

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 69, No. 161

Friday, August 20, 2004

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. FV-04-702]

Request for an Extension 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 approval from the Office of Management and Budget for an extension of the currently approved information collection "Hass Avocado National Research, Promotion and Consumer Information Program."

DATES: Comments received by October 19, 2004 will be considered.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Contact Ethel Mitchell, Research and Promotion Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Stop 0244, Washington, DC 20250-0244; telephone: (202) 720-9915 and (202) 205-2800; ethel.mitchell@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Hass Avocado National Research, Promotion and Consumer Information Program.

OMB Number: 0581-0197.

Expiration Date of Approval: October 31, 2004.

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

Abstract: This information collection requirement is essential to carry out the intent of the Hass Avocado Research, Promotion, and Consumer Information Act of 2000 (7 U.S.C. 7801-7813). This

information collection requires a variety of forms. Such forms may include reports concerning status of information such as producer and importer report; transaction report; exemption from assessment form, and reimbursement form; form and information concerning board nomination and selection and acceptance statement; certification of industry organizations; and recordkeeping requirements. The forms and information covered under this information collection require the minimum information necessary to effectively carry out the requirements of the programs and their use is necessary to fulfill the intent of the applicable authorities. Assessment collection for domestic and imported Hass avocados to conduct research, promotion, industry information, and consumer information needed for the maintenance, expansion, and development of domestic markets for Hass avocados.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .5 hours per response.

Respondents: Producers, handlers and importers.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 6,310.

Estimated Number of Responses: 12,903.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 2.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 6,134.

This collection is being merged into the Research, Promotion, and Consumer Information Collection 0581-0093. 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 the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to Ethel

Mitchell, Research and Promotion Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Stop 0244, Washington, DC 20250-0244; telephone: (202) 720-9915 and (202) 205-2800; ethel.mitchell@usda.gov. All comments received will be available for public inspection during regular business hours at the same address.

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: August 16, 2004.

A.J. Yates,

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 04-19069 Filed 8-19-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Foreign Agricultural Service

Assessment of Fees for Dairy Import Licenses for the 2005 Tariff-Rate Import Quota Year

AGENCY: Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces that the fee to be charged for the 2005 tariff-rate quota (TRQ) year for each license issued to a person or firm by the Department of Agriculture authorizing the importation of certain dairy articles which are subject to tariff-rate quotas set forth in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) will be \$200.00 per license.

DATES: Effective January 1, 2005.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Michael Hankin, Dairy Import Quota Manager, Import Policies and Programs Division, STOP 1021, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-1021 or telephone at (202) 720-9439 or e-mail at Michael.Hankin@fas.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Dairy Import Tariff-Rate Quota Licensing Regulation promulgated by the Department of Agriculture and codified at 7 CFR 6.20-6.37 provides for the issuance of licenses to import certain dairy articles that are subject to TRQs set forth in the HTS. Those dairy articles

may only be entered into the United States at the in-quota TRQ tariff-rates by or for the account of a person or firm to whom such licenses have been issued and only in accordance with the terms and conditions of the regulation.

Licenses are issued on a calendar year basis, and each license authorizes the license holder to import a specified quantity and type of dairy article from a specified country of origin. The use of licenses by the license holder to import dairy articles is monitored by the Dairy Import Quota Manager, Import Policies and Programs Division, Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Customs Service.

The regulation at 7 CFR 6.33(a) provides that a fee will be charged for each license issued to a person or firm by the Licensing Authority in order to reimburse the Department of Agriculture for the costs of administering the licensing system under this regulation.

The regulation at 7 CFR 6.33(a) also provides that the Licensing Authority will announce the annual fee for each license and that such fee will be set out in a notice to be published in the **Federal Register**. Accordingly, this notice sets out the fee for the licenses to be issued for the 2005 calendar year.

