

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

Food and Nutrition Service

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Store Reauthorization Application, Form FNS-252-R

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), 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 proposed information collections. The proposed collection is a new information collection requirement.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before June 30, 2009 to be assured of consideration.

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 shall 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 the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments may be sent to Ronald K. Ward, Chief, Retailer Operations Branch, Benefit Redemption Division, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 404, Alexandria, VA 22302. Comments may also be submitted via fax to the attention of

Ronald K. Ward at (703) 305-1863 or via e-mail to BRDHQ-Web@fns.usda.gov.

All written comments will be open for public inspection at the office of the Food and Nutrition Service during regular business hours (8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday) at 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, Virginia 22302, Room 404.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval. All comments will be a matter of public record.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information should be directed to Ronald K. Ward at (703) 305-2523.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program—Store Reauthorization Application.

Form Number: FNS-252-R.

Type of Request: New information collection.

Abstract: The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture is the Federal agency responsible for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as the Food Stamp Program. The Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended, (7 U.S.C. 2011 *et seq.*) requires that the FNS determine the eligibility of retail food stores and certain food service organizations to accept and redeem SNAP benefits and to monitor them for compliance and continued eligibility.

Part of FNS' responsibility is to accept applications from retail food stores that wish to participate in the SNAP, review the applications in order to determine whether or not applicants meet eligibility requirements, and make determinations whether to grant or deny authorization to accept and redeem SNAP benefits. FNS is also responsible for requiring updates to application information and reviewing that information to determine whether or not the retail firms continue to meet eligibility requirements. There are currently four application forms designed for that purpose approved under OMB No. 0584-0008—the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Application for Stores, Form FNS-252 and FNS-252-E (paper and electronic version, respectively); the Meal Service Application, Form FNS-252-2; and the Corporate Supplemental

Application, Form FNS-252-C used for individual (chain) stores under a Corporation.

Previous submissions to OMB regarding this information collection reflected the elimination of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Application for Stores—Reauthorization, Form FNS-252-R, due to FNS' streamlining efforts. Since the elimination of the Form FNS-252-R, FNS has determined that additional information is needed to ensure that retailers meet the necessary requirements of operation to carry out the intent of the SNAP, and to ensure efficient and effective operation of the Program.

Our ability to reduce the information collection burden has been hampered by our need to obtain verifiable annual gross sales and food sales income from all participating retailers. Because FNS no longer has a specific form that captures reauthorization information, we are seeking approval from OMB for information collection requirements to be imposed on retail/wholesale firms and food service organizations for the continued eligibility of such respondents once authorized. Upon OMB approval, FNS intends to incorporate this form into the information collection associated with OMB No. 0584-0008, as these respondents are also considered the "normal channels of trade" for delivery of SNAP benefits to low-income households.

It is our experience that most firms will remain eligible and continue to deliver Program benefits. Form FNS-252-R is needed to obtain verifiable annual gross sales and food sales income from all participating retailers, and to ensure continued eligibility for SNAP participation. FNS intends to implement the use of this form on October 1, 2009. FNS is committed to complying with the E-Government Act of 2002, which requires that, when practicable, Federal agencies use electronic forms, electronic filing, and electronic signature to conduct official business. Current technological opportunities allow us to improve information collection in accordance with these statutes. FNS is developing an online application for the Form FNS-252-R, as an electronic alternative for retailers who wish to complete and submit the reauthorization application

via the Internet on the FNS Web site. Efforts are being made to streamline and simplify the data collection burden imposed on respondents. Only those questions that have any relevance to the reauthorization process are being asked on Form FNS-252-R. Approximately 9 questions will be on Form FNS-252-R.

In accordance with Section 278.1(j)-(n) of the SNAP regulations, all firms must be reauthorized at least once every five years. The burden associated with the Form FNS-252-R is determined from the number currently authorized stores (178,793) obtained from the STARS Database as of February, 2009. Approximately 9 percent of all currently authorized retailers (16,381 individual firms) will be subject to reauthorization in Fiscal Year (FY) 2010. We do not know how many retailers will use the online reauthorization application. We estimate that, initially, 6,552 (or 40%) of the 16,381 individual firms subject to reauthorization will be completed using the online Form FNS-252-R in FY 2010. The remaining 9,829 (or 60%) retailers will complete the paper application, Form FNS-252-R. We estimate the hourly burden time per response for retailers completing either the online or paper Form FNS-252-R to be 7 minutes. This burden estimate includes the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gather and copy the data needed, complete and review the application and submit the form and documentation to FNS.

