

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

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

October 15, 1998.

The Department of Agriculture has submitted the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104-13. Comments regarding (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; (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 should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Washington, DC 20503 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, DC 20250-7602. Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of this notification. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720-6746.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it

displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Food and Nutrition Service

Title: FCS-135 Affidavit of Return or Exchange of Food Coupons.

OMB Control Number: 0584-0052.

Summary of Collection: Section 11(a) of the Food Stamp Act (the Act) requires that the State agencies assume responsibility for the certification of applicant households and for the issuance of coupons and the control and accountability thereof. Records shall be kept to ascertain whether the program is being conducted in compliance with the provisions of this Act and the regulations issued pursuant to this Act. Such records shall be available for inspection and audit at any reasonable time and shall be preserved for not less than 3 years. Section 13 (a) and (b) of the Act authorized the Secretary to collect any overissuance of coupons issued to a household by establishing claims. The State agency shall collect for over-issuances by any reasonable means including the return of food stamp coupons by households to repay the overissuance. The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) will collect information using form FNS-135, Affidavit of Return or Exchange of Food Coupons.

Need and Use of the Information: FNS will collect information on coupons returned or exchanged and provides verification of who returned the coupons and who received them. Participants return loose coupons that have been lost, upon death of a participant, when a participant departs from a rehabilitation center, upon payment of claim, mutilated coupons that have been received, or to exchange old-series coupons or improperly manufactured coupons.

Description of Respondents: Individuals or households; State, Local, or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 8,988.

Frequency of Responses: Recordkeeping; Reporting; On occasion.

Total burden Hours: 17,859.

Farm Service Agency

Title: 7 CFR 1464 Subpart B, Importer Assessments.

OMB Control Number: 0560-0148.

Summary of Collection: The payment of assessments on imported tobacco is required by statute (7 U.S.C. 1445, 1445-1, and 1445-2). The information

collected by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) is necessary to ensure that the proper amount has been paid for the applicable kind of tobacco and that payments are made timely. The collected information is recorded in a data base so that FSA can monitor and verify collected amounts compared with amounts due and verify that payments are made timely.

Need and Use of the Information: FSA will collect information on the importers' name, import date, port of entry, and quantity imported to calculate the marketing assessment amount and the import assessment fee. The information collected is used by FSA, Tobacco and Peanuts Division to ensure that the marketing assessment fees and the importers' net cost assessment fees are timely and accurately remitted by importers and unmanufactured tobacco that enters into the commerce of the United States.

Description of Respondents: Farms; business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 40.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting; Other (Assessment).

Total Burden Hours: 540.

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Title: Users Fee Regulations, 7 CFR 354 and 9 CFR 130.

OMB Control Number: 0579-0094.

Summary of Collection: The Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990, authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to prescribe and collect fees to cover the cost of providing certain Agricultural Quarantine and Inspection (AQI) services. The Act gives the Secretary the authority to charge for the inspection of international passengers, commercial vessels, trucks, aircraft, and railroad cars, and to recover the costs of providing the inspection of plants and plant products offered for export. The Secretary is authorized to use the revenue to provide reimbursements to any appropriation accounts that incur costs associated with the AQI services provided. APHIS collects information using forms VS 16-3, Application for Permits to Import Controlled Material and/or Import or Transport Organisms or Vectors, and VS 16-7, Additional Information for Cell Cultures and Their Products.

Need and Use of the Information: APHIS collects information which includes the taxpayer identification number, name, address and telephone number to collect fees. The procedures and the information requested for the passengers and aircrafts are used to ensure that the correct users fees are collected and remitted in full in a timely manner. Without the information from the respondents, APHIS would not be able to ensure substantial compliance with the statute. Noncompliance with the statute could result in misappropriation of public funds and lost revenue to the Federal Government.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit; Individuals or households; Federal Government; State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 17,761.

Frequency of Responses:

Recordkeeping; Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 7,663.

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Title: Endangered Species Regulations and Forfeiture Procedures.

OMB Control Number: 0579-0076.

Summary of Collection: The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1513 et seq.) Directs Federal departments to utilize their authorities under the Act to conserve endangered and threatened species. Section 3 of the Act specifies that the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to promulgate such regulations as may be appropriate to enforce the Act. The regulations contained in 7 CFR 355 are intended to carry out the provisions of the Act. The Plant Protection and Quarantine (PRQ) division of USDA's Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is responsible for implementing these regulations. Specifically, Section 9(d) of the Act authorizes 7 CFR 355.11, which requires a general permit to engage in the business of importing or exporting terrestrial plants listed in 50 CFR Parts 17 and 23. APHIS will collect information using APHIS PPQ 621 application form.

