

Proposed Rules

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains notices to the public of the proposed issuance of rules and regulations. The purpose of these notices is to give interested persons an opportunity to participate in the rule making prior to the adoption of the final rules.

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

5 CFR Part 532

RIN 3206-AL77

Prevailing Rate Systems; Redefinition of Certain Appropriated Fund Federal Wage System Wage Areas

AGENCY: U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

ACTION: Proposed rule with request for comments.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is issuing a proposed rule that would redefine the geographic boundaries of several appropriated fund Federal Wage System wage areas for pay-setting purposes. Based on recent reviews of Metropolitan Statistical Area boundaries in a number of wage areas, OPM proposes redefinitions affecting the following wage areas: Birmingham, AL; Denver, CO; Wilmington, DE; Washington, DC; Atlanta, GA; Columbus, GA; Macon, GA; Chicago, IL; Bloomington-Bedford-Washington, IN; Indianapolis, IN; Louisville, KY; Baltimore, MD; Hagerstown-Martinsburg-Chambersburg, MD; St. Louis, MO; Southern Missouri; Omaha, NE; New York, NY; Philadelphia, PA; Scranton-Wilkes-Barre, PA; Eastern South Dakota; Richmond, VA; and Milwaukee, WI.

DATES: We must receive comments on or before February 13, 2009.

ADDRESSES: Send or deliver comments to Charles D. Grimes III, Deputy Associate Director for Performance and Pay Systems, Strategic Human Resources Policy Division, U.S. Office of Personnel Management, Room 7H31, 1900 E Street, NW., Washington, DC 20415-8200; e-mail pay-performance-policy@opm.gov; or FAX: (202) 606-4264.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Madeline Gonzalez, (202) 606-2838; e-mail pay-performance-policy@opm.gov; or FAX: (202) 606-4264.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is issuing a proposed rule to redefine the geographic boundaries of several appropriated fund Federal Wage System (FWS) wage areas. These changes are based on recommendations of the Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee (FPRAC), the statutory national labor-management committee responsible for advising OPM on matters affecting the pay of FWS employees. From time to time, FPRAC reviews the boundaries of wage areas and provides OPM with recommendations for changes if the Committee finds that changes are warranted.

There are currently 132 FWS wage areas in the United States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico for blue-collar employees who are paid from appropriated funds. Each wage area is comprised of a survey area where a lead agency, the Department of Defense, measures local prevailing wage levels in a local labor market. Because it is not feasible to include every part of the United States in a survey area, those parts that are not in a survey area are combined with a nearby survey area to form a wage area's area of application.

OPM considers the following regulatory criteria under 5 CFR 532.211 when defining FWS wage area boundaries:

1. Distance, transportation facilities, and geographic features;
2. Commuting patterns; and
3. Similarities in overall population, employment, and the kinds and sizes of private industrial establishments.

In addition, OPM regulations at 5 CFR 532.211 do not permit splitting Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) for the purpose of defining a wage area, except in very unusual circumstances (e.g., organizational relationships among closely located Federal activities).

The Office of Management and Budget defines MSAs and maintains and updates the definitions of MSA boundaries following each decennial census. MSAs are composed of counties and are defined on the basis of a central urbanized area—a contiguous area of relatively high population density. Additional surrounding counties are included in MSAs if they have strong social and economic ties to central counties.

When the boundaries of wage areas were first established in the 1960s, there

were fewer MSAs than there are today and the boundaries of the then existing MSAs were much smaller. Most MSAs were contained within the boundaries of a wage area. MSAs have expanded each decade and in some cases now extend beyond the boundaries of the wage area.

FPRAC recently reviewed several wage areas where boundaries subdivide certain MSAs and concurred by consensus with the changes described in this proposed rule. These changes would be effective on the first day of the first applicable pay period beginning on or after 30 days following publication of the final regulations. FPRAC recommended no other changes in the geographic definitions of the wage areas.

