

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

Rural Housing Service

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Rural Utilities Service

Farm Service Agency

Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCIES: Rural Housing Service (RHS), Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS), Rural Utilities Service (RUS), and Farm Service Agency (FSA), USDA.

ACTION: Proposed collection; comments requested.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intention of the above-named Agencies to request an extension for a currently approved information collection in support of debt settlement of Community Facilities and Direct Business Program Loans and Grants.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by June 30, 2003 to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For inquiries on the Information Collection Package, contact Renita Bolden, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, (202) 692-0035. For program content, contact Derek L. Jones, Senior Loan Specialist, Community Programs, RHS, USDA, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Mail Stop 0787, Washington, DC 20250-0787, Telephone (202) 720-1504, E-mail derek.jones@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: 7 CFR part 1956, subpart C—“Debt Settlement-Community and Business Programs.”

OMB Number: 0575-0124.

Expiration Date of Approval: October 31, 2003.

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

Abstract: The following Community and Direct Business Programs loans and grants are debt settled by this currently approved docket (0575-0124). The Community Facilities loan and grant program is authorized by Section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926) to make loans to public entities, nonprofit corporations, and Indian tribes through the Community Facilities program for the development of essential community facilities primarily serving rural residents.

The Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, Title 3 (Pub. L. 88-452), authorizes Economic Opportunity Cooperative loans to assist incorporated and unincorporated associations to provide low-income rural families essential processing, purchasing, or marketing services, supplies, or facilities.

The Food Security Act of 1985, Section 1323 (Pub. L. 99-198), authorizes loan guarantees and grants to Nonprofit National Corporations to provide technical and financial assistance to for-profit or nonprofit local businesses in rural areas.

The Business and Industry program is authorized by Section 310 B (7 U.S.C. 1932) (Pub. L. 92-419, August 30, 1972) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to improve, develop, or finance business, industry, and employment and improve the economic and environmental climate in rural communities, including pollution abatement control.

The Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, Section 310 B(c) (7 U.S.C. 1932(c)), authorizes Rural Business Enterprise Grants to public bodies and nonprofit corporations to facilitate the development of private businesses in rural areas.

The Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, Section 310 B(f)(i) (7 U.S.C. 1932(c)), authorized Rural Cooperative Development Grants to nonprofit institutions for the purpose of enabling such institutions to establish and operate centers for rural cooperative development.

The FSA is authorized by 25 U.S.C. 488-494, to make loans through its Indian tribal land loan program to individuals, tribes, or tribal corporations

within tribal reservations and Alaskan communities. The authority for FSA to make loans for grazing, irrigation and drainage, and farm ownership recreation loans is provided by the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (CONACT) (7 U.S.C. 1926 Sections 330-381).

The purpose of the debt settlement function for the above programs is to provide the delinquent client with an equitable tool for the compromise, adjustment, cancellation, or charge-off of a debt owed to the Agency. The information collected is similar to that required by a commercial lender in similar circumstances.

Information will be collected by the field offices from applicants, borrowers, consultants, lenders, and attorneys.

Failure to collect information could result in improper servicing of these loans.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 8 hours per response.

Respondents: Public bodies and nonprofit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 15.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 3.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 813 hours.

Estimated Number of Responses: 5.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Renita Bolden, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, (202) 692-0035.

Comments: 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 may be sent to Renita Bolden, Regulations and Paperwork

Management Branch, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, STOP 0742, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., 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 public record.

Dated: April 9, 2003.

Arthur A. Garcia,

Administrator, Rural Housing Service.

Dated: April 7, 2003.

John Rosso,

Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

Dated: April 7, 2003.

Hilda Legg,

Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.

Dated: April 8, 2003.

James R. Little,

Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

[FR Doc. 03-10525 Filed 4-29-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XV-U

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Information Collection; Forest Industries Data Collection System

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; request for comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Forest Service is seeking comments from all interested individuals and organizations on the extension of the information collection for two questionnaires used to evaluate trends in the use of logs and wood chips, to forecast anticipated levels of logs and wood chips, and to analyze changes in the harvest of these resources from National Forest System lands.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing on or before June 30, 2003 to be assured of consideration. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

ADDRESSES: Comments concerning this notice should be addressed to the USDA Forest Service, Attn: Michael Howell, Forest Inventory and Analysis, Southern Research Station, 4700 Old Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN, 37919-5206. Comments also may be submitted via facsimile to (865) 862-2048 or by e-mail to: mhowell@fs.fed.us.

