

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

Federal Crop Insurance Corporation

Notice of Request for Approval of Information Collection

AGENCY: Risk Management Agency, USDA.

ACTION: New information collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces a public comment period on the information collection requests (ICRs) associated with the Standard Reinsurance Agreement Plan of Operations administered by Federal Crop Insurance Corporation.

DATES: Written comments on this notice will be accepted until close of business April 22, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments to the Director, Reinsurance Services Division, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Stop 0804, Washington, DC 20250, or electronically to Heyward_Baker@wdc.usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John H. Brown, Risk Management Specialist, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, at the address listed above, telephone (202) 720-2099.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Standard Reinsurance Agreement Plan of Operations.

OMB Number: 0563-NEW.

Type of Request: New information collection.

Abstract: The Federal Crop Insurance Act (Act), Title 7 U.S.C. Chapter 36 Section 1508(k) authorizes the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) to provide reinsurance to insurers approved by FCIC that insure producers of any agricultural commodity under one or more plans acceptable to FCIC. The Act also states that the reinsurance

shall be provided on such terms and conditions as the Board may determine to be consistent with subsections (b) and (c) of this section and sound reinsurance principles.

FCIC executes the same form of reinsurance agreement, called the Standard Reinsurance Agreement (SRA), with eighteen participating insurers approved for the 2002 program. In Appendix 2 of the SRA, the Plan of Operations (Plan) sets forth the information the insurer is required to file with RMA for the initial and each subsequent reinsurance year. The Plan's information enables RMA to evaluate the insurer's financial and operational capability to deliver the crop insurance program in accordance with the Act. Estimated premiums by fund by state, and retained percentages along with current policyholders surplus are used in calculations to approve the insurer's requested maximum reinsurable premium writings for the reinsurance year per 7 CFR 400 Subpart L. This information has a direct effect upon the insurer's amount of retained premium and associated liability and is required to calculate the insurer's underwriting gain or loss.

Manual 14, Guidelines and Expectations for Delivery of the Federal Crop Insurance Program, is incorporated into the SRA by reference. Manual 14 establishes the minimum Training and quality control review procedures and performance standards required of all insurers who deliver any policy reinsured under the Act. In order to evaluate their compliance with the terms of the SRA, FCIC requires each insurer to submit, for each reinsurance year, an Annual Summary Report to Compliance containing details of the results of their completed reviews classified into four categories: Proficiency Evaluations, Compliance Crop Insurance Contract Reviews, Underwriting Reviews, and Claims Reviews.

We are asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve this information collection activity for 3 years.

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public concerning this information collection activity. These comments will help us:

(1) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the

functions of the agency, including whether the information has practical utility;

(2) Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information;

(3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, through use, as appropriate, of automated, electronic, mechanical, and other collection technologies, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Estimate of burden: The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 465 hours per response.

Respondents/Affected Entities:

Insurance companies reinsured by FCIC.

Estimated annual number of respondents: 18.

Estimated annual number of responses per respondent: 1.

Estimated annual number of responses: 18.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents (hours): 8,370.

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.

Signed in Washington, D.C., on February 7, 2002.

Phyllis W. Honor,

Acting Manager, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation.

[FR Doc. 02-4101 Filed 2-20-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-FA-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Sierra County, CA, Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Sierra County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will meet on March 18, 2002, in Sierra City, California. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss issues relating to implementing the *Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000* (Payments to States) and the expenditure of Title II funds benefiting National Forest System lands on the

Humboldt-Toiyabe, Plumas and Tahoe National Forests in Sierra County.

