

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.

AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Notice of Public Information Collections Being Reviewed by the U.S. Agency for International Development; Comments Requested

SUMMARY: U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is making efforts to reduce the paperwork burden. USAID invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the following proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act for 1995. Comments are requested concerning: (a) Whether the proposed or continuing collections of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the burden estimates; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Submit comments on or before November 25, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Beverly Johnson, Bureau of Management, Office of Administrative Services, Information and Records Division, U.S. Agency for International Development, Room 2.07-106, RRB, Washington, DC 20523, (202) 712-1365 or via e-mail bjohnson@usaid.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

OMB No.: OMB 0412-0506.

Form No.: AID 1420-50.

Title: Vendor Database (formerly known as ACRIS) Instruction Books for the Organization Profile.

Type of Review: Renewal of Information Collection.

Purpose: USAID procuring activities are required to establish bidders mailing

lists to assure access to sources and to obtain meaningful competition (41 CFR Section 1-2.205). In compliance with this requirement, USAID's Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization/Minority Resource Center has responsibility for developing and maintaining a Contractor's Index of bidders/offers capable of furnishing services for use by the USAID procuring activities. (AIDAR 719.271-2(b)(4)).

Annual Reporting Burden:

Respondents: 1,000.

Total annual responses: 1,000.

Total annual hours requested: 250 hours.

Dated: September 22, 2003.

Joanne Paskar,

Chief, Information and Records Division,
Office of Administrative Services, Bureau for Management.

[FR Doc. 03-24355 Filed 9-25-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection, Comment Request—Food Stamp Program: State Issuance and Participation Estimates—Form FNS-388

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is publishing for public comment a summary of a proposed information collection. The proposed collection would extend a currently approved collection under OMB No. 0584-0081 for the Food Stamp Program for the form FNS-388, State Issuance and Participation Estimates.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by November 25, 2003 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Send comments and requests for copies of this information collection to Barbara Hallman, Chief, State Administration Branch, Food Stamp Program, Food and Nutrition Service, USDA, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302. Copies of the estimate of the information collection

can be obtained by contacting Ms. Hallman.

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.

All comments will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the information collection. All comments will become a matter of public record.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Barbara Hallman, telephone number (703) 305-2383.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Form FNS-388, State Issuance and Participation Estimates.

Title: Form FNS-388, State Issuance and Participation Estimates.

OMB Number: 0584-0081.

Expiration Date: November 2003.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: Section 18(b) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (the Act) (7 U.S.C. 2027(b)) limits the value of allotments paid to food stamp households to an amount not in excess of the appropriation for the fiscal year. If allotments in any fiscal year would exceed the appropriation, the Secretary of Agriculture is required to direct State agencies to reduce the value of food stamp allotments to the extent necessary to stay within appropriated funding limits. Timely State monthly issuance estimates are necessary for FNS to ensure that it remains within the appropriation, to timely request a supplemental appropriation if appropriate, and to reduce allotments if a supplemental appropriation is not provided. While benefit reductions have never been ordered in the past under section 18(b), nor are they anticipated based on current data, the Department

must continue to monitor actual program costs against the appropriation.

Title: Form FNS-388, State Issuance and Participation Estimates.

Section 11(e)(12) of the Act (7 U.S.C. 2020(e)(12)) requires that the State Plan of Operations shall provide for the submission of reports required by the Secretary of Agriculture. State agencies are required to report on a monthly basis on FNS-388, State Issuance and Participation Estimates, estimated or actual issuance and participation data for the current month and previous month, and actual participation data for the second preceding month. The FNS-388 report provides the necessary data for an early warning system so that the Department may stay within its appropriation.

State agencies in general only submit one Statewide FNS-388 per month. The exception is that State agencies which choose to operate both a coupon system and an electronic benefit transfer (EBT) system, or which choose to operate an approved alternative issuance demonstration project such as a cash-out system, submit a separate report for each type of issuance system. State agencies are converting from coupons to EBT. In June 2003, 52 State agencies operated an EBT system and 49 operated EBT statewide. With almost all States agencies now EBT and with the single remaining State agency moving from paper coupons to EBT by October 2004, few State agencies will be expected to temporarily submit more than one FNS-388 report per month at any one time. With State agency automated information systems, the separate report for a secondary issuance system or an alternative issuance demonstration project should have a negligible impact on the burden.

