

# 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

### Food and Consumer Service

#### Food Stamp Program: Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request—Collection Methods for Food Stamp Program Recipient Claims

**AGENCY:** Food and Consumer Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 this notice announces the Food and Consumer Service's (FCS's) intention to request Office of Management and Budget (OMB) review of a proposed revision to an information collection. The revision adds additional information requirements based on the Federal Income Tax Refund Offset Program (FTROP) and the Federal Salary Offset Program (Salary Offset).

**DATES:** Comments and recommendations on the proposed revision must be received by June 10, 1996.

**ADDRESSES:** 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 should be sent to James I. Porter, Issuance and Accountability Section, State Administration Branch, Program Accountability Division, Food and Consumer Service, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 905, Alexandria, Virginia 22302. Copies of the estimate of the information collection can be obtained by contacting Mr. Porter.

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:** Mr. Porter at the above address or at (703) 305-2385 during normal business hours.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The following is provided pursuant to 5 CFR 1320.5(a)(1)(iv):

*Title:* Federal Collection Methods for Food Stamp Program Recipient Claims. (This is a new title for the collection. The current title is: Expansion of Test of Offsetting Federal Income Tax Refunds, Recipient Claims Collection.)

*OMB Number:* 0584-0446.

*Expiration Date:* September 27, 1996.

*Type of Request:* Revision of a currently approved collection.

*Abstract:* Substantially all FTROP and Salary Offset procedures are exchanges of information, and substantially all the procedures are required by statute or regulation, as follows: 31 U.S.C. 2653(a), in the case of FTROP; 5 U.S.C. 5514, in the case of Salary Offset; IRS regulations at 26 CFR 301.6402-6, relating to both programs; and by USDA regulations at 7 CFR 3.51-3.68 for Salary Offset. FTROP and Salary Offset have proved to be effective methods for collection action on a substantial portion of approximately \$900 million in outstanding debt for certain food stamp overissuances for which other collection methods have not been successful. The information exchanged under the programs is used to meet due process requirements, provide lists of debts for collection from Federal income tax refunds and Federal salaries, and to report on collections and related actions.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 450 hours for State agencies and 8 minutes for debtors.

*Respondents:* The collection impacts two groups, State agencies which

administer the Food Stamp Program, and certain individuals who are liable for overissued food stamp benefits. State agencies which choose to participate in FTROP and Salary Offset are required to produce certain notices of intent to collect claims for overissued food stamp benefits, respond to informal inquiries about them and in the case of FTROP, if timely requests are received from debtors, to conduct limited reviews of the intended debt collection. State agencies are also required to provide automated data files of debts and among other things, to process reports on the collection of the debts and to report those debt collections. While debtors are not required to read or otherwise act on notices of the intended collection actions, we expect that most debtors do at least read the notices. Many debtors make informal inquiries and a small percentage request reviews or hearings.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* State agency participation in the programs is approaching 52. Debtor respondents are estimated at 370,000 based on 320,000 FTROP due process notices; 40,000 informal inquiries and 2,000 requests for review; 5,000 Salary Offset due process notices from State agencies; 2,500 due process notices from FCS, and 500 informal inquiries and requests for hearings.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* For State agencies the number of responses varies from once for such activities as certifying files to FCS to 320,000 for mailing out FTROP due process notices. For debtors the number of responses varies from once for such things as due process notices to three or four in the case of debtors making informal inquiries and requesting reviews.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* The annual reporting and recordkeeping burden is estimated at 72,862 hours; 23,423 hours for State agencies, approximately 2,200 hours of which is recordkeeping; 49,439 hours for debtors, approximately 5,000 hours of which is recordkeeping.

Dated: March 30, 1996.

William E. Ludwig,  
Administrator, Food and Consumer Service.  
[FR Doc. 96-8819 Filed 4-8-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-30-U

**Foreign Agricultural Service****Meeting of Advisory Committee on Emerging Democracies**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the fifth meeting of the Advisory Committee on Emerging Democracies will be held April 18, 1996. The purpose of the committee is to provide information and advice, based upon knowledge and expertise of the members, useful to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in implementing the program on sharing agricultural expertise with emerging democracies. The committee will also advise USDA on ways to increase the involvement of the U.S. private sector in cooperative work with emerging democracies in food and rural business systems.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held Thursday, April 18, 1996 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in Room 5066-South of the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The minutes of the meeting announced in this Notice shall be available for review. The meeting is open to the public and members of the public may provide comments in writing to Douglas Freeman, Foreign Agricultural Service, Room 6506 South Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 14th and Independence Avenue SW, Washington, D.C. 20250, but should not make any oral comments at the meeting unless invited to do so by the Co-chairpersons.

