

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

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Doc. No. FV04-901-1NC]

Notice of Request for Extension and Revision of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), this notice announces the Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) intention to request an extension for and revision to a currently approved generic information collection for vegetables and specialty crop marketing order programs.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by February 17, 2004.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Contact Valerie L. Emmer-Scott, Marketing Specialist, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 0237, room 2525-S., Washington, DC 20090-6456; Tel: (202) 205-2829, Fax: (202) 720-5698, or E-mail: moabdocket_clerk@usda.gov.

Small businesses may request information on this notice by contacting Jay Guerber, Regulatory Fairness Representative, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 0237, room 2525-S., Washington, DC 20090-6456; telephone (202) 720-2491, Fax: (202) 720-5698, or E-mail: Jay.Gueber@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Vegetable and Specialty Crop Marketing Orders.

OMB Number: 0581-0178.

Expiration Date of Approval: April 30, 2004.

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

Abstract: Marketing order programs provide an opportunity for producers of fresh fruit, vegetables, and specialty crops, in specified production areas, to work together to solve marketing problems that cannot be solved individually. Order regulations help ensure adequate supplies of high quality products for consumers and adequate returns to producers. Under the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 (Act), as amended (7 U.S.C. 601-674), industries enter into marketing order programs. The Secretary of Agriculture (Secretary) is authorized to oversee the order operations and issue regulations recommended by a committee or board of representatives from each commodity industry.

The information collection requirements in this request are essential to carry out the intent of the Act, to provide the respondents the type of service they request, and to administer the marketing order programs. Under the Act, orders may authorize the following: production and marketing research including paid advertising, volume regulations, reserves including pools and producer allotments, container regulations, and quality control. Assessments are levied on handlers regulated under the marketing orders. Also pursuant to section 8e of the Act, importers of raisins, dates, and dried prunes are required to submit certain information.

Several forms are required to be filed by USDA to enable its administration of each program. These include forms covering the section process for industry members to serve on a marketing order's committee or board and ballots used in referenda to amend or continue marketing order programs.

Under Federal marketing orders, producers and handlers are nominated by their peers to serve as representatives on a committee or board which administers each program. Nominees must provide information on their qualifications to serve on the committee or board. Nominees are selected by the Secretary. Formal rulemaking amendments must be approved in referenda conducted by USDA and the

Secretary. For the purposes of this action, ballots are considered information collections and are subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act. If an order is amended, handlers are asked to sign an agreement indicating their willingness to abide by the provisions of the amended order.

Some forms are required to be filed with the committee or board. The orders and their rules and regulations authorize the respective commodities' committees and boards, the agencies responsible for local administration of the orders, to require handlers and producers to submit certain information. Much of the information is compiled in aggregate and provided to the respective industries to assist in marketing decisions. The committees and boards have developed forms as a means for persons to file required information relating to supplies, shipments, and dispositions of their respective commodities, and other information needed to effectively carry out the purpose of the Act and their respective orders, and these forms are utilized accordingly.

OMB Control No. 0581-0071, Almonds Grown in California, Marketing Order No. 981, will also be merged into this information collection.

The forms covered under this information collection require the minimum information necessary to effectively carry out the requirements of the orders, and their use is necessary to fulfill the intent of the Act as expressed in the orders, and the rules and regulations issued under the orders.

The information collected is used only by authorized employees of the committees and boards and authorized representatives of the USDA, including AMS, Fruit and Vegetable Programs' regional and headquarter's staff. Authorized committee/board employees are the primary users of the information and AMS is the secondary user.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.086 hours per response.

Respondents: Producers, handlers, processors and importers.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 23,753.

Estimated Number of Responses: 163,709.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 7.195

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 14,032 hours.

Comments are invited on: (1) 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; (2) 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; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) 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 should reference this docket number and the appropriate marketing order, and be mailed to the Docket Clerk, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 0237, room 2525-S, Washington, DC 20250-0237; Fax: (202) 720-8938; or E-mail: moab.docketclerk@usda.gov. Comments should also reference the date and page number of this issue of the **Federal Register**. All comments received will be available for public inspection in the Office of the Docket Clerk during regular USDA business hours, or can be viewed at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/fv/moab.html>.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Dated: December 9, 2003.

A.J. Yates,

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 03-30997 Filed 12-15-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket Number FV-04-304]

United States Standards for Grades of Mangos

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), prior to undertaking research and other work associated with creating an official grade standard, is soliciting comments on the petition to create the United States Standards for

Grades of Mangos. At a recent meeting of the Fruit and Vegetable Industry Advisory Committee, AMS was asked to review all the fresh fruit and vegetable grade standards for usefulness in serving the industry and identify commodities that may be better served if a grade standard was developed. As a result, AMS has noted that the industry is interested in the creation of U.S. Standards for Grades of Mangos.

DATES: Comments must be received by February 17, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments to the Standardization Section, Fresh Products Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Room 1661, South Building, Stop 0240, Washington, DC 20250-0240, fax (202) 720-8871, e-mail

FPB.DocketClerk@usda.gov. Comments should make reference to the dates and page number of this issue of the **Federal Register** and will be made available for public inspection in the above office during regular business hours.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

David L. Priester, at the above address or call (202) 720-2185, e-mail David.Priester@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

At a recent meeting of the Fruit and Vegetable Industry Advisory Committee, AMS was asked to review all the fresh fruit and vegetable grade standards for usefulness in serving the industry and identify commodities that may be better served if a grade standard was developed. During the standards review, AMS noted that several industry members requested AMS develop a grade standard for mangos. In conjunction with industry interest in the development of a grade standard for mangos, AMS has also identified mangos as a possible commodity for the development of a grade standard. This standard could contain sections pertaining to grades, size classifications, color requirements, tolerances, application of tolerances, pack requirements, definitions, and other relevant and necessary provisions. Prior to undertaking detailed work to develop a proposed standard, AMS is soliciting comments on the possible development of U.S. standards for grades of mangos and the probable impact on growers, processors, and distributors.

This notice provides for a 60-day comment period for interested parties to comment on the development of the standards. Should AMS conclude that there is a need for the development of the standards, a proposed standard will

be published in the **Federal Register** with a request for comments in accordance with 7 CFR part 36.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1621-1627.

Dated: December 9, 2003.

A.J. Yates,

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 03-30998 Filed 12-15-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

18 Fire Recovery Project, Deschutes National Forest, Deschutes County, OR

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) on a proposed action to salvage dead and severely damaged trees, and plant trees and other vegetation to assist in the restoration of the area burned in the 18 Fire on the Bend/Fort Rock Ranger District of the Deschutes National Forest. The 18 Fire, located about 3.5 miles southeast of Bend, Oregon, burned approximately 3,810 acres, outside of the range of the northern spotted owl, entirely on National Forest System lands. The alternatives will include the proposed action, no action, and additional alternatives that respond to issues generated during the scoping process. The agency will give notice of the full environmental analysis and decision making process so interested and affected people may participate and contribute to the final decision.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received by January 16, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Walter C. Schloer, Jr., District Ranger, Bend/Fort Rock Ranger District, 1230 NE. Third Street, Suite 262A, Bend, Oregon 97701.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mark Macfarlane, Environmental Coordinator, 1230 NE. Third Street, Suite 262A, Bend, Oregon 97701. Phone: 541-383-4769. E-mail: mamacfarlane@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: *Purpose and Need.* An estimated 76 percent of the fire occurred within the Deer Habitat Management Area of the Deschutes National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). The remaining portion of the fire burned within the General Forest (23 percent)