

acute because of hail storms, wind, and excess rain thereby severely affecting livestock feed production and causing increased economic distress. This reservation is utilized by members of the Three Affiliated Tribes for grazing purposes.

2. The use of feed grain or products thereof made available by CCC for livestock feed for such needy members of the Three Affiliated Tribes using the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation will not displace or interfere with normal marketing of agricultural commodities.

3. Based on the above determinations, the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation of North Dakota is declared an acute distress area and the donation of feed grain owned by the CCC is authorized to livestock owners who are determined by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, United States Department of the Interior, to be needy members of the Three Affiliated Tribes utilizing such lands. These donations by the CCC may commence upon May 8, 1996, and shall be made available through June 15, 1996, or such other date as may be stated in a notice issued by the Executive Vice President, CCC.

Signed at Washington, DC, on May 9, 1996.
Grant Buntrock,

Executive Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.

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BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

Forest Service

Extension of Currently Approved Information Collection for Customer and Use Survey Techniques for Operations, Management, Evaluation, and Research

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent; request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Forest Service announces its intent to request an extension of a currently approved information collection related to visitor use of recreational sites on National Forest System lands.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing on or before July 16, 1996.

ADDRESSES: All comments should be addressed to: H. Ken Cordell, Principal Investigator, Forest Service, USDA, Southern Research Station, 320 Green St., Athens, GA 30602.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: H. Ken Cordell, Outdoor Recreation and Wilderness Assessment, at (706) 546-2451.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Description of Information Collection

The following describes the information collection to be extended:

Title: Customer and Use Survey Techniques for Operations, Management, Evaluation, and Research.
OMB Number: 0596-0110.

Expiration Date of Approval: June 30, 1996.

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

Abstract: The data collected is evaluated to ensure that the agency meets its Continuous Improvement Program and public service goals and management objectives. National Forest System land visitors are asked to respond to questions that include whether National Forest System land recreational sites are accessible to persons with disabilities, whether access roads are well maintained and adequate parking is available, if grounds and rest rooms are clean and drinking water is safe, and whether agency personnel are available to answer questions and offer assistance. Also, information is collected that reflects the economic impact National Forest System land recreational sites have on local and regional communities. There are seven general categories of information requests: a CUSTOMER on-site survey, four site-specific postage paid mail-in surveys, one expense related postage paid mail-in survey, and a CUSTOMER Report Card. Data gathered in this information collection is not available from other sources.

Customer On-Site Survey

Abstract: The CUSTOMER On-Site Survey is a verbal survey administered by Forest Service personnel or Forest Service volunteers to visitors of recreational sites on National Forest System lands. Answers are filled in by the survey administrator. Data collected in the CUSTOMER On-Site survey include the location of the interview (e.g., roadside, picnic area, boat ramp, etc.), distance traveled to the site, duration of stay at the site, purpose of the visit, number of people included in the group, helpfulness of agency employees, availability of information about the area, and the opportunity to see and hear wildlife.

Estimate of Burden: 15 minutes per response.

Type of Respondents: Visitors utilizing National Forest System lands recreational sites.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 10,000.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 2,500 hours.

Customer Postage Paid Mail-In Surveys

Abstract: After the CUSTOMER On-Site Survey has been administered by Forest Service personnel or volunteers, visitors using recreational sites on National Forest System lands are asked to fill out a postage paid mail-in survey. Visitors are given only 1 of 4 different site-specific mail-in surveys used in conjunction with the CUSTOMER On-Site Survey. Each survey focuses on a different aspect of the recreational site. For example, one survey includes questions about convenience of cooking grills, picnic tables, cleanliness of facilities, and adequacy of camp sites. Another survey includes questions about the helpfulness of agency employees, availability of maps for the area, and whether areas are clearly marked. A third survey includes questions about walking trails, condition of access roads and availability of parking, information about historic sites, or absence of human modifications to the visible landscape. The fourth site-specific survey asks questions relating to availability and condition of boat ramps and beaches, fishing, swimming or water-skiing opportunities, and whether the recreational sites are crowded.

Estimate of Burden: 15 minutes per response.

Type of Respondents: Visitors utilizing National Forest System lands recreational sites.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 10,000.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 2,500 hours.

Customer Postage Paid Mail-In Expense Survey

Abstract: Visitors at recreational sites on National Forest System lands are also given a postage paid mail-in survey related to their recreational expenses. They are asked to estimate the dollars they spent on recreational equipment and activities and whether the dollars were spent at or near the recreational site. The visitors are asked to return the survey by mail after completing it.

Estimate of Burden: 15 minutes per response.

Type of Respondents: Visitors utilizing National Forest System lands recreational sites.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 10,000.

