

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 77, No. 180

Monday, September 17, 2012

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

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

September 11, 2012.

The Department of Agriculture has submitted the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Comments regarding (a) whether the 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 burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; (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 and other forms of information technology should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Washington, DC, OIRA_Submission@OMB.EOP.GOV or fax (202) 395-5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, DC 20250-7602. Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of this notification. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720-8681.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to

the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Forest Service

Title: Understanding the Threats of Wildfire and Climate Change: Risk Mitigation Behaviors of Homeowners.

OMB Control Number: 0596-New.

Summary of Collection: The number of people living in wildland-urban interface areas that are threatened by wildfire has increased significantly over the past twenty to thirty years.

This, in turn has lead to increased risk to human and ecosystem health. In efforts to mitigate this risk the U.S. Forest Service (FS) uses techniques such as prescribed fire and selective thinning of vegetation to reduce fuel loads. Homeowners living in these areas also engage in activities, such as clearing brush from around their homes to mitigate risk. To understand homeowner behavior and their response to various sources of risk requires asking individuals living in high risk communities what they are doing and why they are doing it. A census of the homeowner population is the most effective statistically valid approach to expanding our understanding of these issues. The information collected from homeowners under this project will help forest service management meet the requirements of forest planning under the National Forest Management Act of 1976, the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 for public input on federal decision making, and the National Fire Plan of 2001 that authorized social science research on wildfire and is funding this project.

Need and Use of the Information: Homeowners located in the wildland-urban interface in areas that were affected by wildfires, will be asked to complete a voluntary one time survey. Questions will help determine the link between homeowners' perceived risk to themselves and their property from wildfire and their behavior to mitigate that threat. Type of information collected will include (1) risk perceptions regarding wildfire, (2) risk reduction behaviors associated with wildfire, (3) sources of information regarding wildfires and wildfire risk reduction, (4) attitudes and knowledge of climate change and its impact on wildfire risks, and (5) socio-economic

information. This study will help decision makers better understand the preferences of the homeowners in high risk areas to deal with threats that are posed from wildfire as these risks are enhanced due to the effects of climate change.

Description of Respondents: Individuals or households.

Number of Respondents: 400.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Other (one time).

Total Burden Hours: 130.

Charlene Parker,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2012-22811 Filed 9-14-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed collection; Comments requested.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Rural Business-Cooperative Service's (RBS) intention to request an extension for a currently approved information collection in support of the program for 7 CFR part 4279.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by November 16, 2012 to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brenda Griffin, Business and Industry Loan Processing Branch, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 3224, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-3224, telephone (202) 720-6802, or by email to brenda.griffin@wdc.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Guaranteed Loanmaking—Business and Industry Loans.

OMB Number: 0570-0018.

Expiration Date of Approval: 1/31/2013.

Type of Request: Extension of Paperwork Burden.

Abstract: The Business and Industry (B&I) Guaranteed Loan Program was

legislated in 1972 under Section 310B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, as amended. The purpose of the program is to improve, develop, or finance businesses, industries, and employment and improve the economic and environmental climate in rural communities. This purpose is achieved through bolstering the existing private credit structure through the guaranteeing of quality loans made by lending institutions, thereby providing lasting community benefits. The collected information is necessary to assist Agency loan officers and approval officials in determining program eligibility and program monitoring.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting for this collection of information is estimated to average 30 minutes to 12 hours per response.

Respondents: Business or other for-profit; State, Local or Tribal; Lenders, accountants, attorneys.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 617.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Number of Responses: 617.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 1,269.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Jeanne Jacobs, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, Support Services Division at (202) 692-0040.

Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of RBS, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of RBS'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 Jeanne Jacobs, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, Support Services Division, 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: September 7, 2012.

John C. Padalino,

Acting Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

[FR Doc. 2012-22879 Filed 9-14-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XY-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce will submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. chapter 35).

Agency: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Title: NMFS Observer Programs' Information that can be Gathered Only Through Questions.

OMB Control Number: 0648-0593.

Form Number(s): NA.

Type of Request: Regular submission (extension of a current information collection).

Number of Respondents: 13,295.

Average Hours Per Response: An observed trip is considered a response, and completion of all required forms per observer program averages 67 minutes, ranging from 15 minutes to 112 minutes.

Burden Hours: 26,782.

Needs and Uses: This request is for extension of a current information collection. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) deploys fishery observers on United States (U.S.) commercial fishing vessels and to fish processing plants in order to collect biological and economic data. NMFS has at least one observer program in each of its six Regions. These observer programs provide the most reliable and effective method for obtaining information that is critical for the conservation and management of living marine resources. Observer programs primarily obtain information through direct observations by employees or agents of NMFS; and such observations are not subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA). However, observer programs also collect the following information that requires clearance under the PRA: (1) Standardized questions of fishing vessel captains/crew or fish processing plant managers/staff, which include gear and performance questions, safety questions, and trip costs, crew size and other

economic questions; (2) questions asked by observer program staff/contractors to plan observer deployments; (3) forms that are completed by observers and that fishing vessel captains are asked to review and sign; (4) questionnaires to evaluate observer performance; and (5) a form to certify that a fisherman is the permit holder when requesting observer data from the observer on the vessel. NMFS seeks to renew OMB PRA clearance for these information collections.

The information collected will be used to: (1) Monitor catch and bycatch in federally managed commercial fisheries; (2) understand the population status and trends of fish stocks and protected species, as well as the interactions between them; (3) determine the quantity and distribution of net benefits derived from living marine resources; (4) predict the biological, ecological, and economic impacts of existing management action and proposed management options; and (5) ensure that the observer programs can safely and efficiently collect the information required for the previous four uses. In particular, these biological and economic data collection programs contribute to legally mandated analyses required under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), the Endangered Species Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), Executive Order 12866 (E.O. 12866), as well as a variety of state statutes. The confidentiality of the data will be protected as required by the MSA, Section 402(b).

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Frequency: On occasion.

Respondent's Obligation: Mandatory.

OMB Desk Officer:

OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Jennifer Jessup, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, (202) 482-0336, Department of Commerce, Room 6616, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at *Jjessup@doc.gov*).

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to *OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov*.