Need and Use of the Information: APHIS will collect information on the applicant's name and address, whether the applicant is affiliated with a business, and the address of all the applicant's business locations in order for the applicant to obtain a general permit. Upon approval of the permit, any endangered species shipped via mail must be sent to an authorized port of entry and must be accompanied by appropriate supporting documentation.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 1,400.

Frequency of Responses:
Recordkeeping; Reporting: On occasion.
Total Burden Hours: 3,186.

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Title: Federal Plant Pest and Noxious Weeds Regulations, 7 CFR 330 & 360, 9 CFR 94.5.

OMB Control Numbers: 0579-0054.

Summary of Collection: The United States Department of Agriculture is responsible for preventing plant pests and noxious weeds from entering the United States, preventing the spread of pests and weeds not widely distributed in the United States, and eradicating those imported pests and weeds when eradication is feasible. Section 150bb of the Federal Plant Pest Act (7 USC 150aa-150jj) and Section 4(a) of the Federal Noxious Weed Act (7 U.S.C. 2801-2813) provide that no plant pest or noxious weed can be moved from a foreign country into or through the United States, or interstate, unless the movement is authorized under a permit issued by the Secretary of Agriculture and the movement is carried out in accordance with the conditions the Secretary may prescribe to prevent the dissemination of plant pests or noxious weeds into the United States. The Plant Protection and Quarantine Program (PPQ) of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), is responsible for implementing these regulations. APHIS will collect information using several forms.

Need and Use of the Information: APHIS will collect information to determine whether certain articles destined for importation into the United States, or interstate movement within the United States, pose a threat of introducing or spreading plant pests or noxious weeds that could cause significant harm to American agriculture. All the data collected enables APHIS to evaluate the risks associated with the proposed importation or interstate movement of regulated articles, and also enables it to develop risk-mitigating conditions, if necessary, for the proposed importation or movement.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit; Individual or households; Federal Government; State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 39,912.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 37,633.

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Title: Annual Survey of Cooperative Involvement in International Markets.

OMB Control Number: 0570-0020.

Summary of Collection: The Cooperative Marketing Act of 1926, 7 U.S.C. 453(b)(5), authorizes Rural Business-Cooperative Services (RBS) "to acquire from all available sources, information concerning crop prospects, supply, demand, current receipts, exports, imports, and prices of agricultural products handled or marketed by cooperative associations, and to employ qualified commodity marketing specialists to summarize and analyze this information and disseminate the same among cooperative associations, and others." The mission of the Cooperative Services Program of RBS is to assist farmer-owned cooperatives in improving the economic well-being of their farmer-members. To facilitate the program's mission and activities as authorized by the Cooperative Marketing Act of 1926, RBS collects, maintains, and analyzes data pertaining to farmer cooperatives. Information is collected through an annual survey mailed to all cooperatives.

Need and Use of the Information: The information collected by RBS will be used to comply with the agency's mission to acquire and report such information. In addition to monitoring and reporting the progress of cooperatives in global markets, RBS will use the data in economic/market research and will also produce educational materials about cooperatives.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 170.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 170.

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Title: Research on Rural Cooperative Opportunities and Problems.

OMB Control Number: 0570-0028.

Summary of Collection: The Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS) was established by Public Law 103-350, the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994. The mission of RBS is to improve the quality of life in rural America by financing community facilities and businesses, providing technical assistance and creating effective strategies for rural development. The primary objective of this funding is to encourage research through cooperative agreements on critical issues vital to the development and sustainability of cooperatives as a means of improving the quality of life in America's rural communities. RBS will collect information through research proposals prepared by applicants, who may be public or private colleges or

universities, research foundations maintained by a college or university, or private nonprofit organizations.

Need and Use of the Information: RBS will collect project proposal information from applicants to determine (1) eligibility; (2) the specific purpose for which the funds will be utilized; (3) time frames or dates by which activities surrounding the use of funds will be accomplished; (4) feasibility of the project; (5) applicants' experience in managing similar activities; and (6) the effectiveness and innovation used to address critical issues vital to the development and sustainability of cooperatives as a means of improving the quality of life in America's rural communities. Without the collection of this information, there would be no basis on which to award funds or monitor project progress.

