

based classifications and subject specific descriptive fields supports a unique retrieval capability in this system. The information can be utilized nationally, regionally, or at more detailed levels, by program leaders, budget officials, and administrators to identify resource utilization, monitor research activity in specific target areas, support decision making and resource allocation, not just on individual projects, but also for specific program areas. Combining system capabilities facilitates the program evaluation, accountability, and decision-making processes.

Estimate of Burden: The preferred method for submitting this information collection is electronic via a web interface. CSREES will accept electronic submissions by other means and on rare occasions, by a fax transmission. A submission is made once. There may be instances that a second submission is required, however, this would involve corrections or revisions to the initial submission. There are no special circumstances that would cause an information collection to be conducted in a manner that would require respondents to submit more than an original and two copies of any document. In fact, paper-based submissions are discouraged.

Determination of hour burden estimates for the CRIS data collection was accomplished by requesting estimates from nine individuals who have significant experience in the generation of information to satisfy the collection requirements of the AD-416, AD-417, AD-419 and AD-421 forms. The basic unit of measure in CRIS is a project. As such for purposes of this estimate, a respondent was treated as all responses related to a single project. Typically the information to provide data on the four forms is the result of work processes performed by a number of individuals, both professional and administrative. Accordingly the estimate was developed by tabulating burden hours in two categories, the first, scientific/professional, and the second, administrative. The estimates provided varied in magnitude. The variation is due to significant differences in the internal procedures and processes utilized at the individual locations as well as differences between individual interpretation of the inclusion of efforts contributed to the development of the information. Responses were received from eight of the nine individuals. The data was summarized to develop common burden hour estimates related to each individual form. These estimates were then projected onto the total

volume of the forms processed by CRIS in an annual cycle.

CSREES estimates the number of responses for the CRIS Form AD-416 will be 3,258 with an estimated response time of 3.9 hours per form, representing a total annual burden of 12,706 hours for this form. CSREES estimates the number of responses for the CRIS Form AD-417 will be 3,258 with an estimated response time of .7 hours per form, representing a total annual burden of 2,281 hours for this form. CSREES estimates that the number of responses for the CRIS Form AD-419 will be 11,767 with an estimated response time of 1.4 hours per form, representing a total annual burden of 16,474 hours for this form. CSREES estimates the number of responses for the CRIS Form AD-421 will be 12,158 with an estimated response time of 2.7 hours per form, representing a total annual burden of 32,827 hours for this form. Thus, for this CRIS information collection, CSREES estimates a total of 30,441 annual responses, representing an estimated 64,288 annual burden hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Jason Hitchcock, E-Government Program Leader, Information Systems and Technology Management; CSREES/USDA; Mail Stop 2216; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW.; Washington, DC 20250-2216; or sent electronically to: jhitchcock@csrees.usda.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.

Done at Washington, DC, this 24th day of June, 2003.

Gary Cunningham,

Associate Administrator, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service.
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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service

Notice of Intent To Revise and Request an Extension of a Currently Approved information Collection

AGENCY: Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations (5 CFR part 1320) which implement the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35), this notice announces the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service's (CSREES) intention to revise and request an extension for a currently approved information collection (OMB No. 0524-0026) for Form CSREES-665, "Assurance of Compliance with the Department of Agriculture Regulations Assuring Civil Rights Compliance," and Form CSREES-666, "Organizational Information."

DATES: Submit comments on or before September 4, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Address all comments to Erin Daly, Policy Specialist, Office of Extramural Programs; CSREES/USDA; Mail Stop 2299; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW.; Washington, DC 20250-2299. Comments may be sent electronically to: edaly@csrees.usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Erin Daly at (202) 401-3319 or via the above e-mail address.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Assurance of Compliance with the Department of Agriculture Regulations Assuring Civil Rights Compliance and Organizational Information.

OMB Number: 0524-0026.

Expiration Date of Current Approval: August 31, 2003.

Type of Request: Intent to revise and extend a currently approved information collection for three years.

Abstract: CSREES has primary responsibility for providing linkages between the Federal and State components of a broad-based, national agricultural research, extension, and education system. Focused on national issues, its purpose is to represent the Secretary of Agriculture and carry out the intent of Congress by administering formula and grant funds appropriated for agricultural research, extension, and

education. Before awards can be made, certain information is required from applicants to assure compliance with the applicable civil rights laws and to effectively assess the potential recipient's capacity to manage Federal funds.