Signed at Washington, D.C. April 4, 1996.  
August Schumacher, Jr.,

*Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service.*  
[FR Doc. 96-8820 Filed 4-8-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-10-M

**Forest Service****Alta Ski Lifts, UT; Environmental Impact Statement**

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

**SUMMARY:** The Forest Service will prepare an environmental impact statement on Alta Ski Lifts proposed master plan update.

**DATES:** Comments concerning the scope of the analysis should be received in writing by May 7, 1996.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments to Michael Sieg, District Ranger, 6944

South 3000 East, Salt Lake City, Utah 84121.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
Rob Cruz, District Environmental Coordinator, (801) 943-2667.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Alta Ski Lifts, a "Special Use Permit" permittee is proposing to update its master plan. Much of the resort's permitted boundary lies on National Forest System Land. This proposal includes the following elements; modify the Blitz run to provide a path for intermediate skiers to enter Main Street from the current top terminal of the Collins Chair Lift; replace the Sunnyside and Albion lifts and add a new rope tow east of the Wildcat Ticket Office; modify parts of the Devil's Elbow, Roller Coaster, and Crooked Mile runs; and add additional snowmaking capacity which would include a four million gallon reservoir system.

The proposal also includes; remodeling the Albion Day Lodge, Albion Ticket Office and the General Office building; replacing Watson Shelter; constructing two new generator buildings, one on the end of the existing maintenance building and the other near the bottom terminal of the Supreme Chairlift; relocating the Germania ski patrol building; remodeling both the Albion and Supreme Patrol buildings, and widening the upper Grizzly parking lot to recapture 28 parking slots lost to mass transit over the last decade. A complete description of the proposal and its elements is available from the Salt Lake Ranger District.

In addition to obtaining a new Ski Area Term Special Use Permit from the Forest Service, Alta will also be required to obtain a Department of Army 404 permit from the Army Corps of Engineers and consult with the Environmental Protection Agency. They will also be required to obtain an amendment of water supply permit agreement from Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities and a Water Change Application from the Utah Department of Natural Resources, Division of Water Rights, State Engineer.

A scoping document was sent to over 600 individuals, organizations and government agencies on September 24, 1993, detailing Alta's proposal for the next planning period. An additional scoping document has been sent to over 625 individuals, organizations and local and state government agencies explaining the decision to conduct an environmental impact statement, and soliciting additional comments. Preliminary issues identified by the interdisciplinary team include effects on visual quality, effects on run quality,

effects on wetland and riparian areas, effects on water quality and quantity, effects on vegetation, effects on fish and wildlife, effects on traffic and parking in Little Cottonwood Canyon and effects on threatened, endangered and sensitive species. Four preliminary alternatives have been identified. The proposed action which would permit the aforementioned projects and require Alta to convert to a new Ski Area Term Special Use Permit. An alternative which would protect the unique quantities of Albion basin. No Action which would continue the use as currently permitted with no new improvements and an alternative that would maximize improvements without creating significant environmental effects.

The public is invited to submit comments or suggestions to the address above. Comments received from individuals, groups and government agencies received from the September 1993 scoping will be incorporated into this analysis. The responsible official is Bernie Weingardt, Forest Supervisor. A draft EIS is expected to be filed in August 1996 and the final EIS filed in January 1997.

The comment period on the draft environmental impact statement will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency's notice of availability appears in the Federal Register. It is very important that those interested in this proposed action participate at that time. To be the most helpful, comments on the draft environmental impact statement should be as specific as possible and may address the adequacy of the statement or the merits of the alternatives discussed (see The Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3).

In addition, Federal court decisions have established that reviewers of draft environmental impact statements 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. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 533 (1978). Environmental objections that could have been raised at the draft stage may be waived if not raised until after completion of the final environmental impact statement. *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, (9th Circuit, 1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). The reason for this is to ensure that substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service