statutory formula, it has been determined that no further public rulemaking is required.

### Determination

Accordingly, it is determined that the 1997-1998 marketing year rates of penalty for kinds of tobacco subject to marketing quotas are as follows:

RATE OF PENALTY  
[1997-1998 Marketing Year]

Kinds of tobacco	Cents per pound
Flue-Cured .....	138
Burley .....	144
Fire-Cured (Type 21) .....	134
Fire-Cured (Types 22 and 23) .....	168
Dark Air-Cured (Types 35 and 36) ...	153
Virginia Sun-Cured (Type 37) .....	134
Cigar Filler and Binder (Types 42-44, 54 and 55) .....	111

Signed at Washington, DC, on June 8, 1997.

**Bruce R. Weber,**

*Acting Administrator, Farm Service Agency.*

[FR Doc. 97-15582 Filed 6-12-97; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### **Bridger Bowl Ski Area Permit Renewal and Master Plan Update Gallatin National Forest, Gallatin County, Montana**

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice; intent to prepare environmental impact statement.

**SUMMARY:** The USDA, Forest Service, will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to disclose the environmental effects of work planned to be accomplished over the next 10-15 years at Bridger Bowl ski area which includes expansion of the existing facilities to improve beginner skier terrain; increase skier opportunities on the mountain; improve parking facilities and increase snow making capacity. The proposal would expand the ski area boundary to the north into the Bradley Meadow and Northwest Passage areas and expand the ski area boundary to the south into the Pine-Slushman area. Several new runs would be developed as well as two surface lifts to the ridge and two new chair lifts. Existing chair lifts would be reconfigured and/or replaced. The base area would be expanded and sewage facilities upgraded.

Implementation of the proposal would require a Forest Plan amendment to change the land management allocation for the area adjacent to the existing ski area from a semi-primitive recreation and wildlife habitat emphasis to a developed winter recreation (ski area) emphasis.

**DATES:** Written comments and suggestions should be received on or before July 28, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written comments and suggestions on the proposed management activities or a request to be placed on the project mailing list to Gene Gibson, District Ranger, Bozeman Ranger District, Gallatin National Forest, 3710 Fallon St, Suite C, Bozeman, Montana, 59718-1911.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Nancy Halstrom, EIS Team Leader, Bozeman Ranger District, Gallatin National Forest, Phone (406) 587-6920.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Bridger Bowl ski area is located in Bridger Canyon about 16 miles northeast of Bozeman, Montana. The area is operated by the Bridger Bowl Corporation, a non-profit Montana corporation. Bridger Bowl owns about 326 acres of the lower mountain; is in the process of procuring 120 acres of land it has leased from the State of Montana; and is authorized through a special use permit to use about 1,153 acres of national forest land for recreational skiing purposes.

Skiing began in the early 1940's by local enthusiasts from the Bozeman area. In 1950, the State of Montana acquired 120 acres of private land to be used in conjunction with the ski area. By 1952, the local residents had

organized and constructed the first commercial rope tow and base lodge with volunteer help and private donations. The non-profit corporation was organized in 1954 to maintain and operate the ski area. It was originally known as the Bozeman State Park Recreation Association. The Forest Service issued the first special use permit for the ski area in 1954. The ski area has grown to seven lifts and about 600 acres of developed ski trails.

Bridger Bowl Inc. has submitted a Master Plan proposal to the Gallatin National Forest which covers their plans for continuation of their special use authorization to operate on national forest lands. The Master Plan includes a series of work divided into three phases to be accomplished over the next 10-15 years.

The Forest Service will consider a range of alternatives. One of these will be the "no action" alternative, in which none of the proposed activities would be implemented. Additional alternatives will examine varying levels and locations for the proposed activities to achieve the proposal's purposes, as well as to respond to the issues and other resources values.

The EIS will analyze the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental effects of the alternatives. Past, present, and projected activities on both private and National Forest lands will be considered. The EIS will disclose the analysis of site-specific mitigation measures and their effectiveness.

Public participation is an important part of the analysis, commencing with the initial scoping process (40 CFR 1501.7), which will occur June 1997 to July 1997. In addition, the public is encouraged to visit with Forest Service officials at any time during the analysis and prior to the decision. The Forest Service will be seeking information, comments, and assistance from Federal, State, and local agencies and other individuals or organizations who may be interested in or affected by the proposed action. The proposed will be presented at two Open Houses at the Bozeman Ranger District Office on Monday, June 23. The representatives will be at 3:00 pm and at 7:00 pm. Representatives from Bridger Bowl Inc. and the Gallatin National Forest will be available at the open house to discuss the proposed project and provide additional information.

Comments from the public and other agencies will be used to preparation of the Draft EIS. The scoping process will be used to:

1. Identify potential issues.
2. Identify major issues to be analyzed in depth.