The following information will continue to be collected:

Form CSREES-665—Assurance of Compliance with the Department of Agriculture Regulations Assuring Civil Rights Compliance: By signing this form, the organization certifies that it complies with the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended. The applicant agrees that it will offer its programs to all eligible persons without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, disability, age, political beliefs, religion, marital status, or familial status and that people will not be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity for which the Applicant receives the Federal financial assistance from the Department of Agriculture. This information is submitted to CSREES on a one-time basis.

Form CSREES-666—Organizational Information: Enables CSREES to determine that applicants recommended for awards will be responsible recipients of Federal funds. The information pertains to organizational management and financial matters of the potential grantee. This form and the documents which the applicant attaches to it provide CSREES with information such as the legal name of grantee, certification that the organization has the legal authority to accept Federal funding, identification and signatures of the key officials of the organization, the organization's practices in regard to compensation rates and benefits of employees, insurance for equipment, subcontracting with other organizations, etc., as well as the financial condition of the organization. All of this information is considered by CSREES prior to award to determine that grantees are both managerially and fiscally responsible. This information is submitted to CSREES on a one-time basis. If sufficient changes occur within the organization, the grantee submits revised information.

With regards to compliance with the Government Paperwork Elimination Act (44 U.S.C. 3504 note), CSREES is proposing to postpone making an electronic option available for this information collection until the Federal government-wide electronic process is developed for collecting organizational information and statutory certifications from new grantees. Under the Federal

Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999 (Pub. L. 106-107), Federal agencies and OMB have been working together to streamline and simplify the award and administration of Federal grants. As a result of these activities, Federal agencies and OMB are proposing various regulations, policies, and business processes that will decrease the overall information collection burden to grant recipients by having a central location where this information is collected for use by all Federal grantmaking agencies.

Estimate of the Burden: CSREES estimates the number of responses for the Form CSREES-665 will be 150 with an estimated response time of .5 hour per form, representing a total annual burden of 75 hours for this form. CSREES estimates the number of responses for the Form CSREES-666 will be 150 with an estimated response time of 6.3 hours per form, representing a total annual burden of 945 hours for this form. These estimates are based on a survey of grantees who had recently been approved for grant awards. They were asked to give an estimate of time it took them to complete each form. This estimate was to include such things as: (1) Reviewing the instructions; (2) Searching existing data sources; (3) Gathering and maintaining the data needed; and (4) Actual completion of the forms. The average time it took each respondent was calculated from their responses.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Erin Daly, Policy Specialist, Office of Extramural Programs; CSREES/USDA; Mail Stop 2299; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW.; Washington, DC 20250-2299; or sent electronically to: edaly@csrees.usda.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 a 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 information collection 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.

Done at Washington, DC, this 24th day of June 2003.

Gary Cunningham,

Associate Administrator, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service.
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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Notice of Modoc County RAC Meetings

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the authorities in the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463) and under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106-393), the Modoc National Forest's Modoc County Resource Advisory Committee will go on a field trip Monday, July 14, on the Warner Mountain Ranger District.

The Modoc County Resource Advisory Committee will hold a business meeting on Monday, July 21, in the Forest Supervisors' Office in Alturas, California from 6 to 8 pm. The field trip and business meeting are open to the public.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The field trip will visit actual and proposed project sites on the Warner Mountain Ranger District. The business meeting July 21, begins at 6 p.m., at the Modoc National Forest Office, Conference Room, 800 West 12th St., Alturas. Agenda topics will include approval of the June 9 minutes, consideration of new projects 2004, and discuss community outreach for projects for fiscal year 2004 that will improve the maintenance of existing infrastructure, implement stewardship objectives that enhance forest ecosystems, provide economic benefits and restore and improve health and water quality that meet the intent of Public Law 106-393. Time will also be set aside for public comments at the beginning of the meeting.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Forest Supervisor Stan Sylva, at (530) 233-8700; or Public Affairs Officer Nancy Gardner at (530) 233-8713.

Nancy Gardner,

Acting Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 03-16528 Filed 6-30-03; 8:45 am]

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