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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Consumer Service

Collection Requirements Submitted for Public Comment: 7 CFR Part 246, Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

AGENCY: Food and Consumer Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Food and Consumer Service's (FCS) intention to request an extension for and revision to a currently approved information collection in support of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC).

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by January 26, 1996, to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Send comments regarding the accuracy of the burden estimate, ways to minimize the burden, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology, or any other aspect of this collection of information to: Barbara Hallman, Branch Chief, Supplemental Food Programs Division, Food and Consumer Service, USDA, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 542, Alexandria, Virginia 22302.

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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Barbara Hallman, (703) 305-2730.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: (7 CFR Part 246), Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC).
OMB Number: 0584-0043.

Expiration Date of Approval: November 30, 1995.

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

Abstract: The purpose of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) is to provide supplemental foods, nutrition education, and health care referrals to low income, nutritionally at risk pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women, infants, and children up to age 5. Currently, WIC operates through State health departments in 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, America Samoa and the Virgin Islands. Additionally, 32 Indian tribal bands and organizations serve as State agencies.

This information collection is for the reporting and recordkeeping burdens associated with the WIC Program regulations. This request is being made to extend the current information collection for an additional three years. The information reporting and recordkeeping burdens are necessary to ensure appropriate and efficient management of the WIC Program.

State Plans are the principal source of information about how each State agency WIC Program operates. Local agency applications and vendor agreements are necessary to delineate responsibility, and ensure the accountability of State agencies, local agencies, and vendors. Certification data provide the basis for determining the eligibility of program applicants. Local agency nutrition education plans facilitate the provision of quality nutrition education by local agencies and allows FCS and the State agency to assess the quality and quantity of nutrition education provided to participants. The vendor monitoring report enables FCS to evaluate vendor trends and assess State agency efforts to control vendor fraud and abuse.

Documentation of participant and vendor complaints enables FCS and the State agency to identify problems at the local agency level. The requirements that the State agency: identify the disposition of food instruments; request approval for specified costs; justify the carry-over and backspending of funds; submit preliminary and final closeout reports; submit financial, participation, and food delivery reports to FCS; develop funding procedures for local agencies; report the status of participant claims, and request waivers for

development of alternate cost containment systems, ensure the accountability of Federal funds and promote efficient program management. The requirement for State agency corrective action plans ensures the problem areas of program management are rectified. Submission of information to FCS for the biennial report to Congress ensures FCS compliance with Federal law. The food delivery requirements assist in controlling vendor fraud and abuse and promoting the integrity of State agency food delivery systems.

The information collected is used by FCS to manage, plan, evaluate and account for Government resources. The reports and records are required to ensure the proper and judicious use of public funds.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .095 hours per response.

Respondents: The respondents are State and local governments, individuals or households, and businesses.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 7,045,927 respondents.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.71.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 1,151,971 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Cato Watson, Agency Information Collection Coordinator, Food and Consumer Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, Virginia 22302.

Dated: November 10, 1995.

William E. Ludwig,

Administrator, Food and Consumer Service.

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Forest Service

St. Joe Weed Control Project; Idaho Panhandle National Forests, Benewah, Shoshone and Latah Counties, Idaho

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) to disclose the potential environmental effects of noxious weed