Birmingham-Hoover, AL MSA: Bibb, Blount, Chilton, Jefferson, St. Clair, Shelby, and Walker Counties, AL, comprise the Birmingham-Hoover, AL MSA. Jefferson, St. Clair, Shelby, and Walker Counties are part of the Birmingham survey area, Bibb and Blount Counties are part of the Birmingham area of application, and Chilton County is part of the Columbus area of application. OPM proposes to redefine Chilton County to the Birmingham area of application so that the entire Birmingham-Hoover, AL MSA is in one wage area. There are currently no FWS employees working in Chilton County.

Denver-Aurora, CO MSA: Adams, Arapahoe, Broomfield, Clear Creek, Denver, Douglas, Elbert, Gilpin, Jefferson, and Park Counties, CO, comprise the Denver-Aurora, CO MSA. Adams, Arapahoe, Denver, Douglas, Gilpin, and Jefferson Counties are part of the Denver, CO, survey area and Clear Creek, Elbert, and Park are part of the Denver area of application. Broomfield County is currently undefined.

The municipality of Broomfield was incorporated in 1961 in the southeastern corner of Boulder County, CO. On November 15, 2001, Broomfield County officially separated from Boulder County and became the 64th county of Colorado. The boundaries of the City of Broomfield and the County of Broomfield are identical.

OPM proposes to define Broomfield County as part of the Denver survey area. There are three FWS employees working in Broomfield County.

Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-MD-VA-WV MSA: Washington, DC; Calvert, Charles, Frederick,

Montgomery, and Prince George's Counties, MD; Arlington, Clarke, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun, Prince William, Spotsylvania, Stafford, and Warren Counties, VA; Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Fredericksburg, Manassas, and Manassas Park Cities, VA; and Jefferson County, WV, comprise the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-MD-VA-WV MSA. Washington, DC; Charles, Frederick, Montgomery, and Prince George's Counties, MD; Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William Counties, VA; and Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas, and Manassas Park Cities, VA; are part of the Washington survey area. Calvert and St. Mary's Counties, MD, and Fauquier, King George, and Stafford Counties, VA, are part of the Washington area of application. Spotsylvania County and Fredericksburg City, VA, are part of the Richmond area of application. Clarke and Warren Counties, VA, and Jefferson County, WV, are part of the Hagerstown-Martinsburg-Chambersburg area of application. OPM proposes to redefine Clarke, Spotsylvania, and Warren Counties, VA, Fredericksburg City, VA, and Jefferson County, WV, to the Washington area of application so that the entire Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-MD-VA-WV MSA is in one wage area. There are no FWS employees working in Clarke and Spotsylvania Counties, but there are 31 FWS employees working in Warren County, 9 FWS employees working in Fredericksburg City, and 50 FWS employees working in Jefferson County.

Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA MSA: Barlow, Barrow, Butts, Carroll, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, Dawson, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Haralson, Heard, Henry, Jasper, Lamar, Meriwether, Newton, Paulding, Pickens, Pike, Rockdale, Spalding, and Walton Counties, GA, comprise the Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA MSA. Butts, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Newton, Paulding, Rockdale, and Walton Counties are part of the Atlanta survey area; Bartow, Barrow, Carroll, Coweta, Dawson, Haralson, Heard, Pickens, Pike, and Spalding Counties are part of the Atlanta area of application; Jasper and Lamar Counties are part of the Macon area of application; and Meriwether County is part of the Columbus area of application. OPM proposes to redefine Jasper, Lamar, and Meriwether Counties to the Atlanta area of application so that the entire Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA MSA is in one wage area.

There are no FWS employees working in Jasper and Lamar Counties, but there is one FWS employee working in Meriwether County.

Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, IL-IN-WI MSA: Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kendall, McHenry, and Will Counties, IL; Jasper, Lake, Newton, and Porter Counties, IN; and Lake and Kenosha Counties, WI, comprise the Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, IL-IN-WI MSA. Cook, DuPage, Kane, McHenry, and Will Counties, IL, and Lake County, WI, are part of the Chicago survey area; DeKalb, Grundy, and Kendall, IL, and Jasper, Lake, Newton, and Porter Counties, IN, are part of the Chicago area of application; and Kenosha County, WI, is part of the Milwaukee area of application. OPM proposes to redefine Kenosha County to the Chicago area of application so that the entire Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, IL-IN-WI MSA is in one wage area. There are six FWS employees working in Kenosha County.

