

1. To identify emerging regulatory issues in agriculture; and
2. To develop regulatory strategies for addressing these regulatory issues.

The conference agenda will include a mixture of speaker presentations, discussion groups, and workshops. Some of the themes explored at the conference will include:

1. Adapting regulatory systems to facilitate trade under World Trade Organization principles (transparency, equivalency, science-based);
2. Deciding when to regulate, and how to develop threshold criteria to determine when an agricultural problem requires government regulation;
3. Developing alternatives to government regulation such as voluntary compliance and self-regulation by industry, or risk reduction through public awareness and education;
4. Formal partnerships between industries and government agencies; and
5. How risk analysis is changing concepts of regulation development, compliance, inspections, and tolerances.

We are in the process of planning the agenda for the conference, which will be held in Pine Bluff, AR, on September 16 and 17, 1997. We are seeking specific suggestions for discussion or workshop topics from potential attendees before finalizing the agenda. Consistent with efforts to reinvent government and to improve how programs are delivered, we would like to invite potential attendees to present their ideas and suggestions concerning fruitful topics for the agenda.

Please submit, on or before August 15, 1997, proposed titles and descriptions for new agenda topics, or comments on the agenda topics identified above. If you wish to make a presentation or lead a discussion on a particular topic, please state so and indicate the amount of time you believe your topic would require. We cannot guarantee that all suggested topics will be included in the final agenda, but we will try to include all topics to the extent the time scheduled for the conference allows.

The best way to suggest topics for the conference is to post them to the World Wide Web address identified under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** above. Suggestions posted to that address will be visible on the Web, and may provoke support or discussion by other commenters.

Done in Washington, DC, this 21st day of July 1997.

Charles P. Schwalbe,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 97-19630 Filed 7-24-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency

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

AGENCY: Farm Service Agency, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intention of the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to request an extension for and revision to an information collection currently approved in support of the Fresh Irish Potato Diversion Program, 1996 Crop pursuant to section 32 of the Act of August 24, 1935, as amended (Section 32).

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received on or before September 23, 1997 to be assured consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Contact James K. Tegeler, Agricultural Program Specialist, Price Support Division, FSA, USDA, STOP 0512, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-0512; telephone (202) 720-3110.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Regulations Governing the Fresh Irish Potato Diversion Program, 1996 Crop.

OMB Control Number: 0560-0145.

Expiration Date: November 30, 1997.

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

Abstract: The information collected under Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Control Number 0560-0145, as identified above, is needed to enable FSA to effectively implement the Fresh Irish Potato Diversion Program, 1996 Crop, under related reporting and record keeping requirements.

The Secretary of Agriculture has determined that the 1996 crop of fresh Irish potatoes is in surplus supply, and that the domestic consumption of such potatoes will be encouraged by using funds allocated under section 32 to divert the fresh Irish potatoes. The program is administered by the Agricultural Marketing Service, and implemented by the Farm Service

Agency. The application and reporting process is implemented by the county FSA office.

Potato producers must complete a FSA-117, Potato Diversion Program Application for Participation (FSA-117), for each method of diversion requested. The general purpose of Form FSA-117 is to provide AMS and FSA a basis to determine whether or not the producer meets the eligibility requirements to participate in the program. The program will be carried out provided funding is available, and provided further that participant's potatoes meet grading criteria.

The general purpose of an Invoice and Certificate of Inspection and Diversion (FSA-118), is: (1) To allow producers to certify and file a claim for payment; (2) to allow Federal or Federal-State inspectors to certify the quantity and quality of the potatoes; and (3) in the case of the livestock feed diversion method, allow the producer to provide additional information relative to disposition to the county FSA office.

The general purpose of "Letter of Release Potato Diversion Program" (FSA-120), is to allow the producer to release potatoes that will not be diverted.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this information collection is estimated to average 14 minutes per response.

Respondents: Individual, partnership, association, or corporation that grew 1996 crop potatoes for market and are in possession of the potatoes as of May 30, 1997.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,800.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 6.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 11,000 hours.

Proposed topics for comments include but are not limited to the following: (a) Whether the 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 including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; or (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 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 James K. Tegeler, Program Specialist, Price Support Division, FSA, USDA, STOP 0512, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-0512; telephone (202) 720-3110. Copies of the information collection may be obtained from James Tegeler at the above 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.

OMB is required to make a decision concerning the collection(s) of information contained in these proposed regulations between 30 and 60 days after publication of this document in the **Federal Register**. Therefore, a comment to OMB is best assured of having its full effect if OMB receives it within 30 days of publication. This notice does not affect the deadline for the public to comment to the Department of Agriculture on any substantive regulations that may be the subject of other notices.

Signed at Washington, DC, on July 13, 1997.

Bruce R. Weber,

Acting Administrator, Farm Service Agency.
[FR Doc. 97-19580 Filed 7-24-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

East Big Red Timber Sale, Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest, Hahns Peak/Bears Ears Ranger District, Routt County, Colorado

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest, Hahns Peak/Bears Ears Ranger District will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to assess and disclose the environmental effects of the proposed East Big Red Timber Sale. Estimated dates for filing the draft EIS is November, 1997, followed by the final decision in February, 1998. The area location is approximately 34 miles north of Steamboat Springs, Colorado, in sections 13, 23, 25, & 36 of T11N, R85W, sections 7, 8, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 30, 31, & 32 of T11N, R84W, sections 5 & 6 of T10N, R84W.

All lands within the project area are currently allocated to Management Area 7E, as described in the current Forest Land Management and Resource Plan

for the Routt National Forest, approved in 1983. Forested lands within this management area are designated as suitable for timber production by the forest plan. Following is a summary of the general forest plan direction for the area.

Management Area 7E-Timber Production: Emphasis is placed on wood fiber production and utilization of a size and quality suitable for sawtimber. Timber harvest must meet a Visual Quality Objective (VQO) of partial retention in foregoing areas as seen from open arterial and collector roads as well as main trails. A VQO of modification applies to all other areas.

The Forest Plan is being revised as required by the National Forest Management Act. The preferred alternative for the forest plan revision (alternative C as described in the DEIS) allocates the majority of the project area to management area 5.13, which is to be managed for the production of commercial wood products. This allocation includes most of the stands proposed for harvest. A few smaller areas allocated to management area 5.11, provides for a mix of forest products, forage, wildlife habitat and recreation.

DATES: Written comments and suggestions on the draft Environmental Impact Statement should be received on or before the 45 day period from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

The Forest Service believes, 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 Statement stage but 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 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 and 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.

ADDRESSES: The Responsible Official is Jerry E. Schmidt, Forest Supervisor, Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest, 2468 Jackson Street, Laramie, Wyoming 82070-6535. Written comments and suggestions concerning the scope of the analysis should be sent to Sherry Reed, District Ranger, Hahns Peak/Bears Ears Ranger District, P.O. Box 771212, Steamboat Springs, Colorado 80477.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR Parts 215 or 217. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that, under the FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within 10 days.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kirby Self, Interdisciplinary Team Leader, Hahns Peak/Bears Ears Ranger District. Phone: (970) 879-1870.