

is estimated to average five and three-quarter (5¾) hours per response (including one-quarter hour for the CSREES-1234).

**Respondents:** Non-profit institutions, individuals, business, Federal government, and State, local, or Tribal governments.

**Estimated Number of Responses per Form:** 8,900. 6,600 complete the entire collection; 2,300 complete only the CSREES-662.

**Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:** 37,450 hours, broken down by: 19,800 hours for Form CSREES-661 (three hours per 6,600 respondents); 6,600 hours for Form CSREES-55 (one hour per 6,600 respondents); 4,450 hours for Form CSREES-662 (one-half hour per 8,900 respondents); and 6,600 hours for Form CSREES-663 (one hour per 6,600 respondents).

**Frequency of Responses:** Annually.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Suzanne Plimpton, Policy and Program Liaison Staff, CSREES, (202) 401-1302. *E-mail:* OEP@reeusda.gov.

**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: Sally J. Rockey, Deputy Administrator, Competitive Research Grants and Awards Management, CSREES, USDA, STOP 2240, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-2240, (202) 401-1761. *E-mail:* OEP@reeusda.gov. Comments also may be submitted directly to OMB and should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C. 20502.

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

Done at Washington, D.C., this day of 21st day of January 1998.

**B.H. Robinson,**

*Administrator, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service.*

[FR Doc. 98-1979 Filed 1-27-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-22-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Farm Service Agency

### Rural Housing Service

### Rural Business-Cooperative Service

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

**AGENCIES:** Farm Service Agency, Rural Housing Service, and Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

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

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intent of the Farm Service Agency (FSA), Rural Housing Service (RHS), and the Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS) to request an extension of currently approved information collections for four regulations and a form used in support of the FSA Farm Loan Program (FLP) (formerly Farmer Programs of the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA)), two regulations used in support of the RHS Multi-family Housing (MFH) and Community Facilities (CF) loan programs, and one regulation used in support of the RBS Direct Business and Industry loan program. These rules do not involve the loans of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) administered by FSA or the Single Family Housing (SFH) loans of RHS. This renewal does not involve any revisions to the program rules.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received on or before March 30, 1998 to be assured consideration.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For additional information contact Phillip Elder, Senior Loan Officer, USDA, Farm Service Agency, Farm Loan Programs, Loan Servicing Division, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 0523, Washington, DC 20013-0523; Telephone (202) 690-4012; Electronic mail: pelder@wdc.fsa.usda.gov.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Title:** Form FmHA 1962-1, Agreement for the Use of Proceeds/Release of Chattel Security.

**OMB Control Number:** 0560-0171.

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

**Type of Request:** Extension of Currently Approved Information Collection.

**Abstract:** The collection of information on Form FmHA 1962-1 is required by a consent decree executed in relation to Coleman V. Block, 663 F. Supp 1315 (D.N.D. 1987). The former Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) agreed in the consent decree to approve a borrower's planned use of proceeds from the disposition of their chattel security, record any changes to planned use, and record the actual disposition of chattel security for the year of operation. Also, this form is needed to implement Section 335(f) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (Act) (7 U.S.C. 1985(f)), which requires release of normal income security to pay essential household and farm operating expenses of the borrower, until the Agency accelerates the loan. Form FmHA 1962-1 provides a uniform method for local Agency loan officers to approve these actions.

**Estimate of Burden:** Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 20 minutes per response.

**Respondents:** Individuals or households, businesses or other for profit and farms.

**Estimated Number of Respondents:** 56,075.

**Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:** 1.

**Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:** 18,505 hours.

**Title:** 7 CFR 1806-A, Real Property Insurance.

**OMB Control Number:** 0575-0087.

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

**Type of Request:** Extension of Currently Approved Information Collection.

**Abstract:** This regulation is currently shared by FSA and the MFH programs of RHS. This regulation governs the servicing of property insurance on buildings and land securing the interest of RHS or FSA in connection with an FSA FLP Loan or RHS MFH loan. This regulation does not apply to the CF and SFH programs of RHS. The information collections pertain primarily to the verification of insurance on property securing Agency loans. This information collection is submitted by FSA or RHS borrowers to Agency offices. It is necessary to protect the government from losses due to weather, natural disasters, or fire and ensure that the Act's loan making requirements of hazard insurance are met by loan applicants. See §§ 303(c), 312(c), and 321(b) of the Act.

**Estimate of Burden:** Public reporting burden for this collection of information

is estimated to average 29 minutes per response.

*Respondents:* Individuals or households, businesses or other for profit and farms.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 20,391.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 1.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 9,944 hours.

*Title:* 7 CFR 1951-L, Servicing Cases Where Unauthorized Loan or Other Assistance Was Received.

*OMB Control Number:* 0560-0160.