Indianapolis, IN MSA: Boone, Brown, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Johnson, Marion, Morgan, Putnam, and Shelby Counties, IN, comprise the Indianapolis, IN MSA. Boone, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Johnson, Marion, Morgan, and Shelby Counties are part of the Indianapolis survey area; Putnam County is part of the Indianapolis area of application; and Brown County is part of the Bloomington-Bedford-Washington area of application. OPM proposes to redefine Brown County to the Indianapolis area of application so that the entire Indianapolis, IN MSA is in one wage area. There are no FWS employees working in Brown County.

Sioux City, IA-NE-SD MSA: Woodbury County, IA, Dakota and Dixon Counties, NE, and Union County, SD, comprise the Sioux City, IA-NE-SD MSA. Woodbury County, IA, and Dakota and Dixon Counties, NE, are part of the Omaha area of application and Union County, SD, is part of the Eastern South Dakota area of application. OPM proposes to redefine Union County to the Omaha area of application so that the entire Sioux City, IA-NE-SD MSA is in one wage area. There are no FWS employees working in Union County.

Louisville, KY-IN MSA: Clark, Floyd, Harrison, and Washington County, IN, and Bullitt, Henry, Jefferson, Meade, Nelson, Oldham, Shelby, Spencer, and Trimble Counties, KY, comprise the Louisville, KY-IN MSA. Clark, and Floyd Counties, IN, and Bullitt, Jefferson, and Oldham Counties, KY, are part of the Louisville survey area; Harrison County, IN, and Henry, Meade, Nelson, Shelby, Spencer, and Trimble Counties, KY, are part of the Louisville

area of application; and Washington County, IN, is part of the Bloomington-Bedford-Washington area of application. OPM proposes to redefine Washington County to the Louisville area of application so that the entire Louisville, KY-IN MSA is in one wage area. There are no FWS employees working in Washington County.

Baltimore-Towson, MD MSA: Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, Howard, and Queen Anne's Counties, MD, and Baltimore City, MD, comprise the Baltimore-Towson, MD MSA. Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard Counties and Baltimore City are part of the Baltimore survey area and Queen Anne's County is part of the Wilmington area of application. OPM proposes to redefine Queen Anne's County to the Baltimore area of application so that the entire Baltimore-Towson, MD MSA is in one wage area. There are no FWS employees working in Queen Anne's County.

Jefferson City, MO MSA: Callaway, Cole, Moniteau, and Osage Counties, MO, comprise the Jefferson City, MO MSA. Callaway, Cole, and Osage Counties are part of the St. Louis area of application and Moniteau County is part of the Southern Missouri area of application. OPM proposes to redefine Moniteau County to the St. Louis area of application so that the entire Jefferson City, MO MSA is in one wage area. There are no FWS employees working in Moniteau County.

New York-Newark-Edison, NY-NJ-PA MSA: Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, and Union Counties, NJ; Bronx, Kings, Nassau, New York, Putnam, Queens, Richmond, Rockland, Suffolk, and Westchester Counties, NY; and Pike County, PA, comprise the New York-Newark-Edison, NY-NJ-PA MSA. Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, and Union Counties, NJ, and Bronx, Kings, Nassau, New York, Queens, Suffolk, and Westchester Counties, NY, are part of the New York survey area. Monmouth, Ocean (excluding the Fort Dix Military Reservation), and Sussex Counties, NJ, and Putnam, Richmond, and Rockland Counties, NY, are part of the New York area of application. Hunterdon County, NJ, is part of the Philadelphia area of application and Pike County, PA, is part of the Scranton-Wilkes-Barre area of application. OPM proposes to redefine Hunterdon County, NJ, and Pike County, PA, to the New York area of application so that the entire New York-Newark-Edison, NY-NJ-PA MSA is in one wage area. There are no FWS employees working in Hunterdon

County, but there are five FWS employees working in Pike County.

Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton, PA-NJ MSA: Warren County, NJ, and Carbon, Lehigh, and Northampton Counties, PA, comprise the Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton, PA-NJ MSA. Warren County, NJ, and Lehigh and Northampton Counties, PA are part of the Philadelphia area of application and Carbon County, PA, is part of the Scranton-Wilkes-Barre area of application. OPM proposes to redefine Carbon County to the Philadelphia area of application so that the entire Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton, PA-NJ MSA is in one wage area. There are three FWS employees working in Carbon County.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

I certify that these regulations would not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities because they would affect only Federal agencies and employees.

List of Subjects in 5 CFR Part 532

Administrative practice and procedure, Freedom of information, Government employees, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Wages.

U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

Michael W. Hager,

Acting Director.

Accordingly, the U.S. Office of Personnel Management is proposing to amend 5 CFR part 532 as follows:

PART 532—PREVAILING RATE SYSTEMS

1. The authority citation for part 532 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 5343, 5346; § 532.707 also issued under 5 U.S.C. 552.

2. Appendix C to subpart B is amended by revising the wage area listings for Birmingham, AL; Denver, CO; Wilmington, DE; Washington, DC; Atlanta, GA; Columbus, GA; Macon, GA; Chicago, IL; Bloomington-Bedford-Washington, IN; Indianapolis, IN; Louisville, KY; Baltimore, MD; Hagerstown-Martinsburg-Chambersburg, MD; St. Louis, MO; Southern Missouri; Omaha, NE; New York, NY; Philadelphia, PA; Scranton-Wilkes-Barre, PA; Eastern South Dakota; Richmond, VA; and Milwaukee, WI, to read as follows:

APPENDIX C TO SUBPART B OF PART 532—APPROPRIATED FUND WAGE AND SURVEY AREAS

* * * * *

ALABAMA

* * * * *

Birmingham

Survey Area

Alabama:

- Jefferson
St. Clair
Shelby
Tuscaloosa
Walker

Area of Application. Survey Area Plus

Alabama:

- Bibb
Blount
Chilton
Cullman
Fayette
Greene
Hale
Lamar
Marengo
Perry
Pickens

* * * * *

COLORADO

Denver

Survey Area

Colorado:

- Adams
Arapahoe
Boulder
Broomfield
Denver
Douglas
Gilpin
Jefferson

Area of Application. Survey Area Plus

Colorado:

- Clear Creek
Eagle
Elbert
Garfield
Grand
Jackson
Lake
Larimer
Logan
Morgan
Park
Phillips
Pitkin
Rio Blanco
Routt
Sedgwick
Summit
Washington
Weld
Yuma

* * * * *

DELAWARE

Wilmington

Survey Area

Delaware:

- Kent
New Castle
Maryland:
Cecil
New Jersey:
Salem

Area of Application. Survey Area Plus

Delaware:

Sussex

Maryland:

- Caroline
Dorchester
Kent
Somerset
Talbot
Wicomico
Worcester (Does not include the Assateague Island portion.)

* * * * *

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Washington, DC

Survey Area

District of Columbia:

Washington, DC

Maryland:

- Charles
Frederick
Montgomery
Prince George's

Virginia (cities):

- Alexandria
Fairfax
Falls Church
Manassas
Manassas Park

Virginia (counties):

- Arlington
Fairfax
Loudoun
Prince William

Area of Application. Survey Area Plus

Maryland:

- Calvert
St. Mary's
Virginia (city):
Fredericksburg
Virginia (counties):
Clarke
Fauquier
King George
Spotsylvania
Stafford
Warren

West Virginia:

Jefferson

* * * * *

GEORGIA

* * * * *

Atlanta

Survey Area

Georgia:

- Butts
Cherokee
Clayton
Cobb
De Kalb
Douglas
Fayette
Forsyth
Fulton
Gwinnett
Henry
Newton
Paulding
Rockdale
Walton

Area of Application. Survey Area Plus

Georgia:

Banks
 Barrow
 Bartow
 Carroll
 Chattooga
 Clarke
 Coweta
 Dawson
 Fannin
 Floyd
 Franklin
 Gilmer
 Gordon
 Greene
 Habersham
 Hall
 Haralson
 Heard
 Jackson
 Jasper
 Lamar
 Lumpkin
 Madison
 Meriwether
 Morgan
 Murray
 Oconee
 Oglethorpe
 Pickens
 Pike
 Polk
 Rabun
 Spalding
 Stephens
 Towns
 Union
 White
 Whitfield
 * * * * *

Columbus
 Survey Area
 Georgia (counties):
 Chattahoochee
 Georgia (consolidated government):
 Columbus
 Alabama:
 Autauga
 Elmore
 Lee
 Macon
 Montgomery
 Russell
 Area of Application. Survey Area Plus
 Georgia:
 Harris
 Marion
 Quitman
 Schley
 Stewart
 Talbot
 Taylor
 Webster
 Alabama:
 Bullock
 Butler
 Chambers
 Coosa
 Crenshaw
 Dallas
 Lowndes
 Pike
 Tallapoosa
 Wilcox

Macon
 Survey Area
 Georgia:
 Bibb
 Houston
 Jones
 Laurens
 Twiggs
 Wilkinson
 Area of Application. Survey Area Plus
 Georgia:
 Baldwin
 Bleckley
 Crawford
 Crisp
 Dodge
 Dooly
 Hancock
 Johnson
 Macon
 Monroe
 Montgomery
 Peach
 Pulaski
 Putnam
 Telfair
 Treutlen
 Upton
 Washington
 Wheeler
 Wilcox
 * * * * *

ILLINOIS
 * * * * *
Chicago
 Survey Area
 Illinois:
 Cook
 Du Page
 Kane
 Lake
 McHenry
 Will
 Area of Application. Survey Area Plus
 Illinois:
 Boone
 De Kalb
 Grundy
 Iroquois
 Kankakee
 Kendall
 La Salle
 Lee
 Livingston
 Ogle
 Stephenson
 Winnebago
 Indiana:
 Benton
 Jasper
 Lake
 La Porte
 Newton
 Porter
 Pulaski
 Starke
 Wisconsin:
 Kenosha

INDIANA
Bloomington-Bedford-Washington
 Survey Area
 Indiana:
 Daviess
 Greene
 Knox
 Lawrence
 Martin
 Monroe
 Orange
 Area of Application. Survey Area Plus
 Indiana:
 Crawford
 Dubois
 Gibson
 Jackson
 Owen
 Perry
 Pike
 Posey
 Spencer
 Vanderburgh
 Warrick
 Illinois:
 Edwards
 Gallatin
 Hardin
 Lawrence
 Richland
 Wabash
 White
 Kentucky:
 Crittenden
 Daviess
 Hancock
 Henderson
 Livingston
 McLean
 Ohio
 Union
 Webster
 * * * * *

Indianapolis
 Survey Area
 Indiana:
 Boone
 Hamilton
 Hancock
 Hendricks
 Johnson
 Marion
 Morgan
 Shelby
 Area of Application. Survey Area Plus
 Indiana:
 Bartholomew
 Brown
 Clay
 Clinton
 Decatur
 Delaware
 Fayette
 Fountain
 Henry
 Madison
 Montgomery
 Parke
 Putnam
 Rush
 Sullivan
 Tippecanoe

Tipton
Vermillion
Vigo
Warren
* * * * *

KENTUCKY
* * * * *

Louisville
Survey Area
Kentucky:
Bullitt
Hardin
Jefferson
Oldham
Indiana:
Clark
Floyd
Jefferson

Area of Application. Survey Area Plus

Kentucky:
Breckinridge
Grayson
Hart
Henry
Larue
Meade
Nelson
Shelby
Spencer
Trimble
Indiana:
Harrison
Jennings
Scott
Washington
* * * * *

MARYLAND
* * * * *

Baltimore
Survey Area
Maryland:
Baltimore City
Anne Arundel
Baltimore
Carroll
Harford
Howard

Area of Application. Survey Area Plus

Maryland:
Queen Anne's

Hagerstown-Martinsburg-Chambersburg

Survey Area
Maryland:
Washington
Pennsylvania:
Franklin
West Virginia:
Berkeley

Area of Application. Survey Area Plus

Maryland:
Allegany
Garrett
Pennsylvania:
Fulton
Virginia (cities):
Harrisonburg
Winchester
Virginia (counties):