In addition, State agencies are required to submit a project area breakdown on the FNS-388 of issuance and participation data twice a year. This data is useful in identifying project areas that are required to do photo identification of heads of households or to operate fraud detection units in accordance with the Act.

Beginning July 1993, State agencies were allowed to submit the FNS-388 data electronically to the national database files stored in FNS' Food Stamp Program Integrated Information System in lieu of a paper report. The voluntary changeover from paper to electronic reporting of FNS-388 data by States was done as part of FNS' State Cooperative Data Exchange Project. This project is being expanded over time as more FNS forms are transferred to electronic formats for State data entry. As of May 2003, a total of 46 State

agencies submit the FNS-388 data electronically and 7 State agencies submit paper reports.

Respondents: State agencies that administer the Food Stamp Program.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 53.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:

Form FNS-388: 53 State agencies 12 times a year.

Form FNS-388A: 53 State agencies twice a year.

Estimate of Burden:

Form FNS-388: The State agencies submit Form FNS-388 10 times per year at an estimate of 5.60 hours per respondent, or 2,970 hours annually for all respondents. The remaining two FNS-388 submissions with a public assistance (PA) and non-public assistance (NA) caseload breakout are covered under the FNS-388A twice a year submissions (see below).

Form FNS-388A: The State agencies submit a more detailed FNS-388 (with PA and NA breakout) twice a year and FNS-388A project area breakdown twice a year at an estimate of 14.8 hours per respondent, or 1,572 hours annually for all respondents.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: The annual reporting and recordkeeping burden for OMB No. 0584-0081 is estimated to be 4,542 hours.

Dated: September 10, 2003.

Roberto Salazar,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. 03-24353 Filed 9-25-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-30-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Revised Land and Resource Management Plan for the National Forests in Mississippi

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: The Regional Forester for the Southern Region gives notice of the agency's intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for revision of the Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) for the National Forests in Mississippi. According to 36 CFR 219.10(g), Forest Plans are ordinarily revised on a 10-15 year cycle. The planning process will be initiated under the 1982 Forest Service planning regulations (36 Code of Federal Regulations 219 *et seq.*, as is provided

for at 36 CFR 219.35(b) of the current regulations). The existing Forest Plan for Mississippi was approved on September 16, 1985. On December 14, 1999, a Notice of Intent to revise the Forest Plan was published in the **Federal Register** (FR 69686, December 14, 1999). This 2003 Notice of Intent updates the projected schedule for Forest Plan revision and provides an opportunity for additional public comments. The agency invites written comments and suggestions from American Indian tribes, Federal agencies, State and local governments, individuals and organizations on the scope of the analysis to be included in the draft EIS (DEIS) (40 CFR 1501.7).

This Notice of Intent affects the following counties in Mississippi: Adams, Amite, Benton, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Copiah, Forrest, Franklin, George, Greene, Harrison, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Jones, Lafayette, Lincoln, Marshall, Newton, Oktibbeha, Pearl River, Perry, Pontotoc, Scott, Sharkey, Smith, Stone, Tippah, Union, Wayne, Wilkinson, Winston, and Yalobusha counties in Mississippi.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis should be received on or before 45 days from publication of this Notice. The agency expects to file the draft EIS with the Environmental Protection Agency and make it available for public comment in November, 2005. The agency expects to file the final EIS in November, 2006. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for meeting dates.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments to Forest Plan Revision, National Forests in Mississippi, 100 West Capitol St., Suite 1141, Jackson, MS 39269. Electronic mail should include "Forest Plan Revision" in the subject line and be sent to: Mississippi_Plan@fs.fed.us.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: National Forests in Mississippi: Planning Team Leader Jeff Long (phone 601-965-4391; TTY 601-965-6038). Electronic mail should include "Forest Plan Revision" in the subject line and be sent to: Mississippi_Plan@fs.fed.us. Information about Forest Plan revision and future opportunities to participate will be posted at the following Web site: <http://www.southernregion.fs.fed.us/mississippi/>.

Responsible Official: The Regional Forester for the Southern Region, located at 1720 Peachtree Road, NW., Atlanta, Georgia 30309, is the Responsible Official.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: