

9. What other generic issues pertaining to small farms should the Commission consider?

Interested parties wishing to testify must contact the office of the National Commission on Small Farms by September 8, 1997, in order to be placed on a list of witnesses. Oral presentations will be limited to 5 minutes. Those wishing to testify, but unable to notify the Commission office by September 8, will be able to sign up as a presenter September 15 in Sacramento from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. These presenters will testify on a first come, first served basis. Written statements will be accepted at the meeting or may be mailed or faxed to the Commission office by September 17, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Written statements should be sent to National Commission on Small Farms, USDA, P.O. Box 2890, Room 5237, South Building, Washington, D.C. 20013.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jennifer Yezak Molen, Director, National Commission on Small Farms, at the address above or at (202) 690-0648 or (202) 690-0673. The fax number is (202) 720-0596.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The purpose of the Commission is to gather and evaluate background information, studies, and data pertinent to small farms and ranches, including limited-resource farmers. On the basis of the review, the Commission shall analyze all relevant issues and make findings, develop strategies, and make recommendations for consideration by the Secretary of Agriculture toward a national strategy on small farms. The national strategy shall include, but not be limited to: changes in existing policies, programs, regulations, training, and program delivery and outreach systems; approaches that assist beginning farmers and involve the private sectors and government, including assurances that the needs of minorities, women, and persons with disabilities are addressed; areas where new partnerships and collaborations are needed; and other approaches that it would deem advisable or which the Secretary of Agriculture or the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service may request the Commission to consider.

The Secretary of Agriculture has determined that the work of the Commission is in the public interest and within the duties and responsibilities of USDA. Establishment of the Commission also implements a recommendation of the USDA Civil Rights Action Report to appoint a

diverse commission to develop a national policy on small farms.

Dated: August 26, 1997.

**Pearlie S. Reed,**

*Acting Assistant Secretary for Administration.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket No. FV97-356]

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

**AGENCY:** Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

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

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), this notice announces the Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) intention to request an extension for and revision to a currently approved information collection for the Reporting and Record Keeping Requirements Under Regulations (Other Than Rules of Practice) Under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act (PACA) (7 U.S.C. 499a-499t).

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received on or before October 28, 1997, to be assured of consideration.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS:** Contact Charles W. Parrott, Assistant Chief, PACA Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 96456, Room 2095-South, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456; telephone (202) 720-4180; fax (202) 690-3244.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Title:** Reporting and Record Keeping Requirements Under Regulations (Other Than Rules of Practice) Under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act, 1930.

**OMB Number:** 0581-0031.

**Expiration Date of Approval:** October 31, 1999.

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

**Abstract:** The PACA was enacted by Congress in 1930 to establish a code of fair trading practices covering the marketing of fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables in interstate or foreign commerce. It protects growers, shippers, and distributors dealing in those

commodities by prohibiting unfair and fraudulent practices.

The law provides for the enforcement of contracts by providing a forum for resolving contract disputes, and for the collection of damages from anyone who fails to meet contractual obligations. In addition, the PACA impresses a statutory trust on licensees for perishable agricultural commodities received, products derived from them, and any receivables or proceeds due from the sale of the commodities for the benefit of suppliers, sellers, or agents that have not been paid.

The PACA is enforced through a licensing system and is user-fee financed through a license fee. All commission merchants, dealers, and brokers engaged in business subject to the PACA must be licensed. The license is effective for one (1) year unless withdrawn by USDA for valid reasons, and must be renewed annually. Those who engage in practices prohibited by the PACA may have their licenses suspended or revoked.

The information collected from respondents is used to administer licensing provisions under the PACA. The records maintained are used to adjudicate reparation and administrative complaints filed against licensees to determine the imposition of sanctions on firms and responsibly connected individuals who have engaged in unfair trading practices. We estimate the paperwork and time burden as follows:

**Form FV-211, Application for License:** Average of 15 minutes per application per response.

**Form FV-231, Application for Renewal of License:** Average of 5 minutes per application per response.

**Form FV-232, Business Reply Card:** Average of 2 minutes with approximately 10,000 respondents.

**Regulations Section 46.13—Letters to Notify USDA of Changes in Business Operations:** Average of 5 minutes per notice per response.

**Regulations Section 46.20—Records Reflecting Lot Numbers:** Average of 8.25 hours with approximately 1,000 record keepers.

**Regulations Section 46.46(d)(2)—Waiver of Rights to Trust Protection:** Average of 15 minutes per notice with approximately 100 principals.

**Regulations Sections 46.46(f) and 46.2(aa)(11)—Copy of Written Agreement Reflecting Times for Payment:** Average of 20 hours with approximately 2,000 record keepers.