The public may inspect comments received at the Southern Research Station, 4700 Old Kingston Pike, Resource Use Office, Knoxville, Tennessee during normal business hours. Visitors are encouraged to call

ahead to (865) 862-2000 to facilitate entry to the building.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Howell, Southern Research Station, at (865) 862-2054.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Description of Information Collection

1. *Title:* Pulpwood Received Questionnaire.

OMB Number: 0596-0010.

Expiration Date of Approval: June 30, 2003.

Type of Request: Extension.

Abstract: The Forest and Range Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 and the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act of 1978 require the Forest Service to evaluate trends in the use of logs and wood chips, to forecast anticipated levels of logs and wood chips, and to analyze changes in the harvest of these resources from National Forest System lands.

To collect this information, Forest Service personnel use the Pulpwood Received questionnaire. Questions include what type of logs or wood chips have been received by the mill, from which geographic locations have the logs or wood chips been harvested, what variety of tree species have been harvested and received by the mill, how much was paid by the mill for the logs or wood chips, and what is the volume of byproducts that have been produced as a result of the manufacturing process, such as bark, sawdust, and slabs. The questionnaire also includes the State and the calendar year for which information will be collected.

The Forest Service mails the questionnaires to primary wood-using mills, which include small, part-time mills and pulping companies, as well as large paper companies. Primary wood-using mills are facilities that use harvested wood in log or chip form, such as sawlogs, veneer logs, pulpwood, and pulp chips, to manufacture a secondary product, such as lumber or paper. Respondents return the completed questionnaire by mail in self-addressed, postage-paid envelopes.

The information is collected by Forest Service personnel at the following Forest Service research stations: Northeast Research Station (Radnor, Pa), North Central Research Station (St. Paul, Mn), Southern Research Station (Asheville, NC), Rocky Mountain Research Station (Ogden, Ut), and Pacific Northwest Research Station (Portland, Or). The data collected will be used to provide essential information about the current drain on the Nation's timber resources for pulpwood industrial products.

Forest Service personnel will evaluate the information collected from the pulp mills to monitor the volume, types, species, sources, and prices of timber products harvested throughout the Nation. The data from this collection of information is not available from other sources.

Estimate of Annual Burden: 0.5 hours.

Type of Respondents: Primary users of industrial pulpwood and wood chips.

Estimated Annual Number of Respondents: 225.

Estimated Annual Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 113.

2. *Title:* Logs and Other Roundwood Received Questionnaire.

OMB Number: 0596-0010.

Expiration Date of Approval: June 30, 2003.

Type of Request: Extension.

Abstract: The Forest and Range Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 and the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act of 1978 require the Forest Service to evaluate trends in the use of logs and wood chips, to forecast anticipated levels of logs and wood chips, and to analyze changes in the harvest of these resources from National Forest System lands.

To collect the information, Forest Service personnel use the Logs and Other Roundwood Received questionnaire. The questionnaire is mailed to primary wood-using mills, which include small, part-time mills as well as large corporate entities. The Logs and Other Roundwood Received questionnaire includes the State and the calendar year for which information will be collected. Respondents return the completed questionnaire by mail in self-addressed, postage-paid envelopes.

The information is to be collected by Forest Service personnel at the following Forest Service research stations: Northeast Research Station (Radnor, Pa), North Central Research Station (St. Paul, Mn), Southern Research Station (Asheville, NC), Rocky Mountain Research Station (Ogden, Ut), and Pacific Northwest Research Station (Portland, Or).

Respondents answer questions that include the type of logs or wood chips that have been received by the mill, the geographic locations from which the logs or wood chips have been harvested, the variety of tree species that have been harvested and received by the mill, the prices the mill has paid for the logs or wood chips, and the volume of byproducts that have been produced as a result of the manufacturing process, such as bark, sawdust, and slabs.