

to the Forest Service ability to maintain roads to agency standards.

The purpose of the proposed travel management plan is to restore watershed values in areas where unacceptable soil and water resource damage is occurring (closing and rehabilitating unneeded roads will reduce the occurring adverse impacts); reduce long-term maintenance costs; provide access to treatment areas, trailheads, dispersed recreation areas, and other areas of high recreation use; provide for safe travel on Forest roads; and reduce road densities to maintain or improve wildlife habitat effectiveness.

Trailhead development is proposed as follows: Construction of a trailhead for the Powell Point trail (#6.0) at the junction of the Powell Point non-motorized trail and the end of FS road (#1516). Construction would include a parking area, signs and information kiosk. Construction of a trailhead for the Gap trail (#1.51) at the end of Forest road (#1370). Construction would include a parking area, signs and information kiosk. Construction of a trailhead at Clayton Guard Station to serve Grass Lakes (#1.61), Pacer Lake (#4.0), Poison Creek (#3.0) and Antimony Lake (#2.0) motorized trails. Construction would include a parking area, signs and an information kiosk. Construction of a trailhead for the North Creek lakes non-motorized trail (#1.5) Construction would include a parking area, signs and an information kiosk. Construct a parking area at the end of the road #0176 at Row Lakes.

The activities are needed because: a comparison of the desired future condition and the existing forest condition indicated that motorized and non-motorized recreation use is increasing. There is a need to provide safe public access for this use. Existing trailheads are essentially rudimentary and undeveloped. There is a need to design and construct trailheads which include information kiosk, parking and signing. Due to the absence of designated trailheads, damage to the soil and water resources has occurred. There is a need to reduce and prevent resource damage.

Preliminary issues that have been identified through scoping to date include road closures, management activities in areas which have unroaded characteristics, prescribed burning versus cutting in aspen stands and managing timber stands to favor aspen over spruce.

Tentative alternatives to the proposed action include: No Action (the project will not take place, but current management will continue); elimination of timber harvest in areas which have

unroaded characteristics; and an alternative which regenerates aspen by burning and does not include commercial aspen timber harvest.

As lead agency, the Forest Service will analyze and document direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental effects for a range of alternatives. Each alternative will include mitigation measures and monitoring requirements. Hugh C. Thompson, Forest Supervisor, Dixie National Forest, is the responsible official.

The Forest Service is seeking comments from individuals, organizations, and local, state and Federal agencies who may be interested in or affected by the proposed action.

Scoping notices have been sent to the Dixie National Forest NEPA mailing list. Other interested individuals, organizations, or agencies may have their names added to the mailing list for this project at any time by submitting a request to: Kevin R. Schulkoski, District Ranger, Escalante Ranger District, 755 West Main, PO Box 246, Escalante, Utah 84726.

A public field review of the proposed project was held on September 29, 1998. Twenty one people representing different organizational, business, governmental and individual interests participated in the meeting.

Approximately 120 acres of private land lie within the analysis area. No actions are proposed on private land. The remaining acres lie within National Forest System lands. No federal or local permits, licenses or entitlements would be needed. There are no known conflicts with the plans and policies of other jurisdictions. The comment period for the DEIS will be 45 days from the date the EPA's notice of availability appears 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 the DEIS's must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewers' position and contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. Versus NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978).

Also, environmental objections that could have been raised at the DEIS stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final EIS may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *City of Angoon Versus Hodel*, (9th Circuit, 1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc versus Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 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 the time it can meaningfully consider them and respond to them in the final EIS.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the DEIS should be as specific as possible, it is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft 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.

The DEIS is expected to be available for review by March 1999. The Record of Decision and Final Environmental Impact Statement are expected to be available by May 1999.

Dated: November 4, 1998.

**Hugh C. Thompson,**

*Forester Supervisor, Dixie National Forest.*

[FR Doc. 98-30509 Filed 11-13-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### National Agricultural Statistics Service

#### Notice of Intent To Seek Approval To Conduct an Information Collection

**AGENCY:** National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

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

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. No. 104-13) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR Part 1320 (60 FR 44978, August 29, 1995), this notice announces the intent of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) to request approval for a new information collection, the Fruit and Vegetable Agricultural Practices Survey.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by January 20, 1999 to be assured of consideration.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS:

Contact Rich Allen, Associate Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Room 4117 South Building, Washington, D.C. 20250-2000, (202) 720-4333.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* Fruit and Vegetable Agricultural Practices Survey.

*Type of Request:* Intent to Seek Approval to Conduct an Information Collection.

*Abstract:* The Fruit and Vegetable Agricultural Practices Survey will be conducted by the National Agricultural Statistics Service. Survey data will be analyzed by the Food and Drug Administration as part of a pilot study on agricultural practices related to microbial food safety. Data on sources of microbial contamination on produce, including water; manure; worker, field and facility sanitation; and crop identification systems will be collected. These data will be used by the Food and Drug Administration to analyze current agricultural practices and to develop a baseline to evaluate changes in farm practices. The survey will be conducted in California and New York. This survey is in compliance with President Clinton's October 1997 directive entitled "Initiative to Ensure the Safety of Imported and Domestic Fruits and Vegetables." These data will be collected under the authority of 7 U.S.C. 2204(a). Individually identifiable data collected under this authority are governed by Section 1770 of the Food Security Act of 1985, 7 U.S.C. 2276, which requires USDA to afford strict confidentiality to non-aggregated data provided by respondents.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 60 minutes per response.

