

Frequency of Responses:
Recordkeeping; Reporting: As needed.
Total Burden Hours: 1,125.
Emergency Processing of this
Submission has been requested by
March 1, 1998.

Forest Services

Title: 36 CFR Part 228, Subpart G—
Smith River National Recreational Area.
OMB Control Number: 0596-0138.
Summary of Collection: The proposed
information collection affects parties or
individuals who desire Forest Service
approval to conduct mineral operations
in the Smith River National Recreation
Area. Information requirements
associated with this collection include a
standard operating plan or plan of
operation as well as identification of
hazardous materials, toxic materials,
and similar chemical substances to be
used during the mineral operation and
how they will be disposed of.
Additionally, the operator will have to
provide the identity if the character and
composition of the mineral that will be
used/generated, a proposed method/
strategy for the placement, control,
isolation, or removal of the wastes, and
how public health and safety are to be
maintained.

Need and Use of the Information: The
Forest Service needs this information to
assess the impact of a proposed mineral
operations on the land and surrounding
resources within the Smith River
National Recreation Area and provide
the requested approvals to proceed. By
receiving and reviewing the plan of
operations and other information
required by this collection, Forest
Service authorized officers can ensure
the resources, public safety, and health
are protected when mineral activities
are being conducted in the Smith River
National Recreation Area.

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

Number of Respondents: 2.
Frequency of Responses: Reporting:
On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 40.

Nancy Sternberg,

Departmental Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 98-4889 Filed 2-25-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Public Briefings on Development of a U.S. Action Plan on Food Security

AGENCY: Foreign Agricultural Service,
USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that a
public workshop regarding development
of the domestic portion of a U.S. Action
Plan on Food Security will be held on
March 6, 1998. The workshop is for the
purpose of briefing the public on the
domestic food security discussion
paper, responding to questions and
receiving individual reactions to the
paper in order to facilitate public
participation in the process of
developing the U.S. Action Plan on
Food Security.

DATES: The workshop on the domestic
paper will be on March 6, 1998, 9 a.m.
to 4 p.m. in Room 107A, Administration
Building, U.S. Department of
Agriculture in Washington, D.C.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The
meeting is open to the public. The
discussion paper is available from the
Office of the National Food Security
Coordinator, Foreign Agricultural
Service, Room 3008 South Building,
U.S. Department of Agriculture, 14th
and Independence Ave., SW,
Washington, D.C. 20250 telephone (202)
690-0776 or fax (202) 720-6103. The
paper is also posted on the U.S.
Government Food Security Home Page
(<http://www.fas.usda.gov/icd/summit/summit.html>).

Signed in Washington, D.C. February 19,
1998.

Lon Hatamiya,

Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service.

[FR Doc. 98-4861 Filed 2-25-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-10-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Notice of Request for Collection of Public Information With Use of a Survey

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative
Service, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed collection; comments
request.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the
Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this
notice announces the Rural Business-
Cooperative Service's (RBS) intention to
request to extend the clearance for an
existing information collection in order
to render service to associations of
producers of agricultural, forestry, and
fisheries products and federations and
subsidiaries thereof as authorized in the
Cooperative Marketing Act of 1926.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be
received by April 27, 1998 to be assured
of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Tracey L. Kennedy, Agricultural

Economist, RBS, U.S. Department of
Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue
SW., Stop 3252, Washington, DC.
20250-3252, Telephone (202) 690-1428.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Annual Survey of Cooperative
Involvement in International Markets.
Type of Request: Information
collection.

Abstract: The mission of the Rural
Business-Cooperative Service (RBS),
formerly Agricultural Cooperative
Service (ACS), is to assist farmer-owned
cooperatives in improving the economic
well-being of their farmer-members.
This is accomplished through a
comprehensive program of research on
structural, operational, and policy
issues affecting cooperatives; technical
advisory assistance to individual
cooperatives and to groups of producers
who wish to organize cooperatives; and
development of educational and
informational material. The authority to
carry out RBS's mission is defined in
the Cooperative Marketing Act of 1926
(44 Stat. 802-1926). Authority and
Duties of Division (7 U.S.C. 453).

(a) The division shall render service
to associations of producers of
agricultural products, and federations
and subsidiaries thereof, engaged in the
cooperative marketing of agricultural
products including processing,
warehousing, manufacturing, storage,
the cooperative purchasing of farm
supplies, credit, financing, insurance,
and other cooperative activities.

