

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Food and Nutrition Service****Agency Information Collection
Activities: Proposed Collection;
Comment Request—Food Stamp
Program Repayment Demand and
Program Disqualification**

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 proposed information collections. This Notice of Proposed Information Collection announces the intent of the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to request a revision for the information collection requirements associated with initiating collection actions against households who have received an overissuance in the Food Stamp Program. In addition, this Notice announces FNS' intent to request a revision of OMB approval for the information collection requirements associated with intentional Program violation determinations.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before April 28, 2008 to be assured consideration.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Jane Duffield, Chief, State Administration Branch, Food and Nutrition Service, USDA, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 822, Alexandria, Virginia 22302.

Pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3507), 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.

All comments will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the information collection. All comments will become a matter of public record.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For initiating collection action, contact Dawn Washington at (703) 305-2450. For Intentional Program Violation (IPV) determination, contact Greg Fortine at (703) 305-2401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Food Stamp Program Repayment Demand and Program Disqualification.

OMB Number: 0584-0492.

Form Number: None.

Expiration Date: April 30, 2008.

Type of Request: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: Section 13(b) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended (7 U.S.C. 2022(b)), and Food Stamp Program (FSP) regulations at 7 CFR 273.18 require State agencies to initiate collection action against households that have been overissued benefits. To initiate collection action, State agencies must provide an affected household with written notification informing the household of the claim and demanding repayment. This process is automated in most State agencies. For initiating collection action on an overissuance, we are decreasing the estimated annual reporting and recordkeeping burden for State agencies and households from 166,329 hours to 135,393. The reason for the decrease is to reflect the lower number of claims that were established in fiscal year (FY) 2006.

Note that for recipient claims, this **Federal Register** Notice only covers the reporting and recordkeeping burden for initiating collection action. The burden associated with reporting collections and other claims management information on the FNS-209 report is covered under currently approved OMB number 0584-0069. The burden associated with referring delinquent claims and receiving collections through the Treasury Offset Program is covered under currently approved OMB number 0584-0446.

FSP regulations at 7 CFR 273.16 require State agencies to investigate any case of suspected fraud and, where applicable, make an intentional program violation (IPV) determination either administratively or judicially. Notifications and activity involved in the IPV process include:

- The State agency providing written notification informing an individual suspected of committing an IPV of an impending administrative disqualification hearing or court action.
- An individual opting to accept the disqualification and waiving the right to an administrative disqualification hearing or court action by signing either a waiver to an administrative

disqualification hearing or a disqualification consent agreement in cases of deferred adjudication.

- Once a determination is made regarding an IPV, the State agency sends notification to the affected individual of the action taken on the administrative disqualification hearing or court decision.

Despite an increase in FSP participation, IPV activity has experienced a decline. Therefore, we are decreasing the State agency and household annual reporting and recordkeeping burden for the activities related to IPV disqualifications from 38,435 hours to 11,045 hours.

One of the factors used by a State agency to determine the appropriate disqualification penalty to assign to an individual is whether or not the individual was found to have committed any prior IPV's. The way that State agencies determine this is by accessing and checking the Electronic Disqualified Recipient Subsystem (eDRS). eDRS is an automated system developed by FNS that contains records of disqualifications in every State. State agencies are responsible for updating the system and checking it to determine the appropriate length of each disqualification. An estimate of the annual burden associated with the eDRS process reflects a decrease from 7,418 to 5,563 hours per year.

Summary of Estimated Burden

The net aggregate change from the existing to the proposed annual burden for this collection is a reduction of 30,936 hours, from the currently approved burden of 166,329 hours. For initiating collection action on an overissuance, we are decreasing the estimated annual burden for State agencies and households from 142,510 hours to 118,786 hours to reflect the lower number of claims established in FY 2006. The IPV-related State agency and household annual burden, has decreased from 16,401 hours to 11,044 hours to reflect the lower number of disqualifications. An estimate of the annual burden associated with the eDRS process reflects a total decrease from 7,418 to 5,563 hours per year. Adjustments have been made to the burden to include requirements not previously identified, burden identified incorrectly, and corrections made in the calculations of the number of responses and hours per response.

Affected Public: State and local government, and food stamp households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 556,053.

Number of Responses per Respondent: 2.53.

Total Number of Annual Responses: 1,404,718.

Estimated Time per Response: 0.09.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 135,393.

Dated: February 22, 2008.

Roberto Salazar,

Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service.

[FR Doc. E8-3750 Filed 2-27-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Caribou-Targhee National Forest, Idaho; Big Bend Ridge Vegetation Management Project and Timber Sale Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Targhee Forest Plan Amendment

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Cancellation of notice of intent to prepare a supplemental environmental impact statement that was published on May 30, 2007, on page 29948 of the **Federal Register**.

