

Expiration Date of Approval: 01/31/2004.

Type of Request: Extension of Currently Approved Information Collection.

Abstract: The information collected under control number 0560-0159 is needed for FSA to effectively administer the Emergency Loan Program in accordance with the requirements of 7 CFR 764 as authorized by the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (CONACT). The collected information is submitted to the Agency loan official by loan applicants and commercial lenders for use in making program eligibility and financial feasibility determinations as required by the CONACT.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .77 hours per response.

Respondents: Individual farmers and commercial lenders.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 4,961.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 3,816.

Comments are sought on these requirements including: (a) If 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 being 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.

These comments should be sent to the Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503 and to Janet Downs, USDA, FSA, Farm Loan Programs, Loan Making Division, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Stop 0522, Washington, DC 20250-0522. Copies of the information collection may be obtained from Janet Downs at the above address. Comments regarding paperwork burden will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval of the information collection. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Signed in Washington, DC on July 10, 2003.

James R. Little,

Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

[FR Doc. 03-18194 Filed 7-17-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Performance Reporting System, Management Evaluation, Data Analysis, and Corrective Action

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice invites the general public and other public agencies to comment on a proposed information collection. The proposed collection would be a reinstatement of a collection which has expired. The expired collection was previously approved under OMB No. 0584-0010.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before September 16, 2003.

ADDRESSES: 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 has 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; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to Edward Speshock, Senior Program Analyst, State Administration Branch, Food Stamp Program, Food and Nutrition Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302.

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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection

form and instruction should be directed to Edward Speshock, (703) 305-2383.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Performance Reporting System, Management Evaluation, Data Analysis, and Corrective Action.

OMB Number: 0584-0010.

Expiration Date: Reinstatement requested.

Type of Request: Reinstatement, with change, to a previously approved collection for which approval has expired.

Abstract: The purpose of the Performance Reporting System (PRS) is to ensure that each State agency and project area is operating the Food Stamp Program in accordance with the requirements of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (the Act) (7 U.S.C. 2011, *et seq.*), as amended, and corresponding program regulations. Under Section 11 of the Act (7 U.S.C. 2020), State agencies must maintain necessary records to ascertain that the Food Stamp Program is operating in compliance with the Act and regulations and must make these records available to the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) for inspection and audit.

Management Evaluation (ME) Review Schedules—Unless the State receives approval for an alternative Management Evaluation review schedule, each State agency is required, under 7 CFR part 275, to submit one review schedule every one, two, or three years, depending on the project area make-up of the State.

Data Analysis—Under 7 CFR part 275, each State must establish a system for analysis and evaluation of all data available to the State. Data analysis and evaluation is an ongoing process that facilitates the development of effective and prompt corrective action.

Corrective Action Plans—Under 7 CFR part 275, State agencies must prepare a corrective action plan (CAP) addressing identified deficiencies. The State agencies must develop a system for monitoring and evaluating corrective action and submit CAP updates, as necessary.

Affected Public: State agencies.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 52 State agencies, Guam and the Virgin Islands.

Number of responses per respondent: 1.0.

Estimated total annual responses: 54.

Hours per response: 7.5.

Number of record keepers: 405.

Estimated annual hours per record keepers: 54.

Estimated annual record keeping burden: 27 hours.

Total annual reporting and record keeping burdens: 432.

Dated: July 11, 2003.

Roberto Salazar,

Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service.

[FR Doc. 03-18240 Filed 7-17-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-30-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Dixie National Forest, Utah, Duck Creek Fuels Treatment Analysis

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The USDA Forest Service will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to implement fuels treatments in the Duck Creek area, within the Cedar City Ranger District, Dixie National Forest, Utah. A Notice of Intent for this project was published in the **Federal Register** May 23, 2002. This Notice of Intent is a revision to change the dates of the EIS and minor corrections of acreages. The agency gives notice of the full environmental analysis and decision-making process that will occur on the proposal so that interested and affected people may become aware of how they can participate in the process and contribute to the final decision.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received within thirty days after publication of this Notice Of Intent in the **Federal Register**. The draft environmental impact statement is expected in September, 2003. The final environmental impact statement is expected in December, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to: Duck Creek Fuels Treatment Analysis Coordinator, Cedar City Ranger District, Dixie National Forest, 1789 Wedgewood, Cedar City, Utah 84720.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Duck Creek Fuels Treatment Analysis Coordinator, Cedar City Ranger District, Dixie National Forest, 1789 Wedgewood, P.O. Box 627, Cedar City, Utah 84720.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed treatments will implement direction in the National Fire Plan, a USDA/USDI effort to reduce impacts of wildfires on people and resources. In August, 2000 President Clinton directed the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior to reduce the impacts of wildland fires on rural communities. The Secretaries subsequently developed the National Fire Plan. This direction was followed by congressionally-

approved plans that funded "hazardous fuel reduction" near urban interface areas.

