

the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technology. Comments may be sent to: David M. Smallwood, Deputy Director for Food Assistance Research, Food and Rural Economics Division, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1800 M Street, NW, Room N-2130, Washington, DC 20036-5831.

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

Dated: November 16, 1998.

**Betsey Kuhn,**

*Director, Food and Rural Economics Division.*  
[FR Doc. 98-31260 Filed 11-20-98; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Economic Research Service

#### Notice of Intent to Seek Approval to Collect Information

**AGENCY:** Economic Research Service, USDA.

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

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR part 1320 (60 FR 44978, August 29, 1995), this notice announces the Economic Research Service's (ERS) intention to request approval for a new information collection on supplemental food security questions for the April 1999 Current Population Survey. These data will be used to develop a scale of household level food security in the United States, to assess changes in food security for population subgroups, to assess performance of domestic food assistance programs, and to provide information to aid in public policy decision making.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by January 22, 1999 to be assured of consideration.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS:** Contact David M. Smallwood, Deputy Director for Food Assistance Research, Food and Rural Economics Division, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1800 M Street NW Room S-2130, Washington, D.C. 20036-5831, 202-694-5466.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Application for April Food Security Supplement to the Current Population Survey, 1999.

*Type of Request:* Approval to collect information on household food insecurity.

*Abstract:* The U.S. Bureau of the Census will supplement the April 1999 Current Population Survey with questions regarding household food shopping, food sufficiency, coping mechanisms and food scarcity, and concern about food sufficiency. A similar supplement was also appended to the CPS in April 1995, September 1996, April 1997, and August 1998.

ERS is responsible for conducting studies and evaluations of the Nation's food assistance programs that are administered by the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Department spends about \$37 billion each year to ensure access to nutritious, healthful diets for all Americans. The Food and Nutrition Service administers the 15 food assistance programs of the USDA including Food Stamps, Child Nutrition, and WIC programs. These programs, which serve 1 in 6 Americans, represent our nation's commitment to the principle that no one in our country should fear hunger or experience want. They provide a safety net to people in need. The programs' goals are to provide needy persons with access to a more nutritious diet, to improve the eating habits of the nation's children, and to help America's farmers by providing an outlet for the distribution of food purchased under farmer assistance authorities.

These data will be used to develop a scale of food security reflecting a range from food secure households through households experiencing severe food insecurity. Ultimately, this scale will be used to identify the prevalence of poverty-linked food insecurity and hunger experienced in the United States. The purpose of this project is to provide a consistent measure of the extent and severity of food insecurity that will aid in policy decision making. The supplemental survey instrument has been developed in conjunction with food security experts nationwide as well as survey method experts within the Census Bureau. This supplemental information will be collected by both personal visit and telephone interviews in conjunction with the regular monthly CPS interviewing. All interviews, whether by personal visit or by telephone, are conducted using computers.

*Estimates of Burden:* Public reporting burden for this data collection is estimated to average 10 minutes.

*Respondents:* Individuals or households.

*Estimated number of Respondents:* 50,000.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on respondents:* 8,330 hours.

Copies of the information to be collected can be obtained from David M. Smallwood, Deputy Director for Food Assistance Research, Food and Rural Economics Division, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1800 M Street NW Room 2130, Washington, DC 20036-5831, 202-694-5466.

*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; (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 David M. Smallwood, Deputy Director for Food Assistance Research, Food and Rural Economics Division, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1800 M Street NW Room 2130, Washington, D.C. 20036-5831, 202-694-5466. 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 5, 1998.

**Betsey Kuhn,**

*Director, Food and Rural Economy Division.*

[FR Doc. 98-31261 Filed 11-20-98; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### John Day/Snake Resource Advisory Council, Hells Canyon Subgroup

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Hells Canyon Subgroup of the John Day/Snake Resource Advisory Council will meet on December 14 and 15, 1998 at the Wallowa Mountains Office of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, 88401 Highway 82 in Enterprise, Oregon. The meeting will begin at 9:00