

protect the public by ensuring that meat and poultry products are safe, wholesome, unadulterated, and properly labeled and packaged.

FSIS is requesting an extension and revision to the information collection package addressing meat and poultry paperwork and recordkeeping requirements regarding exportation, transportation, and importation of meat and poultry products. FSIS requires that meat and poultry establishments exporting product to foreign countries complete an export certificate. Establishments must supply the type, amount, and destination of product being exported. The information required by on this form does not duplicate any information required by other Federal agencies. The form is necessary to certify to the importing countries that FSIS inspectors have inspected the product and have found it sound and wholesome. Additionally, FSIS uses the information from the form in its annual Report to Congress as required by sections 301(c)(4) and 20(e) of the FMIA and sections 27 and 5(c)(4) of the PPIA.

Meat and poultry products not marked with the mark of inspection and shipped from one official establishment to another for further processing must be transported under FSIS seal to prevent such unmarked product from entering into commerce. To track product shipped under seal, FSIS requires shipping establishments to complete a form that identifies the type, amount, and weight of the product.

A foreign country exporting meat or poultry products to the U.S. must establish eligibility for importation of product into the U.S. and annually certify that its inspection systems are "at least equal to" the U.S. inspection system. To maintain eligibility, a written report must be prepared monthly by a representative of the foreign inspection system for each establishment listed in the certification. Additionally, meat and poultry products intended for import into the U.S. must be accompanied by a health certificate, signed by an official of the foreign government, stating that the products have been produced by certified foreign establishments. Establishments or brokers wishing to import product into the United States must complete a form that specifies the type, amount, originating country and destination of the meat and poultry product. The amount of meat and poultry product imported into the United States is included in FSIS's annual Report to Congress. Additionally, FSIS has established procedures allowing establishments importing product to

stamp such product with the inspection legend prior to FSIS inspection, if they receive FSIS prior approval.

Estimate of Burden: The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .0773501 hours per response.

Respondents: Meat and poultry establishments.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 7,374.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 295.88866.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 168,769 hours.

Copies of this information collection assessment and comments can be obtained from Lee Puricelli, Paperwork Specialist, Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA, 300 12th Street SW, Room 109, Washington, DC 20250-3700, (202) 720-0346.

Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of FSIS's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of FSIS' 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 use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques, or other forms of information technology.

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 10, 1997.

Thomas J. Billy,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. 97-30319 Filed 11-18-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 97-065N]

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

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 and the Office of Management and Budget

(OMB) regulations, this notice announces the Food Safety and Inspection Service's (FSIS) intention to request an extension for and revision to a currently approved information collection package regarding official marking devices, labeling, and packaging material.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received on or before January 20, 1998.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Contact Lee Puricelli, Paperwork Specialist, (202) 720-0346.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Official Marking Devices, Labeling, and Packaging Material.

OMB Number: 0583-0092.

Expiration Date of Approval: December 31, 1997.

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

Abstract: FSIS has been delegated the authority to exercise the functions of the Secretary as provided in the Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA) (21 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*) and the Poultry Products Inspection Act (PPIA) (21 U.S.C. 451 *et seq.*). These statutes mandate that FSIS protect the public by ensuring that meat and poultry products are safe, wholesome, unadulterated, and properly labeled and packaged.

FSIS is requesting an extension and revision to the information collection package addressing meat and poultry paperwork and recordkeeping requirements regarding official marking devices, labeling, and packaging material. To control the manufacture of marking devices bearing official marks, FSIS requires that official meat and poultry establishments and manufacturers of such marking devices complete a form. The establishment completes the first part of the form requesting that certain brands or other devices be manufactured. The manufacturer of the brands then provides its business name and address, and serial numbers of brands or devices. Such certification is necessary to help prevent the manufacture and use of counterfeit marks of inspection. To ensure that meat and poultry products are accurately labeled, FSIS approves meat and poultry product labelings. To ensure that packaging material does not render meat and poultry products adulterated, FSIS requires a statement of assurance from packaging manufacturers when such packaging is intended for use in meat and poultry establishments. The statement is a guaranty that the packaging material conforms with Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA) regulations for food contact materials.

Estimate of Burden: The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .2596531 hours per response.

Respondents: Meat and poultry establishments.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 7,374.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 62.153919.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 119,005 hours.