Description of Respondents: Not-for-profit institutions.

Number of Respondents: 50.

Frequency of Responses: Recordkeeping; Reporting: On occasion; Quarterly.

Total Burden Hours: 1,415.

Food and Nutrition Service

Title: FNS 292—Report of Coupon Issuance and Commodity Distribution for Disaster Relief.

OMB Control Number: 0584-0037.

Summary of Collection: The Emergency Food Stamp Assistance Program is authorized by the Disaster Relief Act of 1970; the Food Stamp Act, as amended; and Part 274 of the Food Stamp Program regulations. This program is initiated in a food stamp project area by the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) when all or part of the area has been affected by a disaster. Sections 274.7 and 274.14 of the Food Stamp Program regulations contain requirements that State agencies keep records and submit reports on food stamps issued under disaster procedures "as may from time to time be required by FNS". Food distribution in disaster situations is authorized under Section 32 of the Act of August 24, 1935. Surplus foods are made available by State distributing agencies for relief purposes to victims of natural disasters such as hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, etc. Distribution to these recipients is made primarily through such organizations as the American Red Cross of the Salvation Army. These organizations use surplus foods for both central feeding operations and for distribution to families in homes cut off from normal sources of food supply. Form FNS-292 will be used by State welfare departments to report to FNS the number of households and persons

who were certified for Emergency Food Stamp Assistance, and also to report the value of coupons issued to those households.

Need and Use of the Information: FNS will collect information through the use of form FNS-292, which is used by the FNS Administrator, the Food Distribution Division, and the three Food Stamp Program divisions to monitor program activity, assess coverage provided to needy recipients, and to prepare budget requests. If the information were not collected, FNS would be unable to monitor the issuance of food stamp coupons and the distribution of surplus foods during disaster situations.

Description of Respondents: State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 55.

Frequency of Responses: Recordkeeping; Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 97.

Nancy Sternberg,

Departmental Information Clearance Officer.
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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of the Secretary

Intergovernmental Advisory Committee (IAC)

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to reestablish a Federal Advisory Committee.

SUMMARY: In response to the continued need of the United States Department of Agriculture and the United States Department of the Interior for advice on coordination and implementation of the Record of Decision (ROD) of April 13, 1994, of Management of Habitat for Late-successional and Old-growth Forest-related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl, the Departments have agreed to reestablish the Intergovernmental Advisory Committee (IAC). The purpose of the IAC is to provide intergovernmental advice on coordinating the implementation of the ROD. The IAC provides advice and recommendations to promote integration and coordination of forest management activities among Federal and non-Federal entities.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Susan Yonts-Shepard, Staff Assistant for National Forest System Operations, Forest Services, USDA, (202) 205-1519.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) (5 U.S.C. App.), notice is hereby given that the United States Department

of Agriculture in consultation with the Department of the Interior intends to reestablish the Intergovernmental Advisory Committee (IAC) to the Regional Interagency Executive Committee (RIEC). The purpose of the RIEC is to facilitate the coordinated implementation of the ROD of April 13, 1994. The RIEC consists of representatives of the following Federal agencies: the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Fish And Wildlife Service, national Marine Fisheries Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Environmental Protection Agency, Corps of Engineers, Forest Service Research, Environmental Protection Agency Research, and United States Geological Survey Biological Resources Division. The purpose of the IAC is to advise the RIEC on coordinating the implementation of the ROD. The IAC will provide advice and recommendations to promote integration and coordination of forest management activities among Federal and non-Federal entities.

The IAC is in the public interest in connection with the duties and responsibilities of the United States Department of Agriculture and of the United States Department of the Interior. The ROD provides direction to the Forest Service and the Bureau of land Management for developing an ecosystem management approach that is consistent with statutory authority for land use planning. Ecosystem management requires improved coordination among governmental entities responsible for land management decisions and the public they serve.

The Chair of the IAC will alternate annually between the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management representative. The Executive Director, Regional Ecosystem Office, will serve as the Designated Federal Official under sections 10(e) and (f) of the FACA.

The action of reestablishing the IAC does not require amendment of Bureau of Land Management or Forest Service planning documents because it does not affect the standards and guidelines or land allocations, which require an amendment process to change. The Bureau of Land management and Forest Service will provide further notices, as needed, for additional actions or adjustments when implementing interagency coordination, public involvement, and other aspects of the ROD.

Equal opportunity practices will be followed in all appointments to the Advisory committee. To ensure that the recommendations of the IAC have taken