*Respondents:* Fruit and vegetable growers and fruit and vegetable packinghouses.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 1,000.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 1,000 hours.

Copies of this information collection and related instructions can be obtained without charge from Larry Gambrell, the Agency OMB Clearance Officer, at (202) 720-5778.

#### Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed 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 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 the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or

other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to: Larry Gambrell, Agency OMB Clearance Officer, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Room 4162 South Building, Washington, D.C. 20250-2000. 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.

Signed at Washington, D.C., November 3, 1998.

**Donald M. Bay,**

*Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service.*

[FR Doc. 98-30562 Filed 11-13-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-20-M

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Housing Service

#### Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the section 515 Rural Rental Housing Program

**AGENCY:** Rural Housing Service (RHS), USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This NOFA announces the timeframe to submit applications for section 515 Rural Rental Housing loan funds and section 521 Rental Assistance (RA) for new construction, including applications for the Nonprofit Set-Aside for eligible nonprofit entities, the set-aside for the 100 most Underserved Counties and Colonias (Cranston-Gonzalez Act), and the set-aside for Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities (EZ/ECs). This document describes the methodology that will be used to distribute funds, the application process, submission requirements, and areas of special emphasis or consideration.

**DATES:** The closing deadline for receipt of all applications, including the set-asides, in response to this NOFA is 5:00 p.m., local time for each Rural Development State office on January 15, 1999. The application closing deadline is firm as to date and hour. RHS will not consider any application that is received after the closing deadline. Applicants intending to mail applications must provide sufficient time to permit delivery on or before the closing deadline date and time. Acceptance by a post office or private mailer does not constitute delivery. Facsimile (FAX), COD, and postage due applications will not be accepted.

**ADDRESSES:** Applicants wishing to apply for assistance must contact the Rural

Development State office serving the place in which they desire to submit an application for rural rental housing to receive further information and copies of the application package. Rural Development will date and time stamp incoming applications to evidence timely receipt, and, upon request, will provide the applicant with a written acknowledgment of receipt. A listing of Rural Development State offices, their addresses, telephone numbers, and person to contact follows:

**Note:** Telephone numbers listed are not toll-free.

Alabama State Office, Suite 601, Sterling Centre, 4121 Carmichael Road, Montgomery, AL 36106-3683, (334) 279-3455, TDD (334) 279-3495, James B. Harris  
Alaska State Office, 800 West Evergreen, Suite 201, Palmer, AK 99645, (907) 745-2176, TDD (907) 745-6494, Ron Abbott  
Arizona State Office, Phoenix Corporate Center, 3003 N. Central Ave., Suite 900, Phoenix, AZ 85012-2906, (602) 280-8755, TDD (602) 280-8701, Steve Langstaff  
Arkansas State Office, 700 W. Capitol Ave., Rm. 3416, Little Rock, AR 72201-3225, (501) 301-3250, TDD (501) 301-3279, Cathy Jones  
California State Office, 430 G Street, Agency 4169, Davis, CA 95616-4169, (530) 792-5800, Robert P. Anderson  
Colorado State Office, 655 Parfet Street, Room E100, Lakewood, CO 80215, (303) 236-2801 (ext. 122), TDD (303) 236-1590, "Sam" Mitchell  
Connecticut—Served by Massachusetts State Office  
Delaware/Maryland State Office, 5201 South Dupont Highway, PO Box 400, Camden, DE 19934-9998, (302) 697-4314, TDD (302) 697-4303, W. Arthur Greenwood  
Florida & Virgin Islands State Office, 4440 N.W. 25th Place, PO Box 147010, Gainesville, FL 32614-7010, (352) 338-3465, TDD (352) 338-3499, Joseph P. Fritz  
Georgia State Office, Stephens Federal Building, 355 E. Hancock Avenue, Athens, GA 30601-2768, (706) 546-2164, TDD (706) 546-2034, Wayne Rogers  
Guam—Served by Hawaii State Office  
Hawaii, Guam, & Western Pacific Territories State Office, Room 311, Federal Building, 154 Waiannu Avenue, Hilo, HI 96720, (808) 933-3000, TDD (808) 933-6902, Abraham Kubo  
Idaho State Office, Suite A1, 9173 West Barnes Dr., Boise, ID 83709, (208) 378-5627, TDD (208) 378-5644, Roni Atkins  
Illinois State Office, Illini Plaza, Suite 103, 1817 South Neil Street, Champaign, IL 61820, (217) 398-5412 (ext. 256), TDD (217) 398-5396, Barry L. Ramsey  
Indiana State Office 5975 Lakeside Boulevard, Indianapolis, IN 46278, (317) 290-3117, TDD (317) 290-3343, John Young  
Iowa State Office, 873 Federal Building, 210 Walnut Street, Des Moines, IA 50309, (515) 284-4493, TDD (515) 284-4858, Bruce McGuire  
Kansas State Office, 1200 SW Executive Drive, PO Box 4653, Topeka, KS 66604,