Culpeper
Frederick
Greene
Madison
Page
Rappahannock
Rockingham
Shenandoah
West Virginia:
Hampshire
Hardy
Mineral
Morgan
* * * * *

MISSOURI

St. Louis
Survey Area
Missouri:
St. Louis City
Franklin
Jefferson
St. Charles
St. Louis
Illinois:
Clinton
Madison
Monroe
St. Clair

Area of Application. Survey Area Plus

Missouri:
Audrain
Boone
Callaway
Clark
Cole
Crawford
Gasconade
Knox
Lewis
Lincoln
Marion
Moniteau
Monroe
Montgomery
Osage
Pike
Ralls
Randolph
St. Francois
Ste. Genevieve
Scotland
Shelby
Warren
Washington

Illinois:

Alexander
Bond
Calhoun
Clay
Effingham
Fayette
Franklin
Greene
Hamilton
Jackson
Jefferson
Jersey
Johnson
Macoupin
Marion
Massac
Montgomery
Morgan

Perry
Pike
Pope
Pulaski
Randolph
Saline
Scott
Union
Washington
Wayne
Williamson

Southern Missouri

Survey Area
Missouri:
Christian
Greene
Laclede
Phelps
Pulaski
Webster

Area of Application. Survey Area Plus

Missouri:
Barry
Barton
Benton
Bollinger
Butler
Camden
Cape Girardeau
Carter
Cedar
Dade
Dallas
Dent
Douglas
Hickory
Howell
Iron
Jasper
Lawrence
McDonald
Madison
Maries
Miller
Mississippi
Morgan
New Madrid
Newton
Oregon
Ozark
Perry
Polk
Reynolds
Ripley
St. Clair
Scott
Shannon
Stoddard
Stone
Taney
Texas
Vernon
Wayne
Wright
Kansas:
Cherokee
Crawford
* * * * *

NEBRASKA

Omaha
Survey Area
Nebraska:

Douglas
 Lancaster
 Sarpy
 Iowa:
 Pottawattamie
 Area of Application. Survey Area Plus
 Nebraska:
 Adams
 Antelope
 Arthur
 Blaine
 Boone
 Boyd
 Brown
 Buffalo
 Burt
 Butler
 Cass
 Cedar
 Chase
 Cherry
 Clay
 Colfax
 Cuming
 Custer
 Dakota
 Dawson
 Dixon
 Dodge
 Dundy
 Fillmore
 Franklin
 Frontier
 Furnas
 Gage
 Garfield
 Gosper
 Grant
 Greeley
 Hall
 Hamilton
 Harlan
 Hayes
 Hitchcock
 Holt
 Hooker
 Howard
 Jefferson
 Johnson
 Kearney
 Keith
 Keya Paha
 Knox
 Lincoln
 Logan
 Loup
 McPherson
 Madison
 Merrick
 Nance
 Nemaha
 Nuckolls
 Otoe
 Pawnee
 Perkins
 Phelps
 Pierce
 Platte
 Polk
 Red Willow
 Richardson
 Rock
 Saline
 Saunders
 Seward
 Sherman

Stanton
 Thayer
 Thomas
 Thurston
 Valley
 Washington
 Wayne
 Webster
 Wheeler
 York
 Iowa:
 Adams
 Audubon
 Buena Vista
 Cass
 Cherokee
 Clay
 Crawford
 Fremont
 Harrison
 Ida
 Mills
 Monona
 Montgomery
 O'Brien
 Page
 Palo Alto
 Plymouth
 Pocahontas
 Sac
 Shelby
 Sioux
 Taylor
 Woodbury
 South Dakota:
 Union
 * * * * *
NEW YORK
 * * * * *
New York
 Survey Area
 New York:
 Bronx
 Kings
 Nassau
 New York
 Queens
 Suffolk
 Westchester
 New Jersey:
 Bergen
 Essex
 Hudson
 Middlesex
 Morris
 Passaic
 Somerset
 Union
 Area of Application. Survey Area Plus
 New York:
 Putnam
 Richmond
 Rockland
 New Jersey:
 Hunterdon
 Monmouth
 Ocean (Excluding the Fort Dix Military
 Reservation)
 Sussex
 Pennsylvania:
 Pike
 * * * * *