Notice

The total cost to the Department of Agriculture of administering the licensing system during 2004 has been determined to be \$518,000 and the estimated number of licenses expected to be issued is 2,580. Of the total cost, \$205,000 represents staff and supervisory costs directly related to administering the licensing system for 2004; \$50,000 represents the total computer costs to monitor and issue import licenses for 2004; and \$263,000 represents other miscellaneous costs, including travel, postage, publications, forms, Internet software development, and ADP system contractors.

Accordingly, notice is hereby given that the fee for each license issued to a person or firm for the 2005 calendar year, in accordance with 7 CFR 6.33, will be \$200.00 per license.

Issued at Washington, DC, the 16th day of August, 2004.

Michael Hankin,

Licensing Authority.

[FR Doc. 04-19146 Filed 8-19-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-10-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Cibola National Forest; New Mexico; Tajique Watershed Restoration Project

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The Department of Agriculture, Forest Service has initiated the process to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Tajique Watershed Restoration Project on the Cibola National Forest, Mountainair Ranger District. The proposed action would restore vegetation conditions in a southwest pine ecosystem and reduce the fire hazard in the Manzano Mountains by treating approximately 17,000 acres within the watershed. The proposal includes forest thinning and prescribed burns to treat identified stands. The objective is to restore the landscape to historic conditions that are adopted to frequent fire return intervals as well as restore grass and shrub components in the understory and increase vegetation and wildlife diversity. A non-significant forest Plan amendment would be required in order to use new methodology for analyzing visual resources. Several small mountain communities would benefit from the proposed treatments that would create defensible space around homes and other Forest facilities. This proposal is being prepared to meet the intent of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (2003).

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received by September 3, 2004. The draft environmental impact statement is expected to be published in October, 2004, and the final environmental impact statement is expected in December 2004.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Deborah Walker, NEPA Coordinator; Cibola National Forest; 2113 Osuna Road NE.; Albuquerque, NM 87113; or FAX to 505-346-3901. Copies of the proposed action, project location maps, or the Environmental Impact Statement, when available, may be obtained from the Cibola National Forest; 2113 Osuna Road, NE.; Albuquerque, NM 87113; or from the Mountainair Ranger District; 40 Ranger Station Road (P.O. Box 69); Mountainair, NM 87036, or from the Forest website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/cibola/projects/index.shtml>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information, mail correspondence to Deborah Walker, NEPA Coordinator; Cibola National

Forest; 2113 Osuna Road, NE.; Albuquerque, NM 87113 or phone 505-346-3888.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose of the Tajique watershed restoration project is to:

1. Improve watershed health within this portion of the Tajique watershed.
2. Improve forest health condition by allowing fire to resume its natural role in the ecosystem and restore forest conditions to those found prior to fire suppression.
3. Reduce the fire hazard from high to low by reducing stand density and changing stand structure.
4. Provide and maintain functional wildlife habitat.

Proposed Action

On December 3, 2003, Congress passed the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) as a means to reduce the threat of destructive wildfires. This project is proposed as a way in which to meet the intent of HFRA and reduce hazardous fuels within this watershed while also reducing the threat of wildfire to the communities of Tajique, Torreon, Sherwood Forest, and Forest Valley. The proposed action was developed in collaboration with many of the stakeholders who are imminently affected by activities within this watershed and who are also most at risk to loss should a catastrophic wildfire occur in the future.

In addition to responding to the concern over wildfire, activities within the Tajique watershed would provide an opportunity for local economic development and encourage financial viability in rural communities that depend on National Forest System lands. The National Fire Plan (2001) and the 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy (2001) placed an emphasis on promoting markets for traditionally under-utilized wood products that could be derived from fuel reduction projects. Thus in order to meet the direction of the National Fire Plan, proposed activities would encourage the development of those markets in local communities and assist in providing economic stability over the next several years.

The Cibola National Forest proposes to implement a restoration project in the Tajique watershed in order to restore forest structure within conifer stands, meadows, and riparian areas to conditions when fire was prevalent across the landscape. Proposed activities would also serve to increase diversity and density of herbaceous and shrub understory vegetation.