

and preserve them for affordable housing.

Need and Use of the Information: RHS will use the collected information to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses to which the proposal concept possesses or lacks to select the most feasible proposals that will enhance the Agency's chances in accomplishing the demonstration objective. The information will be utilized to sustain and modify RHS' current policies pertaining to revitalization and preservation of affordable rental housing in rural areas.

Description of Respondents: Individuals or Households; Not-for-profit institutions; State, Local, or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 2,420.

Frequency of Responses:

Recordkeeping; Reporting; Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 2,720.

Charlene Parker,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2010-5876 Filed 3-17-10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XT-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

March 12, 2010.

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 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), OIRA_Submission@OMB.EOP.GOV or fax (202) 395-5806 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) 720-8681.

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.

Forest Service

Title: Public Support for Fuel Reduction Policies: Multimedia versus Printed Materials.

OMB Control Number: 0596-0203.

Summary of Collection: This information collection is being undertaken to solicit information on public support of two fuel reduction programs; prescribed burning and mechanical treatment. To gather the information needed for the study, a stratified random sample of California and Montana residents will be contacted by telephone through a random-digit dialing process. Those who agree to participate in the study will be asked an introductory set of questions to determine their pre-existing knowledge of fuels reduction treatments. This study will provide credible information to fire managers to plan fuels reduction treatment programs acceptable to the communities. In addition it will allow for the testing of whether a self-administered video survey elicits more support for prescribed burning and mechanical fuels treatment programs than a paper-based survey. The Healthy Forests Restoration Act (Pub.L. 108-148) gives the Forest Service the authority to collect this information.

Need and Use of the Information: Researchers will evaluate the responses of California and Montana residents to different scenarios related to fire hazard reduction program. Information collected will help natural resource and fire managers to better understand the public's opinions on fuels reduction activities and what type of media could be more effective in conveying information to the public. Without the information the agencies with fire protection responsibilities will lack the capability to evaluate the general public understanding of proposed fuels reduction projects and programs or their willingness-to-pay for implementing such programs.

Description of Respondents: Individuals or households.

Number of Respondents: 1,400.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting; Other (one-time).

Total Burden Hours: 617.

Charlene Parker,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2010-5863 Filed 3-17-10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Housing Service

Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Rural Housing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended), the Rural Housing Service (RHS) invites comments on this information collection for which approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) will be requested. The intention is to request a revision an extension for a currently approved information collection in support of the program for 7 CFR Part 3550, Direct Single Family Housing Loans and Grants and its accompanying Handbooks.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by May 17, 2010 to be assured consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Shantelle C. Gordon, Program Analyst, USDA Rural Housing Service, Single Family Housing, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 0783, Washington, DC 20250-0783, Telephone: (202) 205-9567, Fax: (202) 720-2232. E-mail: shantelle.gordon@wdc.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) regulation (5 CFR part 1320) implementing provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub.L. 104-13) required that interested members of the public and affected agencies have an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping activities (*see* 5 CFR 1320.8(d)). This notice identifies an information collection that RHS is submitting to OMB for approval. **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: Linda Watts Thomas, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, Support Services Division, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, STOP 0742, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-0742. 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.

Title: Direct Single Family Housing Loans and Grants.

OMB Number: 0575-0172.

Expiration Date of Approval: August 31, 2010.

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

Abstract: The Rural Housing Service (RHS), through its direct single family housing loan and grant programs, provides financial assistance to construct, improve, alter, repair, replace or rehabilitate dwellings, which will provide modest, decent, safe and sanitary housing to eligible individuals in rural areas. To assist a customer, they must provide the Agency with a standard housing application (used by government and private lenders), and provide documentation to support the same. Documentation includes verification of income, financial information on assets and liabilities, etc. The information requested is comparable to that required by any private mortgage lender. To assist individuals in obtaining affordable housing, a borrower's house payment may be subsidized to an interest rate as low as one percent. The amount of subsidy is based upon the customer's household income. After receipt of this information, if the customer obtains a loan from RHS, they must update income information on an annual basis to renew the payment subsidy. The aforementioned information required by RHS is vital to be able to process applications for RHS assistance and make prudent loan underwriting and program decisions. It includes borrower financial information such as household income, assets and liabilities and monthly expenses. Without this

information, the Agency is unable to determine if a customer would qualify for any services or if assistance has been granted to which the customer would not be eligible under current regulations and statutes. The Agency also encourages its customers to leverage our mortgage financing with that of other lenders to assist as many customers as possible within our limited resources. In many cases, another lender will leverage and participate with RHS in assisting the customer. In these cases, RHS and the other lender share documentation, with the customer's consent, to reduce duplication. Through our work with participating lenders, the Agency keeps abreast of information required by other lenders to ensure that RHS is not requiring unnecessary information. The Agency continually strives to ensure that information collection burden is kept to a minimum.

As mentioned, these loans are made directly by the Agency. RHS also services these loans for their term (30, 33, or 38 years) and provides tools to assist the customer in becoming a successful homeowner. As discussed, payment subsidies are renewed on an annual basis. In addition, the Agency provides credit counseling and other services to its customers in an effort to assist them in becoming successful. The Agency offers many servicing tools including a moratorium (stop) on payments, modifications to payment subsidies to reflect changes in the customer's income, loan re-amortization, payment workouts, etc. To obtain this assistance, the Agency must require certain information such as updated income and financial information, etc., to ensure the customer qualifies for the assistance, and is provided with the correct benefits based upon their circumstances.

Direct Single Family Housing loans are only provided to customers who cannot obtain other credit for their housing needs and are required by statute to refinance with another lender when they are financially able. To ensure the Agency meets its statutory responsibilities, existing customers may be requested to submit updated income and financial information for the Agency to make a determination as to whether they can "graduate" to other credit. In addition, should a customer default on a loan which results in liquidation, the Agency needs updated income and financial information to settle any outstanding indebtedness.

With the implementation of EGOV in June 2002, individuals are able to make application on line. We have 64 eForms which the public can access and print for personal use. RHS is committed to

automation and reducing the burden upon the public.

Estimate of Burden: Public burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .30 hours per response.

Respondents: Approximately 33,000 applicants seeking direct single family housing loans and grants from the Agency and approximately 292,000 existing customers who have active loans and grants under the Section 502 and 504 programs.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 225,586.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Number of Responses: 1,435,263.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents (hours): 428,461.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Linda Watts Thomas, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch at (202) 692-0226.

Dated: March 12, 2010.

Tammye Treviño,

Administrator, Rural Housing Service.

[FR Doc. 2010-5881 Filed 3-17-10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XV-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Housing Service

Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Rural Housing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed collection; comments requested.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Rural Housing Service's intention to request an extension for a currently approved information collection in support of the program for Rural Housing Loans.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by May 17, 2010 to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Debra A. Terrell, Senior Loan Specialist, Single Family Housing Guaranteed Loan Division, Rural Housing Service, Stop 0784, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-0784; *Telephone:* (202) 720-1452; *E-mail:* debra.terrell@wdc.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Rural Housing Loans.

OMB Number: 0575-0078.

Expiration Date of Approval: March 31, 2010.