

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.

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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lizbeth Silbermann, Chief, Electronic Benefits Transfer Branch, (703) 305-2517.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Coupon Account and Destruction Report.

OMB Number: 0584-0053.

Form Number: FNS-471.

Expiration Date: 03/31/2003.

Type of Request: Revision of a currently approved collection

Abstract: Section 7(d) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977, (7 U.S.C. 2016(d)), requires that State agencies determine and monitor food stamp coupon inventories. Section 7(f) requires that the States are strictly liable for all coupon losses except when the coupons are sent through the mail. The Food Stamp Program regulations at 7 CFR 274.7(f)-(h) require State agencies to properly dispose of certain coupons received at issuance, claims collection, inventory, and bulk storage points. These are destroyed within 30 days after the end of the month in which the coupons are received if the coupons are not suitable for a return to inventories. These include mutilated coupons, improperly manufactured coupons, or old-series coupons being exchanged for current series coupons. Coupons may be returned to local offices if found by the public, returned by recipients as payment on claims, or returned for other reasons. These coupons will likely be destroyed rather than returned to inventories and the FNS-471 is the document used to account for amounts destroyed.

Food Stamp Program coupons are Federal obligations and must be accounted for by denomination and value whether loose or in book form. The FNS-471, Coupon Account and Destruction Report, is completed by staff in local offices and sent to destruction points where the destruction point staff sign the form certifying destruction has occurred. A signed copy is returned to the originating local office. The FNS-471 is attached as documentation to other monthly coupon accountability reports.

Estimate of Burden

The proposed revision to the information collection burden for the FNS-471 reflects a reduction because of the legislated change from paper coupon issuance to electronic benefits transfer (EBT) issuance systems. Currently, just over 90 percent of Food Stamp Program benefits are issued using EBT systems. This leaves a small and declining portion in the form of paper coupons. Coupon issuance declines as State agencies implement Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) systems and eliminate coupons. Based on State EBT implementation schedules, there should be no coupon issuance by January 2005. In Fiscal Year 2002, the amount of coupons issued was \$2.59 billion, down from \$6.2 billion in Fiscal Year 1999 when this collection burden was last renewed. This represents a reduction of about 58 percent. The number of respondents is being reduced using the same percentage from 9,276 to 3,896 respondents. The estimated time per response is 7 minutes to complete the form and the forms are used monthly. The resulting burden hours are 5,454 hours annually.

Affected Public: State and local government employees and recipients.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 3,896.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 12.

Estimated Time per Response: 7 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 5,454 hours annually.

Dated: March 25, 2003.

George A. Braley,

Associate Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service.

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BILLING CODE 3410-30-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Lake Tahoe Basin Federal Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Lake Tahoe Basin Federal Advisory Committee will hold a meeting on April 10, 2003, at the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Forest Service Office, 870 Emerald Bay Rd., Suite 1, South Lake Tahoe, CA. This Committee, established by the Secretary of Agriculture on December 15, 1998, (64 FR 2876) is chartered to provide advice to the Secretary on implementing the terms of the Federal Interagency

Partnership on the Lake Tahoe Region and other matters raised by the Secretary.

DATES: The meeting will be held April 10, 2003 beginning at 8:30 a.m. and ending at 10:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Forest Service Office, 870 Emerald Bay Rd., South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Maribeth Gustafson or Jeannie Stafford, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Forest Service Office, 870 Emerald Bay Road Suite 1, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150, (530) 573-2642.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The committee will meet jointly with the Lake Tahoe Basin Executives Committee. Items to be covered on the agenda include: Recommendations on the USFS Report to Congress on Urban Intermix Parcel Acquisition and Management in the Lake Tahoe Basin, and public comment. All Lake Tahoe Basin Federal Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend. Issues may be brought to the attention of the Committee during the open public comment period at the meeting or by filing written statements with the secretary for the Committee before or after the meeting. Please refer any written comments to the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit at the contact address stated above.

Dated: March 24, 2003.

Maribeth Gustafson,

Forest Supervisor.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

National Tree-Marking Paint Committee Meeting

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The National Tree-marking Paint Committee will meet in Manchester, New Hampshire, on May 6-8, 2003. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss activities, improvements, and concerns related to the handling and use of tree-marking paint by personnel of the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management.

DATES: The meeting will be held May 6-8, 2003, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Best Western Executive Court Inn,