

# Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 61, No. 247

Monday, December 23, 1996

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

### Economic Research Service

#### Notice of Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces an extension, by the Economic Research Service (ERS), of a currently approved information collection in support of the annual ERS report on agricultural real estate taxes.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received on or before February 26, 1997 to be assured of consideration.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS:** Contact Fred Hoff, Associate Director, Information Services Division, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1301 New York Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20005-4788, (202) 219-0511.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* Agricultural Real Estate Taxes.  
*OMB Number:* 0536-0002.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* March 31, 1997.

*Type of Request:* Extension of currently approved annual information collection.

*Abstract:* Information on agricultural real estate taxes levied has been collected annually by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) since before 1938, when the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 officially directed that USDA collect such information. The information is collected annually via a mail questionnaire. The 1997 questionnaire is scheduled to be mailed in July. This information is used to calculate parity price indexes; estimate the changes in taxes; compare property taxes paid by farmers and ranchers among the States; and study farm and ranch costs, prices,

and income. It is also the basis for the USDA's annual farm and ranch real estate tax series, which summarize agricultural real estate taxes in terms of total taxes, taxes per acre, and taxes per \$100 of market value for each State. All requested information is collected annually from tax assessors on a simple one-page questionnaire enclosed with a postage-paid return envelope and a summary of the previous years results.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 50 minutes per response.

*Respondents:* Tax assessors in each of approximately 4,200 jurisdictions with agricultural land, usually counties.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 2,500.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 1.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 2,083 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Kenneth Krupa, Natural Resources and Environment Division, ERS, (202) 219-0853.

**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 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. Comments may be sent to: Fred Hoff, Associate Director, Information Services Division, Rm 224C, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1301 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20005-4788, (202) 219-0511.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Signed at Washington, DC, December 16, 1996.

Susan Offutt,

*Administrator, Economic Research Service.*

[FR Doc. 96-32452 Filed 12-20-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-18-M

---

## Forest Service

### Tansy Ragwort Control Project, Tally Lake Ranger District, Flathead National Forest, Flathead and Lincoln Counties, State of Montana

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

**SUMMARY:** The Forest Service will prepare an environmental analysis to disclose the environmental effects of a variety of actions to control tansy ragwort, a non-native noxious weed, by preventing existing populations from producing seed in 1997 and beyond. These actions include aerial application and hand-spraying of herbicides, hand-pulling of individual plants, restriction of motorized travel on some sections of Forest Service roads, introduction of biological control agents, and intensive monitoring to determine the effectiveness of these actions and to provide up-to-date information on the status of the infestation.

An EIS is planned because aerial application of chemicals is classified as an action requiring the preparation of an EIS by Forest Service Handbook 1909.15 Chapter 20.6 (*Classes of Actions Requiring Environmental Impact Statements*). Considering the emergency situation of the current tansy ragwort infestation and the need to take action by early summer of 1997, the Flathead National Forest is exploring alternatives to what is outlined in the Forest Service Handbook, such as classifying aerial spraying as an emergency under 40 CFR 1506.11. We anticipate that tansy ragwort will spread and cause significant environmental effects if not action is taken beginning in early summer of 1997.

The project area is located in and near the Little Wolf Fire area approximately 21 air miles southwest of Whitefish, Montana.

The need for this proposal stems from a large infestation (approximately 1,500 acres) of tansy ragwort that was identified on the Tally Lake Ranger