

### Pasture Creek Watershed, Montana; Deauthorization of Federal Funding

**AGENCY:** Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of deauthorization of Federal funding.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act, Public Law 83-566, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service Guidelines (7 CFR 622), the Natural Resources Conservation Service gives notice of the deauthorization of Federal funding for the Pasture Creek Watershed project, McCone County, Montana, effective on December 19, 1996.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Richard J. Gooby, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 10 East Babcock Street, Room 443, Bozeman, Montana, 59715, telephone 406-587-6813.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 10.904, Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention. Office of Management and Budget Circular No. A-95 regarding State and local clearinghouse review of Federal and federally assisted programs and projects is applicable)

Dated: February 12, 1996.

Shirley J. Elliott,

*Acting State Conservationist.*

[FR Doc. 96-3870 Filed 2-22-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-16-M

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Bureau of the Census

#### Monthly Wholesale Trade Survey

**ACTION:** Proposed agency information collection activity; comment request.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before April 23, 1996.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Acting Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection

instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Ronald Piencykoski, Bureau of Census, Room 2626-FOB 3, Washington, DC 20233-6500, (301) 457-2779.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Abstract

The Monthly Wholesale Trade Survey represents firms primarily engaged in merchant wholesale trade in the United States by selected kinds of business. This survey provides the only continuous measure of monthly wholesale sales, end-of-month inventories, method of inventory valuation and stock sales ratios. The survey also provides data for a valuable comparison for use with the 5-year wholesale census. The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) uses this information on methods of valuation and changes in the valuation methods to improve the inventory valuation adjustments applied to estimates of the gross domestic product (GDP).

The survey currently uses a sample design that includes both fixed and rotating panels. Larger firms are requested to report sales and inventories each month, putting them in the fixed panel category. Smaller firms belong to one of three rotating panels that are contacted every third month and report data from the two most recent months. In this way, we obtain eight months of data through four contacts per year for the smaller firms. Under the current system, we release a preliminary estimate one month, and then revise it with a final estimate one month later. Revisions can be relatively large due to imbalances in the rotating panels and differential response bias between current and previous month reports.

We plan to implement a totally fixed panel design for the next sample revision starting in early 1997. Under this new design, all reporting units will report each month. By going to a totally fixed panel design, we will greatly minimize preliminary-to-final revisions caused by the rotating panels.

The fixed panel design will allow for better analysis of data since we will be able to more readily pinpoint unusual responses by reviewing each reporting unit's data each month. By using a simplified estimation scheme, the new design will also allow easier computation of an individual firm's effect on the total estimates.

The fixed panel design will also give us better estimates when reconciling differences with other surveys. When we reconcile smaller firms with the Annual Trade Survey, (OMB Approval #0607-0195), we will have twelve

months of data rather than eight. This fixed panel design will allow for better comparisons between these closely related surveys.

##### II. Method of Collection

We collect this information by mail, facsimile machine, and telephone.

##### III. Data

*OMB Number:* 0607-0190.

*Form Number:* B-310(97).

*Type of Review:* Regular submission.

*Affected Public:* Merchant wholesale firms in the United States.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 3,110 per month.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* 7 minutes.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 4,354 hours.

*Estimated Total Cost:* The total cost in fiscal year 1996 for the Current Wholesale Trade Survey is \$629,000 all borne by the Bureau of the Census. The cost to the respondents is estimated to be \$67,052 based on the median hourly salary of \$15.40 for accountants and auditors. (January 1995 Bureau of Labor Statistics publication "Employment and Earnings," \$15.40 represents the median hourly wage of the full-time wage and salary earnings of accountants and auditors).

##### IV. Request for Comments

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 (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (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 respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: February 20, 1996.

Linda Engelmeier,

*Acting Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.*

[FR Doc. 96-4165 Filed 2-22-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-07-P