SUMMARY: After review of the proposal and public comments on the project the Caribou-Targhee National Forest has decided not to prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Big Bend Ridge Vegetation Management Project and Timber Sale and the associated Targhee Forest Plan amendment at this time. The Forest will propose to amend the Targhee Revised Forest Plan under a separate proposal in the near future.

DATES: Effective cancellation of this project upon the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Robbin Redman at the Caribou-Targhee National Forest at 1405 Hollipark Drive, Idaho Falls, ID 83401 or via telephone at (208) 557-5821.

Dated: February 20, 2008.

Larry Timchak,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 08-862 Filed 2-27-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Sierra National Forest; California; Kings River Project

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare a supplement to the Kings River Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service will prepare a supplement to the 2006 Kings River Project Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). The supplement will be focused on new information and clarification, particularly related to Pacific fisher; a new multi-forest Land Management Plan Amendment regarding management indicator species; applicable suggestions in a new paper titled *An Ecosystem Management Strategy for Southern Sierra Mixed-Conifer Forests* by North, M., P. Stine, K. O'Hara, W. Zielinski and S. Stephens; and collaboration that may result in a change in the timing, description, and location of activities within the project area.

DATES: Scoping is not required for supplements to environmental impact statements (40 CFR 1502.9(c)(4)(4)). The draft supplement to the FEIS is expected to be issued in April 2008 and the final supplement to the FEIS is expected in July 2008. Comments on the draft supplement to the FEIS must be received by 45 days after publication.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Ray Porter, District Ranger, High Sierra Ranger District, PO Box 559, Prather, CA 93651, Attn: Kings River Project Supplement.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ross Peckinpah, Kings River Project Coordinator, at the High Sierra Ranger District. Telephone number is (559) 855-5355 x3350. Information regarding the Kings River Project can be found on the Sierra National Forest Web site located at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/sierra/projects/>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Kings River planning area encompasses approximately 131,500 acres of public lands in two watersheds of the Kings River drainage. The northern edge of the project is located about two miles southeast of Shaver Lake, CA.

One hundred years of fire suppression in the Sierra Nevada has resulted in forests full of dead wood and thickly clustered trees. This situation, plus continued urbanization of lands adjacent to national forest lands, has put the forests and homes at risk of catastrophic fire. A FEIS was released in October of 2006 addressing the situation in the Kings River Project area that applied an uneven aged silvicultural system and prescribed fire upon eight

units totaling 13,700 acres. On December 20, 2006 the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Kings River Project was signed. The decision was appealed and upheld by the Regional Forester. In May of 2007 a lawsuit was filed against the Forest Service that alleged the analysis conducted for the Kings River Project FEIS and ROD was inadequate. Since that time additional information has developed to help analyze effects of restoration projects on sensitive wildlife species like Pacific fisher. A new multi-forest Land Management Plan Amendment has also been issued regarding management indicator species. A new paper suggesting *An Ecosystem Management Strategy for Southern Sierra Mixed-Conifer Forests* by North, M., P. Stine, K. O'Hara, W. Zielinski and S. Stephens is about to be peer reviewed and published. Collaborative efforts with those who opposed this project and/or new information could change the timing, description, and location of activities within the project area that would require supplementing the FEIS and publishing a new ROD. As a result of this, the December 20, 2006 ROD was withdrawn.

Purpose and Need for Action

This supplement is focused on new information and clarification, particularly related to Pacific fisher; a new multi-forest Land Management Plan Amendment regarding management indicator species; applicable suggestions in a new paper titled *An Ecosystem Management Strategy for Southern Sierra Mixed-Conifer Forests* by North, M., P. Stine, K. O'Hara, W. Zielinski and S. Stephens; and ongoing collaboration so the purpose and need for action remain the same as was described in the 2007 Kings River Project FEIS. "The underlying need for the proposed action is to restore historical pre-1850 forest conditions across a large landscape" (Kings River Project FEIS pg. 1-4).

Proposed Action

The proposed action and all alternatives are expected to remain the same as was described in the 2007 Kings River Project FEIS. Three alternatives were analyzed in the FEIS to address the Purpose and Need: (1) The Proposed Action—including commercial tree harvest & thinning, underburning, reforestation, plantation maintenance, fuels treatments, watershed restoration projects, and herbicide treatments to plantations and noxious weeds, (2) No Action and (3) Reduction in Harvest Tree Size—limiting the vegetation treatments to trees 30" diameter and