

will assist in ensuring effective and fair regulations.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit; Farms.

Number of Respondents: 1,176.

Frequency of Responses:

Recordkeeping; Reporting: On occasion; Weekly; Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 204.

Larry Roberson,

Deputy Departmental Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 96-29192 Filed 11-13-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-01-M

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 96-038N]

Codex Alimentarius: Meeting of the General Principles Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA); the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS); and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are sponsoring a public meeting on November 18, 1996. The purpose of this meeting is to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items to be discussed at the Twelfth Session of the General Principles Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, which will be held in Paris, France, November 25-28, 1996.

DATES: The public meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 18, 1996, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held in Room 107-A, Jamie L. Whitten Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patrick J. Clerkin, Director, U.S. Codex Office, FSIS, Room 311, West End Court, 1255 22nd Street, NW, Washington, DC 20057. Telephone (202) 418-8852; Fax: (202) 418-8865.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Codex was established in 1962 by two United Nations organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Health Organization. Codex is the major international organization for encouraging fair international trade in food and protecting the health and economic interests of consumers. Through adoption of food standards,

codes of practice, and other guidelines developed by its committees, and by promoting their adoption and implementation by governments, Codex seeks to ensure that the world's food supply is sound, wholesome, free from adulteration, and informatively labeled. In the United States, USDA, FDA, and EPA manage and carry out U.S. Codex.

The General Principles Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission was established to deal with procedural and general matters referred to it by the Codex Alimentarius Commission. Such matters have included the establishment of the general principles which define the purpose and scope of Codex Alimentarius, the nature of Codex standards and the forms of acceptance by countries of Codex standards, and the development of guidelines for Codex committees.

Issues To Be Discussed at the Public Meeting

The following specific issues will be discussed during the November 18, 1996, public meeting:

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Matters referred to the General Principles Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission by the Codex Alimentarius Commission and other Codex Committees
3. Risk Analysis: Definitions, Procedures, and Principles
4. Review of the Rules of Procedure
5. Review of the Acceptance Procedure for Codex Standards in the perspective of the World Trade Organization's Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary and Technical Barriers to Trade Agreements
6. Review of the Status of Codes, Guidelines, and related texts
7. Review of the Elaboration Procedure
8. Revision of the Procedural Manual:
 - (a) Guidelines for Codex Committees
 - (b) Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities: Integration of strategic planning
 - (c) Unified format of Codex documents for electronic data exchange
 - (d) Relations between Commodity Committees and General Subject Committees
 - (e) Other Aspects
9. Consumer Participation in Codex Work

Done at Washington, DC on November 8, 1996.

Thomas J. Billy,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 96-29310 Filed 11-12-96; 12:43 pm]

BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

Forest Service

Extension of Currently Approved Information Collection for Fuelwood and Post Assessment in Selected States

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. The Forest Service surveys a selected number of residential households and logging contractors to determine the quantities and types of trees cut for fuelwood and fence posts in a given year. This information is used to project demands for renewable resources on State and national forests as a source for fuelwood and fence posts. The information also helps the Forest Service allocate personnel and other resources to help meet these demands.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing on or before January 13, 1997.

ADDRESSES: All comments should be addressed to: Dennis May, Forest Inventory and Analysis, North Central Forest Experiment Station, Forest Service, USDA, 1992 Folwell Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dennis May, North Central Forest Experiment Station, at (612) 649-5132.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Description of Information Collection

The following describes the information collection to be extended:
Title: Residential Fuelwood and Post Assessment, Any State, Year.

OMB Number: 0596-0009.

Expiration Date of Approval: February 28, 1997.

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

Abstract: The collected information is used to evaluate the use, by residential households and logging contractors, of renewable resources on State and national forests for fuelwood and fence posts. This information will help the agency project future demands for renewable resources to meet fuelwood and fence post needs. The information collection supports requirements outlined in the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 1600) as amended by the Energy Security Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 8701).

The Forest Inventory and Analysis Work Units at the Northeastern, North

Central, Southern, and Intermountain Experiment Stations of the Forest Service will collect information from a sampling of residential and logging contractors located within the geographical areas of the Stations. The collected information includes the quantities and types of trees cut for fuelwood and fence posts in a given year. To collect the information, the agency will conduct a survey using telephone interview techniques and the standardized questionnaire, Residential Fuelwood and Post Assessment, Any State, Year, OMB No. 0596-0009.