DATES: The meeting will be held March 18, 2002, from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. If a storm or other difficulty presents itself, a backup meeting date is scheduled for March 25, 2001, at the same time and location.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Sierra City Community Hall, 14 Castagna Alley, Sierra City, CA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ann Westling, Committee Coordinator, USDA, Tahoe National Forest, 631 Coyote St, Nevada City, CA, 95959, (530) 478-6205, e-mail: awestling@fs.fed.us

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Welcome and introductions; (2) review of previous meeting and meeting minutes; (3) discussion and decision on criteria for Sierra County RAC projects; (4) presentation of project ideas and ranking of project ideas. The meeting is open to the public and the public will have an opportunity to comment at the meeting.

Dated: February 14, 2002.

Steven T. Eubanks,
Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 02-4107 Filed 2-20-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Rogue/Umpqua Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Rogue/Umpqua Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will met on Friday, March 1, 2002. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m. and conclude at approximately 4:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Douglas County Library in the Ford Community Room, 1409 NE Diamond Lake Blvd in Roseburg. The agenda includes: Review of Title II projects on the Rogue River and Umpqua national forests proposed by the Forest Service and Public Forum, including presentation of proposals submitted by the public. The Public Forum is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. Time allotted for individual presentations will be limited to 3-4 minutes. Written comments are encouraged, particularly if the material cannot be presented within the time limits for the Public Forum. Written comments may be submitted prior to the March 1 st meeting by sending them to

Designated Federal Official Jim Caplan at the address given below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For more information regarding this meeting, contact Designated Federal Official Jim Caplan; Umpqua National Forest; PO Box 1008, Roseburg, Oregon 97470; (541) 957-3203.

Dated: February 13, 2002.

Deborah Schmidt,

Acting Deputy Forest Supervisor, Umpqua National Forest.

[FR Doc. 02-4108 Filed 2-20-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Risk Management Agency

Notice of Request for Approval of an Information Collection

AGENCY: Risk Management Agency, USDA.

ACTION: New information collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intention of the Risk Management Agency (RMA) to request approval for the information collection projects listed in the Abstract of this document.

DATES: Written comments on this notice will be accepted until close of business April 22, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments to: Lydia M. Astorga, Risk Management Education Division, USDA/RMA, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Stop 0808, Portals Building, Suite 508, Washington, DC 20250-0808. Or electronically to: Lydia_Astorga@wdc.usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request additional information on the proposed collection of information contact: Lydia M. Astorga, Risk Management Education Division, USDA/RMA, Stop 0808, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-0808, or call (202) 260-4728.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Agricultural Risk Management Education and Information.

OMB Number: 0563-NEW.

Type of Request: New information collection.

Abstract: The Federal Crop Insurance Act directs the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, operating through RMA, to (a) establish crop insurance education and information programs in States that have been historically underserved by the Federal crop insurance program (7

U.S.C. 1524(a)(2)); and (b) provide agricultural producers with training opportunities in risk management, with a priority given to producers of specialty crops and underserved commodities (7 U.S.C. 1522(d)(3)(F)). With this submission, RMA seeks to obtain OMB's generic approval for four information collection projects that will assist RMA in operating and evaluating these programs. The four information collection projects are: (1) Request for Applications; (2) Performance Reporting; (3) Training Session Evaluation; and (4) Needs Assessment. The primary objectives of the four information collection projects are, respectively, to: (1) Enable RMA to better evaluate the performance capacity and plans of organizations that are applying for funds for cooperative and partnership agreements; (2) document the scope of activities conducted by the recipients of Federal educational funding; (3) assess the effectiveness of individual educational activities; and (4) provide program managers and policy makers with information regarding the effectiveness of educational programs in underserved States. We are asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve this information collection activity for 3 years.

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public concerning this information collection activity. These comments will help us:

(1) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information has practical utility;

(2) Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information;

(3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, through use, as appropriate, of automated, electronic, mechanical, and other collection technologies, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Estimate of burden: The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average: 8 hours per response for agri-business professionals, for a total of 5,904 hours AND 15 minutes per response for producers, for a total of 21 hours.

Respondents/Affected Entities: Agribusiness professionals and agricultural producers.

Estimated annual number of respondents: 19,450 respondents (2,950