*Expiration Date:* March 31, 1998.

*Type of Request:* Extension of Currently Approved Information Collection.

*Abstract:* FSA encounters cases where unauthorized assistance was received by a borrower. This assistance may be a loan where the recipient did not meet the eligibility requirements set forth in statute or program regulations, or both, or where the borrower qualified for loan assistance but a lower subsidized interest rate was charged on the loan, resulting in the borrower's receipt of unauthorized interest subsidy benefits. The unauthorized assistance may also be in the form of loan servicing where a borrower received an excessive write-down or write-off of their debt. The information collected under this regulation is provided on a voluntary basis by the borrower, although failure to cooperate to correct loan accounts may result in liquidation of the loan. The information to be collected will primarily be financial data such as amount of income, farm operating expenses, depreciation, crop yields, etc.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 4 hours per response.

*Respondents:* Individuals or households, businesses or other for profit and farms.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 105.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 1.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 420 hours.

*Title:* 7 CFR 1965-A, "Servicing of Real Estate Security for Farmer Program Loans and Certain Note-Only Cases."

*OMB Control Number:* 0560-0158.

*Expiration Date:* March 31, 1998.

*Type of Request:* Extension of Currently Approved Information Collection.

*Abstract:* This regulation promulgates provisions of sections 331 and 335 of the Act (7 U.S.C. §§ 1981 and 1985). Section 331, of the Act, in part, authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture

to modify, subordinate and release terms of security instruments, leases, contracts, and agreements entered into by FSA. That section also authorizes transfers of security property as the Secretary deems necessary to carry out the purpose of the loan or protect the Government's financial interest. Section 335 of the Act provides servicing authority for real estate security; operation or lease of realty, disposition of property; conveyance of real property interest of the United States; easements; and condemnations. The information collection required by this subpart relates to a program benefit recipient or loan borrower requesting action on security which they own, which was purchased with FSA loan funds, improved with FSA loan funds or has otherwise been mortgaged to the Agency to secure a government loan. The information to be collected will primarily be financial data not already on file, such as borrower asset values.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .42 hours per response.

*Respondents:* Individuals or households, businesses or other for profit and farms.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 15,263.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 1.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 6,465 hours.

*Title:* 7 CFR part 1951, subpart F—Analyzing Credit Needs and Graduation of Borrowers.

*OMB Control Number:* 0575-0093.

*Expiration Date:* March 31, 1998.

*Type of Request:* Extension of Currently Approved Information Collection.

*Abstract:* This regulation is currently shared by FSA, RHS, and RBS. Section 333 of the Act and § 502 of the Housing Act of 1949, as amended, require the Agencies to graduate their direct loan borrowers to other credit when they are able to do so. Graduation is an integral part of Agency lending, as Government loans are not meant to be extended beyond a borrower's need for subsidized rates or non-market terms. The notes, security instruments, or loan agreements of most borrowers require borrowers to refinance their Agency loans when other credit becomes available at reasonable rates and terms. If a borrower finds other credit is not available at reasonable rates and terms, the Agency will continue to review the borrower for possible graduation at periodic intervals. Also, § 333A(f) of the Act (7 U.S.C. 1983a(f)) requires the Agency to provide a financial prospectus to

lenders who may be interested in providing guaranteed and non-guaranteed credit to the FSA's direct farm loan borrowers. The information to be collected to carry out these mandates will primarily be financial data such as amount of income, farm operating expenses, asset values, and liabilities.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 2.85 hours per response.

*Respondents:* Individuals or households, businesses or other for profit and farms.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 69,781.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 1.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 199,020.

*Title:* 7 CFR part 1941, Subpart A—Operating Loan Policies, Procedures and Authorizations.

*OMB Control Number:* 0560-0162.

*Expiration Date:* March 31, 1998.

*Type of Request:* Extension of Currently Approved Information Collection.

*Abstract:* Section 311 of the Act (7 U.S.C. 1941) requires that an applicant for an FSA farm operating loan be a citizen of the United States, possess the legal capacity to incur the loan obligation, have training and experience sufficient to assure reasonable prospects of success in the proposed farm operation, be an operator of not larger than a family farm, be unable to obtain sufficient credit elsewhere, and not have received a direct operating loan in 6 or fewer years. Section 373 of the Act also generally prohibits the Secretary from making or guaranteeing a farm loan to a borrower who has received debt forgiveness on such a loan. The Debt Collection Improvement Act (31 U.S.C. § 3720B(a)) further generally precludes an agency from making a loan to a borrower who to a person who is delinquent on any Federal debt. Also, FSA loan approval officials must determine that adequate security and repayment ability for the loan are available, and that funds are used only for those purposes authorized by law. Reporting requirements to ensure compliance with these eligibility requirements are imposed on the public by regulations set out in 7 CFR part 1941, subpart A.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .21 hours per response.