Data gathered in this information collection is not available from other sources.

Estimate of Burden: .07 hours.

Type of Respondents: Residential households and logging contractors.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 2,940.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 206 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 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 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: November 7, 1996.

Mark A. Reimers,
Acting Chief.

[FR Doc. 96-29210 Filed 11-13-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

Land and Resource Management Planning

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of adoption of internal directives; request for comment.

SUMMARY: After nearly 20 years experience in forest planning under the National Forest Management Act, many of the Forest Service's planning and analytical needs have changed. Some of the planning direction issued in the Forest Service Manual and Forest Service Handbook to guide agency employees has become out-of-date, overly prescriptive, and/or burdensome. Therefore, the Forest Service has found it necessary to issue certain amendments to Forest Service Manual Chapter 1920, Land and Resource Management Planning; chapter 3 of Forest Service Handbook 1909.12, Land and Resource Management Planning; and chapter 40 of Forest Service Handbook 2409.13, Timber Resource Planning Handbook. There was an immediate need to issue these amendments because numerous national forests have begun or will soon begin revising their initial forest plans and because there is a need to have consistent interpretation and application of the direction by Regional and Forest-level personnel. The Forest Service welcomes public comment on these amendments and will take comments under advisement to determine if any further revisions are needed.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Amendment Numbers 1900-96-2 and 1909.12-96-2 were issued and became effective on August 14, 1996, and amendment 2409.13-96-2 was issued and became effective on August 15, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Single copies of these amendments are available without charge by writing to the Director, Land Management Planning, Forest Service, USDA, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, D.C. 20090-6090.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jonathan Stephens, Land Management Planning Staff, (202) 205-0948.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Forest Service Manual (FSM) Chapter 1920 and Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.12 contain Forest Service policy, practice, and procedures to guide agency personnel in complying with the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976 and the implementing regulations found at 36 CFR part 219. Forest Service Manual Chapter 1920 provides broad planning direction for line and primary staff officers and establishes specific responsibility for preparing forest plans and implementing, monitoring, and changing forest plans. Forest Service Handbook 1909.12 provides detailed procedural direction and technical guidance for carrying out the law,

regulations, and the broad direction found in the FSM.

The major changes that have been made in FSM 1920 and FSH 1909.12 relate to the implementation of benchmark analysis. The subject amendment to FSM 1920 revised only section 1922 as adopted March 11, 1991. This section addresses how to implement benchmark analysis as called for under 36 CFR 219.12 of the Land and Resource Management Planning regulations. Amendment 1900-96-2 removed requirements that have become obsolete—such as mandating the use of FORPLAN, now an outdated computer model. The amendment also removed prescriptive internal agency direction on what benchmarks to analyze in forest plans. The agency will continue to follow 36 CFR 219.12 in preparing benchmark analysis for forest planning. In addition, the amendment to FSM 1920 removed the requirement for timber sale projections for the year 2030. The year 2030 was the fifth decade following the initial forest plan approvals; now that the agency is revising those forest plans, the text has been revised to no longer refer to a fixed year.

The amendment to FSH 2409.13, Timber Resource Planning Handbook, removed prescriptive language in Chapter 40 that relates to development of the timber sale schedule. This direction is superfluous since 36 CFR 219.16 requires a timber sale schedule for each planning alternative.

While these amendments are not in the agency's baseline for reducing internal directives by 50 percent as directed by Executive Order 12861, these amendments are very much consistent with the purposes of that order in that they remove obsolete or burdensome requirements.

The Forest Service welcomes any comment that interested persons or groups wish to make and will consider whether any additional changes are necessary based on comments received.

Environmental Impact

Section 31.1b of Forest Service Handbook 1909.15 (57 FR 43180; September 18, 1992) excludes from documentation in an environmental assessment or impact statement "rules, regulations, or policies to establish Service-wide administrative procedures, program processes or instructions." Based on consideration of the nature and scope of this policy, the Forest Service has determined that this policy falls within this category of actions and that no extraordinary circumstances exist which would require preparation