

for debt instruments, loan agreements, and security, and other material necessary for prudent credit decisions and reasonable program monitoring.

Description of Respondents: Not-for-profit institutions; Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 202.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 17,959.

Charlene Parker,

Departmental Information Collection
Clearance Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency

Finding of No Significant Impact

AGENCY: Farm Service Agency, USDA.

SUMMARY: The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is issuing a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 with respect to the implementation of the following Disaster Assistance Programs: (1) Hurricane Indemnity Program, (2) Feed Indemnity Program, (3) Livestock Indemnity Program, (4) Tree Indemnity Program, and (5) Aquaculture Grant Program as well as (6) the 2006 Livestock Assistance Grant Program.

DATES: This action is effective November 13, 2006.

ADDRESSES: The Final Programmatic Environmental Assessment and FONSI may be reviewed at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/cepd/epb/assessments.htm>. Written comments should be directed to Mike Linsenberg, USDA/FSA/CEPD/Stop 0513, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-0513. Electronic comments may be submitted to Mike.Linsenberg@wdc.usda.gov. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication (Braille, large print, audio tape, etc.) should contact the USDA Target Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: FSA prepared a Final Programmatic Environmental Assessment for disaster assistance programs supporting production loss and damage caused by damaging weather that occurred between 2005 and 2006. Consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321, *et seq.*) (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the

Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), and FSA's policy and procedures (7 CFR part 799), FSA is issuing a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) with respect to the implementation of the Proposed Action under consideration here. These actions involve 2005-2006 disaster assistance programs that solely transfer funds to offset production and disaster related losses with no site-specific or ground-disturbing actions occurring as an immediate result of implementing these programs. These programs include the following Disaster Assistance Programs: (1) Hurricane Indemnity Program, (2) Feed Indemnity Program, (3) Livestock Indemnity Program, (4) Tree Indemnity Program, (5) Aquaculture Grant Program, and (6) the 2006 Livestock Assistance Grant Program. Because normal agricultural related production was hindered by the widespread and significant destruction caused by the 2005 hurricanes and the severe droughts occurring from March 7, 2006, to August 31, 2006, the Secretary is responding by utilizing the equivalent of 30 percent of annual customs revenues available under Section 32 to restore purchasing power to affected eligible producers.

Current disaster programs operated by USDA and other Federal and State agencies do not fully cover the types of loss and destruction experienced by a majority of producers within the States affected by these hurricanes and drought. Without the immediate financial assistance provided by these programs, producers would face delays and experience additional financial hardships in their efforts to return their farming or livestock operations to pre-disaster or pre-drought levels.

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, FSA would disburse up to \$300 million either through direct payments to eligible producers or through grants administered by State agencies for the grant programs. In making direct payments, FSA does not require that payments be used for specific purposes. These programs solely provide payments to eligible producers for weather-related losses. The direct-payment programs are based on the producers documenting the type and amount of the weather-related loss.

Determination: In consideration of the analysis documented in the Final Programmatic Environmental Assessment and the reasons outlined in this FONSI, the preferred alternative would not constitute a *major* State or Federal action that would significantly affect the human environment. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act regulations at 40 CFR part 1502.4, "Major Federal

actions requiring the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements," and 7 CFR Part 799, "Environmental Quality and Related Environmental Concerns—Compliance with NEPA implementing the regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality," and 40 CFR parts 1500-1508, I find that neither the proposed action nor any of the alternatives analyzed constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. Therefore, no environmental impact statement will be prepared.

Signed in Washington DC on October 2, 2006.

Glen L. Keppy,

Acting Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

[FR Doc. E6-16734 Filed 10-10-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Notice of New Fees; Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (Title VIII, Pub. L. 108-447)

AGENCY: Chugach National Forest, USDA Forest Service.

ACTION: Notice of new fees.

SUMMARY: The Chugach National Forest will begin charging fees for a group campsite, cabins, individual campsites, and a backcountry permit for the Whistle Stop project area. Fees for other group campsites, cabins, and individual campsites on the Chugach National Forest have shown that the public values the availability of these facilities. In addition, market research conducted for the Whistle Stop project shows that people understand the need for backcountry permits given the remote nature of the area. Fees will be commensurate with the benefits and services provided. Funds received from the fees will be used for the continued operation and maintenance of the facilities and enhanced services of the area.

DATES: Backcountry Permits will be available spring 2007 for the 2007 Whistle Stop season. The group campsite, individual campsites, and cabins are expected to be available in 2008.

ADDRESSES: Forest Supervisor, Chugach National Forest, 3301 C Street, Anchorage, AK 9503.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Adam McClory, Whistle Stop Project Manager, 907-754-2352.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Federal Recreation Lands Enhancement

Act (Title VII, Public Law 108-447) directed the Secretary of Agriculture to publish a six month advance notice in the **Federal Register** whenever new recreation fee areas are established.

