

# Notices

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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.

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Housing Service

#### Farm Service Agency

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

**AGENCY:** Rural Housing Service (RHS) and Farm Service Agency (FSA), USDA.

**ACTION:** Proposed collection; comments request.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Agencies' intention to request an extension for a currently approved information collection in support of the Form RD 1940-59, "Settlement Statement."

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by January 20, 1998 to be assured of consideration.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Betsy Fletcher, Loan Specialist, Single Family Housing Processing Division, RHS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 0783, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20250, telephone (202) 720-1486.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* Form RD 1940-59, "Settlement Statement."

*OMB Number:* 0575-0088.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* March 31, 1998.

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

*Abstract:* The Agencies are requesting an extension of the OMB clearance for Form RD 1940-59, "Settlement Statement." The Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (RESPA), as amended, requires the disclosure of real estate settlement costs to home buyers and sellers. The Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) was instructed by the RESPA to

develop a standard form for the statement of settlement costs to be used for all federally related transactions. Form RD 1940-59 is similar to the HUD-1 Settlement Statement used by HUD, the Veterans Administration, and the private mortgage industry, with some minor adaptations acceptable under RESPA.

Form RD 1940-59 is completed by Settlement Agents, closing attorneys, and title insurance companies performing the closing of RHS loans and credit sales used to purchase or refinance Section 502 Housing, Rural Rental Housing and Farm Labor Housing. It is also completed by the same parties performing the closing FSA Farm Ownership loans and credit sales. The information is collected to provide the buyer and seller with a statement detailing the actual costs of the settlement services involved in certain Agency financed real estate transactions.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 30 minutes per response.

*Respondents:* Settlement Agents, Closing Attorneys, and Title Insurance Companies performing the closing of Agency loans and credit sales.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 17,000.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 2.41.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 20,500 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Tracy Gillin, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, at (202) 690-1065.

#### Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agencies, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of Agencies' 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 Tracy Gillin, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Ag Box 0743, Washington, DC 20250. 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.

Dated: November 12, 1997.

**Jan Shadburn,**

*Administrator, Rural Housing Service.*

Dated: November 19, 1997.

**Keith Kelly,**

*Administrator, Farm Service Agency.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Newspapers Used for Publication of Legal Notice of Appealable Decisions for the Northern Region; Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, and Portions of South Dakota and Eastern Washington

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice lists the newspapers that will be used by all Ranger Districts, Forests, and the Regional Office of the Northern Region to publish legal notice of all decisions subject to appeal under 36 CFR 215 and 217 and to publish notices for public comment and notice of decision subject to the provisions of 36 CFR 215. The intended effect of this action is to inform interested members of the public which newspapers will be used to publish legal notices for public comment or decisions; thereby allowing them to receive constructive notice of a decision, to provide clear evidence of timely notice, and to achieve consistency in administering the appeals process.

**DATES:** Publication of legal notices in the listed newspapers will begin with decisions subject to appeal that are made on or after November 15, 1997. The list of newspapers will remain in effect until another notice is published in the **Federal Register**.