Copies of this information collection assessment and comments can be obtained from Lee Puricelli, Paperwork Specialist, Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA, 300 12th Street SW, Room 109, Washington, DC 20250-3700, (202) 720-0346.

Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of FSIS's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of FSIS' 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 use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques, or other forms of information technology.

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 10, 1997.

Thomas J. Billy,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 97-30320 Filed 11-18-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Expansion of the Bill Williams Ski Area

AGENCY: Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Expansion of the Bill Williams Mountain Ski Area.

SUMMARY: The United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service (USDA, FS), Region 3, Kaibab National Forest, announces its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

pursuant to Sec. 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Quality requests for implementing NEPA. This Environmental Impact Statement will evaluate potential impacts from expanding the Bill Williams Mountain Ski area, Coconino County, Arizona. The USDA, FS invites the general public, local governments, Indian tribes, other Federal agencies, and states to submit written comments or suggestions concerning the scope of the issues to be addressed, alternatives to be analyzed, and the environmental impacts and cultural impacts to be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The public is invited to participate in scoping activities including an open house in which comments and suggestions will be received. Oral and written comments will be considered equally in preparation of the DEIS.

DATES: All comments must be received or postmarked by December 22, 1997, to be considered in the preparation of the DEIS. To the extent practicable, the USDA, FS will consider comments received or postmarked after the deadline. An open house will be conducted at the Williams Holiday Inn (950 N. Grand Canyon Blvd., Williams, AZ) on December 4, 1997, between 4:30 and 8:00 P.M. The date, time, and specific location of the scoping meeting will be announced at least 15 days before the meeting in the local media.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Please direct written comments/suggestions on the scope of the DEIS or questions concerning the project to: Teri Cleeland at USDA, FS Williams/Chalendar Ranger District, 501 W. Route 66, Williams, AZ 86046, 520/635-2676 or Dave Brewer at Kaibab National Forest, 800 S. 6th St., Williams, AZ 86046, 520/635-8331.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose and Need: The proposed ski expansion area is located in the Kaibab National Forest approximately four miles south of Williams, Arizona on Bill Williams Mountain. A comparison of the existing and desired conditions for this management area outlined in the Kaibab National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan indicates a need to improve not only the existing ski facilities but also expand on the 16 acres of the skiable terrain to promote a quality alpine skiing experience. The current vertical drop, ski run length, and ski run configuration do not provide for a good cross-section for the various experience levels of skiers. Provision of higher elevation runs and snowmaking will increase the season of

use through enhanced snow cover on runs.

The proposed expansion of the Bill Williams Ski Area will satisfy the following needs:

- improve the quality of recreation experience in the Williams area,
- diversify the local economic base for the City of Williams
- increase skier capacity to accommodate unmet skier demand in the region,
- provide better and more consistent skiing conditions by increasing reliability of skiable snow cover, particularly at the beginning of the season when skiing is frequently delayed,
- encourage efficient use of facilities by expanding use into the summer months,
- satisfy Forest Service management objective (see below).

The expansion of the Bill Williams Ski Area will meet the following Forest Service management objectives:

- It is Forest Service policy to provide, under special-use authorization, suitable facilities and services that supplement or complement those provided by the private sector on private lands on National Forest System land to meet public needs. In addition, it is Forest Service policy to facilitate the use, enjoyment, and appreciation of the National Forests in a natural resource setting (FSM 2340.2).
- Update and modify the previous approved Environmental Impact Statement which authorized a new ski area on the north slopes of Bill Williams Mountain (USDA-Kaibab National Forest 1986).
- To provide a diversity of recreation activities that emphasize the forest setting and rustic, natural resource based recreation opportunities (FSM 2343.02).

Decision to be Made: Based on public response to the DEIS, a decision will be made regarding expansion of the Bill Williams Ski Area. Possible decisions include the following: 1.) implement the proposed action as defined; 2.) take no action at all; or 3.) take action to some other degree, based on issues generated through public scoping.

Proposed Action: The USDA—Kaibab National Forest, proposes to authorize Alpine Recreation Company LLC., to incorporate the existing Bill Williams ski area and construct, operate, and maintain an expansion of current facilities. Under the proposed action, the skiable terrain would increase from 16.4 acres to 62.6 acres. The total number of skiers that could be