*Respondents:* Individuals or households, businesses or other for profit and farms.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 56,170.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 1.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 11,673 hours.

#### Comments

The Agencies are soliciting comments on the burden of all of the above subparts regarding: (a) Whether the 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 burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; (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. These comments should be sent to Phillip Elder, Senior Loan Officer, USDA, FSA, Farm Loan Programs, Loan Servicing Division, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 0523, Washington, DC 20250-0523.

Copies of the information collections may be obtained from Mr. Elder at the above address. Comments regarding paperwork burden will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval of the information collection. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Signed in Washington, DC, on January 20, 1998.

**Bruce R. Weber,**

*Acting Administrator, Farm Service Agency.*

**Jan E. Shadburn,**

*Administrator, Rural Housing Service.*

**Dayton J. Watkins,**

*Administrator, Rural Business—Cooperative Service.*

[FR Doc. 98-2054 Filed 1-27-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XV-U

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Committee of Scientists Meeting

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** A meeting of the Committee of Scientists is scheduled for February 12-13, 1998, in Seattle, Washington. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss planning issues concerning the National

Forests in the Pacific Northwest (Washington and Oregon) and Alaska Regions; to meet with representatives from federal, state, and tribal organizations, to share information and ideas about Committee members' assignments; to continue discussions on the scientific principles underlying land and resource management; and to conduct any other Committee business that may arise. The meeting is open to the public.

**DATES:** The meeting is scheduled for February 12-13 in Seattle, Washington.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the University Plaza Hotel, 400 NE 45th Street, Seattle, Washington.

Written comments on improving land and resource management planning may be sent to the Committee of Scientists, P.O. Box 2140, Corvallis, OR 97339. Also the Committee may be accessed via the Internet at [www.cof.orst.edu/org/scicomm/](http://www.cof.orst.edu/org/scicomm/).

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Bob Cunningham, Designated Federal Official to the Committee of Scientists, telephone: 202-205-2494.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On February 12, the Committee of Scientists meeting will begin at 8 a.m. and end at 7 p.m. On February 13, the meeting will begin at 8 a.m. and end at 4 p.m. Citizens may address the Committee, February 12, beginning at 4 p.m., to present ideas on how to improve National Forest System land and resource management planning. Citizens who wish to speak must register at the meeting before 4 p.m. Each speaker will be limited to a maximum of 5 minutes. Persons may also submit written suggestions to the Committee at the meeting or by mail at the addresses listed under the Addresses heading.

The Committee of Scientists is chartered to provide scientific and technical advice to the Secretary of Agriculture and the Chief of the Forest Service on improvements that can be made to the National Forest System land and resource management planning process (62 FR 43691); August 15, 1997). Notice of the names of the appointed Committee members was published December 16, 1997 (62 FR 65795). Agendas and locations for future meetings will be published as separate notices in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: January 22, 1998.

**Robert C. Joslin,**

*Deputy Chief for National Forest System.*

[FR Doc. 98-2044 Filed 1-27-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Willamette Provincial Interagency Executive Committee (PIEC), Advisory Committee

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Willamette PAC Committee will meet on Thursday, February 19, 1998, at the Courtyard By Marriott, 3443 Hutton Street, Springfield, Oregon 97477; phone (541) 726-2121. The PAC Committee meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. to approximately 3:00 p.m. The tentative agenda includes: (1) Riparian Reserves, (2) Update on Province Late-Successional Reserve Assessment, (3) Update from Interagency Advisory Committee Staff, (4) Decision on response to 1997 Monitoring results, and (5) Public Forum.

The public forum is tentatively scheduled to begin at 10:00 a.m. Time allotted for individual presentations will be limited to 3 minutes. Written comments are encouraged. Written comments may be submitted prior to the meeting by sending them to Designated Federal Official Neal Forrester at the address given below.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For more information regarding this meeting, contact Designated Federal Official Neal Forrester, Willamette National Forest, 211 East Seventh Avenue, Eugene, Oregon 97401; (541) 465-6924.

Dated: January 22, 1998.

**Herbert L. Wick,**

*Natural Resources Staff Officer.*

[FR Doc. 98-2001 Filed 1-27-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Business—Cooperative Service

#### Maximum Portion of Guarantee Authority Available for Fiscal Year 1998

**AGENCY:** Rural Business—Cooperative Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** As set forth in the final rule under 7 CFR part 4279, subpart B, each fiscal year the Agency shall establish a limit on the maximum portion of guarantee authority available for that fiscal year that may be used to guarantee loans with a guarantee fee of 1 percent or guaranteed loans with a guarantee percentage exceeding 80 percent.