

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.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

March 28, 1997.

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, Public Law 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 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, D.C. 20503 and to Department Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, D.C. 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) 720-6204 or (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.

Economic Research Service

Title: Farm Real Estate Tax Survey.
OMB Control Number: 0536-0002.

Summary: Information is collected on farm and ranch real estate taxes plus assessed value of land and building.

Need and Use of the Information: Estimates of the farm real estate taxes are used for the computation of the index of Prices Paid by farmers. They are essential in computing net farm income, return on equity to farming and cost of farms production.

Description of Respondents: State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 2,500.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 2,083.

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Title: Cooperative Services Questionnaire: Market Potential for New Cooperatives, Buyer Survey for New Cooperative Activity.

OMB Control Number: 0570-0009.

Summary: RBS will survey potential buyers of proposed cooperatives' products at the request of producer groups to assist them in determining the feasibility of new cooperative marketing ventures.

Need and Use of the Information: Data are used to develop a total business plan for new cooperative activities and to evaluate the potential for their success.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 105.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 3.5

Rural Housing Service

Title: 7 CFR 1924-F, Complaints and Compensation for Construction Defects.
OMB Control Number: 0575-0082.

Summary: Information is collected from borrowers concerning defects of newly constructed dwelling and new manufactured housing units.

Need and Use of the Information: The information is used by the Rural Housing staff to evaluate the request and assist the borrower in identifying possible causes for the construction defects and corrective actions.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 5,000.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: on occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 1,500.

Donald Hulcher,

Deputy Departmental Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 97-8414 Filed 4-1-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-01-M

Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization; Subcontracting Forum

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization.

ACTION: Notice of Meeting.

SUMMARY: The Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) at the Department of Agriculture (USDA) will hold its first Federal Subcontracting Forum on May 7, 1997, from 9 a.m. to 12 Noon. The meeting will be held in Room 107-A of the Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building, located at 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250. Attendance at the meeting is open to all large business concerns.

Presentation topics include the Impact of the Adarand Decision and the Department of Justice's Proposal on the Federal Subcontracting Program; the Federal Subcontracting Program at USDA; and the Future of the Federal Subcontracting Program. Among the guest speakers will be Bob Taylor, Manager, Federal Subcontracting Program, Small Business Administration (SBA), and Linda Mesaros, Deputy Associate Administrator for Procurement Policy, Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP).

Large business representatives should be prepared to address their subcontracting concerns/issues at the meeting. Legal counsel and a team of procurement officials from USDA, SBA and OFPP will be available to answer questions. Confidential and proprietary information will not be discussed. Seating at the forum is limited, and reservations are required. Reservations will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis.

DATES: Reservations must be made by April 23, 1997 (fax or e-mail only).

ADDRESSES: Confirm by facsimile at (202) 720-3001. Confirm by e-mail at giavanna.pullen@usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Please contact Loretta D'Amico, USDA/

OSDBU, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, AG STOP 9501, Washington, DC 20250-9501, telephone: (202) 720-7117, or visit the OSDBU Home Page on the Internet at www.usda.gov/da/smallbus.html.

Sharron L. Harris,

Director, Office of Small and Disadvantaged

Business Utilization

[FR Doc. 97-8276 Filed 4-1-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-01-P

Farm Service Agency

Notice of Request for Extension 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 that the Farm Service Agency (FSA) intends to request an extension for currently approved collection of information pertaining to foreign investment in United States (U.S.) agricultural land as authorized by the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (AFIDA).

DATE: Comments on this notice must be received on or before June 2, 1997 to be assured consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Contact Patricia A. Blevins, Agricultural Foreign Investment Specialist, Foreign Investment Disclosure Branch, Operations Analysis Staff, USDA, FSA, STOP 0531, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-0531, (202) 720-0604.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act Report.

OMB Number: 0560-0097.

Expiration Date: June 30, 1997.

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

Abstract: AFIDA requires foreign persons who hold, acquire, or dispose of any interest in U.S. agricultural land to report the transactions to the FSA on an AFIDA report. The information collected from the AFIDA reports is used in the preparation of an annual report to Congress and the President by the Economic Research Service concerning the effect of foreign investment upon family farms and rural communities. Congress reviews the annual report and decides if further regulatory action is required.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information

is estimated to average .4818 hours per response.

Respondents: Foreign investors, corporate employees, farm managers or attorneys.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 4,375.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 2,108 hours.

Proposed topics for comment include:

(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 collected; or (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of the 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 Patricia A. Blevins, Agricultural Foreign Investment Specialist, Foreign Investment Disclosure Branch, Operations Analysis Staff, USDA, FSA, STOP 0531, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-0531, (202) 720-0604.

Signed at Washington, DC, on March 26, 1997.

Bruce R. Weber,

Acting Administrator Farm Service Agency.

[FR Doc. 97-8412 Filed 4-1-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05 P

Forest Service

Nicore Mining Plan of Operation, Siskiyou National Forest, Josephine County, Oregon

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: The USDA, Forest Service, in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management, will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to disclose the environmental impacts for a site-specific Proposed Action to approve a Plan of Operation for access and mining with mitigation, in the West Fork Illinois River drainage, of the Illinois Valley Ranger District, Siskiyou

National Forest, Josephine County, Oregon. These are two access alternatives presently under consideration. The Agency gives notice of the full environmental analysis and decision-making process that will occur on the Proposed Action, so that interested and affected persons are aware of how they may participate and contribute to the analysis.

DATES: Issues with the Proposed Action must be received in writing before May 5, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Submit written issues with the Proposed Action to Mary Zuschlag, District Ranger, Illinois Valley Ranger District, 26568 Redwood Highway, Cave Junction, Oregon, 97523.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Direct questions about the Proposed Action and EIS to Don McLennan, Interdisciplinary Team Leader, Illinois Valley Ranger District, 26568 Redwood Highway, Cave Junction, Oregon, 97523 or by calling (541) 592-2166.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The 1872 Mining Law, Section 1 states that all valuable mineral deposits in lands belonging to the United States are to be free and open to exploration.

The 1970 Mining and Minerals Policy Act declares that it is the policy of the Federal Government to foster and encourage private enterprise in the development of economically sound and stable domestic mining, minerals, metal and mineral reclamation industries. The Act also declares that it is the policy of the Federal Government to foster and encourage private enterprise in the orderly and economic development of domestic mineral resources.

In preparing the EIS, the Agency will tier to the Amended Land and Resource Management Plan for the Siskiyou National Forest, consider submitted written issues with Proposed Action, and develop additional alternatives that respond to the significant issues with the Proposed Action. In addition, the agency will analyze a no-action alternative.

Public participation will be important at several times during the analysis. The first time is during the scoping period [Reviewer may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environment Policy Act (CFR) at 40 CFR 150.7]. The Agency will be seeking written issues with the Proposed Action from Federal, State, and local agencies, any affected Indian tribes, the permit applicant, and other individuals who may be interested in or affected by the Proposed Action. This input will be