**Estimate of Burden:** The total public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 2.78011 hours per response.

**Respondents:** Commission merchants, dealers, and brokers engaged in the business of buying, selling, or negotiating the purchase or sale of fresh and/or frozen fruits and vegetables in interstate or foreign commerce are required to be licensed under the PACA (7 U.S.C. 499(c)(a)).

**Estimated Number of Respondents:** 25,550.

**Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:** 1.67906.

**Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:** 119,267 hours.

Comments are invited on: (1) 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; (2) 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; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) 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: Charles W. Parrott, Assistant Chief, PACA Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 2095-South, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456. All comments received will be available for public inspection during regular business hours at the same address.

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: August 25, 1997.

**Eric M. Forman,**

*Acting Director, Fruit and Vegetable Division.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

**Revision of the Land and Resource Management Plans for the Chippewa and Superior National Forests; Beltrami, Cass, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake and St. Louis Counties, MN**

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice; intent to prepare environmental impact statement.

**SUMMARY:** The purpose of this notice is to inform the public that the Forest Service intends to prepare an environmental impact statement for revising the Chippewa and Superior Land and Resource Management Plans (forest plans) (*pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 1604[f][5] and 36 CFR 219.12*). The Chippewa and Superior National Forests are working together to revise their forest plans. The Forest Service will prepare only one environmental impact statement but will prepare two separate forest plans.

We are now soliciting 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 environmental impact statement for the revised forest plans (*40 CFR 1501.7*). Comments should focus on (1) the proposal for revising forest plans and (2) possible alternatives for addressing issues associated with the proposal.

The current forest plans for the Chippewa and Superior National Forests were approved in June 1986. These plans guide the overall management of Minnesota's two national forests. Six primary decisions are made in forest plans:

1. Forestwide multiple-use goals and objectives (*as required by 36 CFR 219.11[b]*)
2. Forestwide management requirements (*36 CFR 219.27*)
3. Management area direction (*36 CFR 219.11[c]*)
4. Lands suited and not suited for timber management (*36 CFR 219.14, 219.16, 219.21*)
5. Monitoring and evaluation requirements (*36 CFR 219.11[d]*)
6. Recommendations to Congress (if any) (*36 CFR 219.17*)

By law, forest plans must be revised every 10 to 15 years (*U.S.C. 1604[f][5] and 36 CFR 219.10[g]*). In addition, based on public comments received and the results of annual monitoring and evaluation, we have determined the need to make some changes to the primary decisions made in the 1986 forest plans for the Chippewa and Superior National Forests.

The process of revising the forest plans will be narrow in scope, focusing predominantly on vegetation management aspects of those topics identified as being most critically in need of revision. We will also consider the interests of American Indians and Indian Tribes.

Revised plans will address 12 revision topics that have been identified through public comment and through monitoring and evaluation:

1. Biological diversity
2. Habitat fragmentation
3. Ecosystem health
4. Age class distribution
5. Old growth forests
6. Rare natural resource management
7. Silvicultural prescriptions
8. Fire Management
9. Riparian management
10. Fish habitat management
11. Allowable sale quantity of timber
12. Wildlife habitat management

We will also be revising monitoring requirements to provide for better tracking and evaluation of the implementation and effectiveness of revised forest plans. We may make other minor changes, particularly in the standards and guidelines section of the forest plans, to promote greater consistency between the two plans, and to reflect changes made when addressing the 12 revision topics.

In many northern Minnesota communities, the relationship between people and the natural environment in which the needs of people are met predominantly centers around three industries: forest products, tourism, and mining. People also value the opportunities forests provide for enjoying recreation, solitude and scenic beauty.

National forests are integral to the image and sense of place of communities across northern Minnesota. When making decisions in the revised plans, we will examine the economic and social impacts to local communities and at a broader regional level, as well as biological impacts at similar levels.

As part of the overall effort to ensure that treaty rights are honored and responsibilities to American Indian tribes are met, we will routinely consult with and exchange information with tribes on a government-to-government basis throughout the forest plan revision process. This consultation will include the development of goals and objectives that provide for the exercise of tribal hunting, gathering and fishing rights. In addition, we will be sensitive to American Indian religious beliefs (Forest Service Manual 1563).

We are committed to and will continue to participate in statewide land management planning and coordination efforts resulting from enactment of the Minnesota Sustainable Forest Resources Act of 1995. Technical guidelines developed through this process will be considered when developing standards and guidelines in revised plans.

The environmental analysis and decision-making process leading to revised forest plans will include opportunities for public participation