Respondents: Retail food stores.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 16,381.

Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 16,381.

Estimated Time per Response: .1169 or 7 minutes.

Estimate Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 1,915 hours.

Dated: April 23, 2009.

E. Enrique Gomez,

Acting Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service.

[FR Doc. E9-10052 Filed 4-30-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-30-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Information Collection; Request for Comments; Advertised Timber for Sale

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the

Forest Service is seeking comments from all interested individuals and organizations on the revision with changes of the currently approved information collection 0596-0066 Advertised Timber for Sale.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing on or before June 30, 2009 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 Director, Forest Management, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Mail Stop 1103, Washington, DC 20250-1103.

Comments also may be submitted via facsimile to 202-205-1045 or by e-mail to: bidforms@fs.fed.us.

All comments, including names and addresses when provided, are placed in the record and are available for public inspection and copying. The public may inspect comments received at the Office of the Director, Forest Management, Third Floor, Southwest Wing, Yates Building, 201 14th Street, SW., Washington, DC. Visitors are encouraged to call ahead at 202-205-1496 to facilitate entry into the building.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lathrop Smith, Forest Management Staff, at 202-205-0858. Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339, 24 hours a day, every day of the year, including holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Advertised Timber for Sale

OMB Number: 0596-0066.

Expiration Date of Approval: November 30, 2009.

Type of Request: Extension with revision.

Abstract: Pursuant to statutory requirements at 16 U.S.C. 472a, unless extraordinary conditions exist as defined by regulation, the Secretary of Agriculture must: (1) Advertise sales of all National Forest System timber or forest products exceeding \$10,000 in appraised value; (2) select bidding methods that ensure open and fair competition; (3) select bidding methods that ensure that the Federal Government receives not less than appraised value of the timber or forest product; and (4) monitor bidding patterns for evidence of unlawful bidding practices.

Pursuant to the Forest Service Small Business Timber Sale Set-Aside Program, developed in cooperation with the Small Business Administration, Forest Service regulations at Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations, § 223.84 require that the Forest Service bid form used by potential timber sale

bidders include provisions for small business concerns. The data collected will be used by the agency to ensure that National Forest System timber will be sold at not less than appraised value, that bidders will meet specific criteria when submitting a bid, and that anti-trust violations will not occur during the bidding process.

The tax identification number of each bidder is entered into an automated bid monitoring system, which is used to determine if speculative bidding or unlawful bidding practices are occurring and is required to process electronic payments to the purchaser.

Respondents will be bidders on National Forest System timber sales. Forest Service sale officers will mail bid forms to potential bidders, and bidders will return the completed forms, dated and signed, to the Forest Service sale officer.

The data gathered in this information collection are not available from other sources.

Forms Associated With This Information Collection

FS-2400-42a—National Forest Timber and Forest Products for Sale (Advertisement and Short-Form Bid): This form will be used for soliciting and receiving bids on short-notice timber sales advertised for less than 30 days for less than \$10,000 in advertised value. Respondents are bidders on National Forest System timber sales.

FS-2400-14—Bid for Advertised Timber (3 form versions: FS-2400-14UR—Unit Rate Bidding; FS-2400-14WA—Weighted Average Bidding; FS-2400-14TV—Total Value Bidding): These forms implement the same statutes, policies, and regulations and collect similar information from the same applicants. Respondents are bidders on National Forest System timber and forest product sales.

FS-2400-14BV—Bid For Integrated Resource Contract (2 form versions:—FS-2400-14BV—Best Value, Total Value Bidding; FS-2400-14BVU—Best Value, Unit Rate Bidding): These forms will be used for soliciting and receiving bids on contracts advertised for 30 days or longer and on contracts greater than \$10,000 in advertised value.

Forms showing changes to the May 2006 versions currently in use can be viewed on the World Wide Web/Internet site at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/forestmanagement/infocenter> and in the Office of the Director, Forest Management, Third Floor, Southwest Wing, Yates Building, 201 14th Street, SW., Washington, DC. Visitors are encouraged to call ahead at 202-205-1496 to facilitate entry into the building.