(b) The division is authorized to:

(1) Acquire, analyze and disseminate
economic, statistical, and historical
information regarding the progress,
organization, and business methods of
cooperative associations in the United
States and foreign countries.

(2) Conduct studies of the economic,
legal, financial, social and other phases
of cooperation, and publish the results
thereof. Such studies shall include the
analyses of the organization, operation,
financial and merchandising problems
of cooperative organizations.

(3) Make surveys and analyses if
deemed advisable of the accounts and
business practices of representative
cooperative associations upon their
request; to report to the association so
surveyed the results thereof; and with
the consent of the association so
surveyed to publish summaries of the
results of such surveys, together with
similar facts, for the guidance of
cooperative associations and for the
purpose of assisting cooperative
associations in developing methods of
business and market analysis.

(4) Acquire from all available sources,
information concerning crop prospects,

supply, demand, current receipts, exports, imports, and prices of agricultural products handled or marketed by cooperative associations, and to employ qualified commodity marketing specialists to summarize and analyze this information and disseminate the same among cooperative associations and others.”

RBS also has a stated objective to “assist U.S. farmer cooperatives to expand their participation in international trade of agricultural products and supplies and to review their progress.”

As trade agreements are implemented and domestic farm supports are reduced, a global presence is increasingly important to producers, their communities, and to job-creation and retention in agri- and food-related industries. Measurement and monitoring of cooperatives' global presence are stated objectives of RBS's International Trade Program. In order to carry out the agency's mission and objectives, RBS needs to collect information from the cooperative community. This information collection is designed to provide time-series data that will provide a better understanding of the opportunities and limitations of producer-owned cooperatives in global markets. The data provide the basis for research on trade-related issues affecting cooperatives, and background for trade-related policy analysis.

Beginning in 1980, RBS's predecessor agency Agricultural Cooperative Service (ACS) collected cooperative trade data at five year intervals. Value of cooperative exports by commodity and destination were measured, as well as information related to method of sale.

Values of imports by cooperatives, by commodity and country of origin were collected in 1986 and 1991. However, data collected at five-year intervals did not provide for meaningful analysis.

Further, previous collections were strictly limited to exports and imports, neglecting other important international arrangements such as strategic alliances and foreign direct investment. As a result, a more comprehensive, annual information collection has been developed to accomplish RBS objectives and paint a more accurate picture of cooperative involvement in international markets. These data are generally not available to RBS unless provided by the cooperatives.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average one (1) hour per response.

Respondents: Cooperatives involved in international activities.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 170.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: one per year.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 170 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Jean Mosley, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, at (202) 690-1587.

Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the function 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 use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to Jean Mosley, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Stop 0743, Washington, DC 20250. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of a public record.

Dated: February 18, 1998.

Dayton J. Watkins,

Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

[FR Doc. 98-4854 Filed 2-25-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XV-P

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the North Dakota Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, that a meeting of the North Dakota Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene at 2:00 p.m. and adjourn at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 19, 1998, at the Radisson Inn-Bismarck, 800 South Third Street, Bismarck, North Dakota 58504. The

purpose of the meeting is to update members on civil rights enforcement issues including presentations from the North Dakota Fair Housing Council and the North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission.

Persons desiring additional information, or planning a presentation to the Committee, should contact John Dulles, Director of the Rocky Mountain Regional Office, 303-866-1400 (TDD 303-866-1049). Hearing-impaired persons who will attend the meeting and require the services of a sign language interpreter should contact the Regional Office at least ten (10) working days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Commission.

Dated at Washington, DC, February 19, 1998.

Carol-Lee Hurley,

Chief, Regional Programs Coordination Unit.

[FR Doc. 98-4921 Filed 2-25-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6335-01-P

CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY: U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

DATE AND TIME: Friday, March 6, 1998, 9:30 a.m.

PLACE: U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, 624 Ninth Street, N.W., Room 540, Washington, DC 20425.

STATUS:

Agenda

- I. Approval of Agenda
 - II. Approval of Minutes of February 6, 1998 Meeting
 - III. Announcements
 - IV. Staff Director's Report
 - V. State Advisory Committee Appointments for Maine, North Carolina, and Texas
 - VI. Los Angeles Hearing Report
 - VII. Future Agenda Items
- 11:00 a.m.—Staff Briefing on Americans with Disabilities Project

CONTACT PERSON FOR FURTHER

INFORMATION: Barbara Brooks, Press and Communications, (202) 376-8312.

Stephanie Y. Moore,

General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 98-5126 Filed 2-24-98; 2:41 p.m.]

BILLING CODE 6335-01-M