The National Fire Plan directs Federal agencies within USDA/USDI to engage states and local communities in reducing forest fuels, using a variety of fuel reduction treatments (mechanical, prescribed fire and intensive manual treatment). Hazardous fuel reduction is a critical investment necessary to reduce fire risk and fire suppression costs into the future and is focused on areas near communities and interface areas that the States have judged to be in harm's way of a wildfire.

The analysis area of 25,741 acres of National Forest System lands is located thirty miles east of Cedar City, Utah. The analysis area includes six tracts of private lands which are surrounded by National Forest lands. The tracts are subdivided into residential lots and contain an estimated 1,900 homes and 10 businesses. The specific subdivisions are as follows:

Subdivision	Legal location (approximate) Salt Lake Base Meridian
1. Meadow View Heights.	T38S R7W Sec 6.
2. Mirror Lake	T38S R7W Sec 5, 8.
3. Movie Ranch	T38S R7W Sec 7.
4. Movie Ranch South.	T38S R7W Sec 7.
5. Color Country	T38S R7W Sec 8, 17.
6. Timber Trails	T38S R7W Sec 7, 17, 18.
7. Ponderosa Villa	T38S R7W Sec 16.
8. Strawberry Valley	T38S R7W Sec 20, 21.
9. Swains Creek	T38S R7W Sec 26, 2.
10. Blackman Hill	T38S R7W Sec 26, 27.
11. Harris Springs	T38S R7W Sec 26.
12. Swains Creek Pines.	T38S R7W Sec 33, 34.
13. Ponderosa Ranch	T38S R7W Sec 24; T38S R6W Sec 19.
14. Zion View Mtn Estates.	T38S R8W Sec 2.
15. Duck Creek Pines	T38S R7W Sec 7.

The private lands were designated an "urban interface community at risk from wildfires on National Forest lands" by the Chief of the Forest Service (**Federal Register** / Vol. 66, No. 160 / Friday, August 17, 2001 / Notices). This designation meant that Federal funds from the National Fire Plan could be spent to reduce fuels on National Forest lands adjacent to the private lands.

Historic prevention and suppression of wildfire has resulted in ever-increasing accumulations of forest fuels. These buildups of forest fuels increase the risk of high intensity fires to the National Forest and to large private

subdivisions within the forest boundary. The extensive development and high recreation use have also increased the threat of human-caused fires. A high intensity fire occurring within this area would cause significant damage to property and natural resources. Reducing the risk of wildfires in these areas would provide the best opportunity to protect National Forest lands and adjacent private properties. The Forest Service has determined that the fuels treatment objectives will be met without harvesting trees over nine inches in diameter.

Purpose and Need for Action. The purpose of this project is to modify existing, high fuel loads that influence fire behavior in National Forest lands adjacent to private lands in the Duck Creek area. There is a need to reduce minute, hour, ten-hour and hundred-hour fuels adjacent to private property and in the defensible fire space zone. There is a need to change the structure and composition of the fuels throughout the project area, especially in aspen-dominated sites. There is a need to change the characteristics of the residual trees by removing ladder fuels from the ground to eight feet high. Changing these fuels characteristics and reducing the fuel loads would help reduce the risk of property damage and allow sufficient time for firefighters to directly attack and control a wildfire before housing and other developments are threatened or destroyed. The fuel elements that need to be treated are as follows:

Element 1—Ground Fuels Reduction. Current fuel loads adjacent to private lands range from 20–50 tons per acre. The desired condition of the area immediately surrounding the subdivisions, Defensible Fire Space (DFS), is to have fuel loads reduced to 5–10 tons per acre, a level that would not sustain a high intensity wildfire.

The current fuel loads range from 20–50 tons per acre in the general forest area outside of the DFS. Reducing the fuel loads in the general forest area to 10–15 tons per acre would slow the spread of fire and would reduce the potential for a fire to spread into the crowns of the trees.

Element 2—Ladder Fuels Reduction. Lower branches and small trees currently extend from the ground upward, creating the ladder a fire would climb to reach higher crowns. Ladder fuels have increased dramatically as ponderosa pine trees with small crowns and few lower branches have been replaced by fir and spruce that have large crowns and branches extending to the ground. Fire suppression has also resulted in a dense understory of young