The Whistle Stop project is a partnership between the Forest Service and Alaska Railroad that will provide additional recreation opportunities using alternative transportation. This new service will allow the opportunity for visitors to access National Forest lands which were previously inaccessible to the majority of forest visitors. Market research demonstrates a demand for these sorts of recreation opportunities on the Kenai Peninsula. The Forest Service has identified a goal of achieving cost recovery through a combination of revenue sharing with the Alaska Railroad; fees from public-use cabin rentals and campsites; and fees obtained through backcountry permits.

Implementation of backcountry permits, as described in the Record of Decision, will provide the Forest Service with the ability to accurately track recreation use and ensure that use levels and numbers of encounters are not exceeding thresholds established in the Forest Plan and Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) guidelines. Chugach National Forest goals include maintaining a backcountry social experience and protecting the natural and cultural resources throughout the area. Backcountry permits will be required for visitors utilizing the enhanced amenities provided through the Whistle Stop Project area. Amenities include a developed trail system, backcountry campsites, interpretive materials, and Whistle Stop stations that will include a shelter, restroom facilities and bear-proof food storage containers. Issuance of the backcountry permit will allow for better public safety and result in improved visitor education and information about proper camping techniques, fire prevention, safety in bear country, and sanitation. Members of the public are welcome to comment.

Dated: October 4, 2006.

Joe Meade,

Chugach National Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 06-8591 Filed 10-10-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

DOC 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: U.S. Census Bureau.

Title: American Community Survey, 2007 Methods Panel.

Form Number(s): ACS-1(2005), ACS-1(X)Seq, ACS-1(X)Pro.

Agency Approval Number: None.

Type of Request: New collection.

Burden: 46,000 hours.

Number of Respondents: Postage Test—20,000; Grid vs. Sequential Test—40,000; Degree Test Reinterview—32,000.

Avg. Hours per Response:

Questionnaires—38 minutes;

Reinterview—15 minutes.

Needs and Uses: The U.S. Census Bureau requests authorization from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to conduct the American Community Survey 2007 Methods Panel tests.

Given the rapid demographic changes experienced in recent years and the strong expectation that such changes will continue and accelerate, the once-a-decade data collection approach of a census is no longer acceptable as a source for the housing and socioeconomic data collected on the census long-form. To meet the needs and expectations of the country, the Census Bureau developed the American Community Survey (ACS). This survey collects detailed socioeconomic data every month and provides tabulations of these data on a yearly basis. The ACS allows the Census Bureau to provide more timely and relevant housing and socio-economic data while also reducing operational risks in the census by eliminating the long-form historically given to one in every six addresses.

Full implementation of the ACS includes an annual sample of approximately three million residential addresses a year in the 50 states and the District of Columbia, and another 36,000 addresses in Puerto Rico. A sample this large allows for annual production and release of single-year estimates for areas with a population of 65,000 or more. Lower levels of geography require aggregates of three and five years' worth of data in order to produce estimates of comparable reliability to the census long-form. However, an ongoing data collection effort with an annual sample of this magnitude requires that the ACS continue to research possible methods for maintaining if not reducing data collection costs. If costs increase, the ACS would have to consider reductions in sample thus reducing the reliability of the data as compared to the reliability of the census long-form, especially at lower levels of geography.

One of the tests included in the 2007 Methods Panel addresses a method for potentially reducing data collection costs. In this test, we will implement the same mailing strategy as ACS production and send each sampled address a prenotice letter, an initial questionnaire (ACS-1(2005)) packet, and a reminder postcard and for those who haven't responded by a certain date, we will send a second questionnaire packet. However, for this test we will send the prenotice letter using standard postage. Current ACS production procedures send all mail pieces using a first-class postage rate. Using standard postage rather than first-class postage for this mail piece can potentially save the ACS approximately two hundred and thirty thousand dollars in data collection costs each year. The test will evaluate whether the use of standard mailing for the prenotice letter impacts mail response rates.

A second test included in the 2007 Methods Panel addresses another aspect of ACS data collection relative to the census. Both the ACS and the census collect a core set of basic demographic questions (age and date of birth, gender, relationship, Hispanic origin and race). However, the 2010 Census will use a different format (similar to the format for the 2000 Census) from the format used by the ACS for collecting this information on the mail questionnaire. The census format, referred to as a sequential person design, creates a column for each person that includes each question and associated response categories. The ACS format, referred to as the grid design, lists the names of all persons down the left side of the form, the questions across the top of the page, and the response categories fall in the 'cells' created by crossing the person names by question.

This second test will compare the sequential person (ACS-1(X)Seq) and grid (ACS-1(X)Pro) formats for collecting the basic demographic information to measure the impact on data quality, specifically unit and item non-response rates, response distributions, and within household coverage. The outcome of the test will determine whether the different formats might contribute to differences in the estimates for the basic demographic questions. If the format does influence how people respond to these basic demographic questions, the Census Bureau will decide whether the ACS should alter its format of the collection of these data items to more closely reflect the census style format prior to the 2010 Census.

The 2007 Methods Panel may also include a third test contingent on the