Estimated number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 2,500 hours.

Customer Report Card

Abstract: The CUSTOMER Report Card is an on-site survey made available to visitors at the recreational site. The purpose of the CUSTOMER Report Card is to gather data about the experiences visitors have on National Forest System land recreational sites, such as how satisfying the visit was and whether the recreational site met the visitor's needs. When completed, the surveys are placed in a box located at the recreational site for this purpose.

Estimate of Burden: 5 minutes per response.

Type of Respondents: 10,000.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 834 hours.

The agency invites comments on the following: (a) Whether the proposed collection 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 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 respondents, including the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Use of Comments

All comments received in response 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: May 13, 1996.

Jack Ward Thomas,
Chief.

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Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Livestock Care and Handling Guidelines; Comment Request

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Agency is proposing to issue livestock care and handling

guidelines to assist the industry in complying with the provisions of the Packers and Stockyards Act.

DATES: Comments are invited and should be submitted by July 16, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to the Deputy Administrator, Packers and Stockyards Programs, Room 3039, South Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250-2800. Comments received may be inspected during normal business hours in the Office of the Deputy Administrator, Packers and Stockyards Programs.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dan Van Ackeren, Director, Livestock Marketing Division, (202) 720-6951.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Because of public concerns, the Agency initiated a program to review the services, facilities, and procedures for receiving and handling livestock at all stockyards. Since May 1991, the Agency has investigated over 1,400 stockyards to determine whether the livestock handling practices, services, and facilities at these stockyards were adequate to assure livestock are handled and cared for properly. While most stockyards have adequate facilities and exercise good animal care and handling practices, problems were found to exist at some stockyards. Some of the problems encountered at stockyards included: inadequate facilities; handling livestock in a manner that could cause bruising, injury, or unnecessary suffering, including excessive use of electric prods or other driving devices; overcrowding in pens; and not handling nonambulatory or injured livestock promptly. In addition, the Agency has received over 8,000 letters from animal welfare groups or from individuals not identified as producers or as members of any organization concerning the care and handling of "downed" animals at stockyards.

While the Agency already has a regulation (9 CFR 201.82) issued under the provisions of the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act that requires stockyard owners to exercise reasonable care and promptness in providing stockyard services to prevent shrinkage, injury, death, or other avoidable loss, that regulation does not adequately address the specific problems found in the Agency's review of the livestock handling practices, services, and facilities of stockyards. The Agency believes issuing specific livestock care and handling guidelines to the stockyard industry would be helpful in dealing with this issue.

After considering the results of over 1,400 stockyard reviews, and the letters

from concerned citizens, the Agency is proposing to publish guidelines for the care and handling of livestock at stockyards to assist the industry in complying with the provisions of the Packers and Stockyards Act. The guidelines would advise stockyard owners that they should maintain their facilities in a manner that avoids risk of injury, bruising, unnecessary suffering and stress. The stockyards would be advised to move, pen, and care for livestock in a manner that protects the quality and value of the animal while also providing for the animal's welfare. The guidelines would also advise stockyard owners of the minimum standards the Agency considers necessary for handling nonambulatory animals.

Section 301(b) of the Packers and Stockyards Act (7 U.S.C. 201(b)) defines "stockyard services" as any "services or facilities furnished at a stockyard in connection with the receiving, buying or selling on a commission basis or otherwise, marketing, feeding, watering, holding, delivery, shipment, weighing, or handling, in commerce, of livestock." Section 304 (7 U.S.C. 205) provides that: "All stockyard services furnished pursuant to reasonable request made to a stockyard owner or market agency at such stockyard shall be reasonable and nondiscriminatory and stockyard services, which are furnished, shall not be refused on any basis that is unreasonable or unjustly discriminatory * * *."

Section 307(a) (7 U.S.C. 208(a)) provides that: "It shall be the duty of every stockyard owner and market agency to establish, observe, and enforce just, reasonable, and nondiscriminatory regulations and practices in respect to the furnishing of stockyard services * * *." Section 312(a) (7 U.S.C. 213(a)) provides that: "It shall be unlawful for any stockyard owner, market agency, or dealer to engage in or use any unfair, unjustly discriminatory, or deceptive practice or device in connection with determining whether persons should be authorized to operate at the stockyards, or with the receiving, marketing, buying, or selling on a commission basis or otherwise, feeding, watering, holding, delivery, shipment, weighing, or handling of livestock."

The Guidelines

Livestock in marketing channels should be handled and cared for in a manner that is consistent with the animals' well-being and that protects their quality and value. The Agency does not condone handling livestock in any manner that is inconsistent with good animal husbandry practices and