PENNSYLVANIA
 * * * * *
Philadelphia
 Survey Area
 Pennsylvania:
 Bucks
 Chester
 Delaware
 Montgomery
 Philadelphia
 New Jersey:
 Burlington
 Camden
 Gloucester
 Area of Application. Survey Area Plus
 Pennsylvania:
 Carbon
 Lehigh
 Northampton
 New Jersey:
 Atlantic
 Cape May
 Cumberland
 Mercer
 Ocean (Fort Dix Military Reservation only)
 Warren
 * * * * *
Scranton-Wilkes-Barre
 Survey Area
 Pennsylvania:
 Lackawanna
 Luzerne
 Monroe
 Area of Application. Survey Area Plus
 Pennsylvania:
 Bradford
 Columbia
 Lycoming (Excluding Allenwood Federal
 Prison Camp)
 Sullivan
 Susquehanna
 Wayne
 Wyoming
 * * * * *
SOUTH DAKOTA
Eastern South Dakota
 Survey Area
 South Dakota:
 Minnehaha
 Area of Application. Survey Area Plus
 South Dakota:
 Aurora
 Beadle
 Bennett
 Bon Homme
 Brookings
 Brown
 Brule
 Buffalo
 Campbell
 Charles Mix
 Clark
 Clay
 Codington
 Corson
 Davison
 Day
 Deuel
 Dewey

Douglas
Edmunds
Faulk
Grant
Gregory
Haakon
Hamlin
Hand
Hanson
Hughes
Hutchinson
Hyde
Jerauld
Jones
Kingsbury
Lake
Lincoln
Lyman
McCook
McPherson
Marshall
Mellette
Miner
Moody
Potter
Roberts
Sanborn
Spink
Stanley
Sully
Todd
Tripp
Turner
Walworth
Washabaugh
Yankton
Ziebach
Iowa:
Dickinson
Emmet
Lyon
Osceola
Minnesota:
Jackson
Lincoln
Lyon
Murray
Nobles
Pipestone
Rock
* * * * *

VIRGINIA

* * * * *

Richmond

Survey Area

Virginia (cities):
Colonial Heights
Hopewell
Petersburg
Richmond

Virginia (counties):
Charles City
Chesterfield
Dinwiddie
Goochland
Hanover
Henrico
New Kent
Powhatan
Prince George

Area of Application. Survey Area Plus

Virginia (cities):
Charlottesville

Emporia
Virginia (counties):
Albemarle
Amelia
Brunswick
Buckingham
Caroline
Charlotte
Cumberland
Essex
Fluvanna
Greensville
King and Queen
King William
Lancaster
Louisa
Lunenburg
Mecklenburg
Middlesex
Northumberland
Nottoway
Orange
Prince Edward
Richmond
Sussex
Westmoreland
* * * * *

WISCONSIN

* * * * *

Milwaukee

Survey Area

Wisconsin:
Milwaukee
Ozaukee
Washington
Waukesha

Area of Application. Survey Area Plus

Wisconsin:
Brown
Calumet
Door
Fond du Lac
Kewaunee
Manitowoc
Outagamie
Racine
Sheboygan
Walworth
Winnebago

[FR Doc. E9-528 Filed 1-13-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6325-39-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

7 CFR Part 625

RIN 0578-AA52

Healthy Forests Reserve Program

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

ACTION: Proposed rule; request for comment.

SUMMARY: On May 17, 2006, NRCS published an interim final rule for the Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP) and received 11 comment letters. NRCS proposes to amend this rule to incorporate changes associated with enactment of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (the 2008 Act). The 2008 Act authorizes \$9,750,000 for each of the fiscal years 2009 through 2012 to carry out the program. As a result of the 2008 Act, NRCS will allow land enrollment through permanent easements, or easements for a maximum duration allowed under state law and continue to allow enrollment through 10-year cost-share agreements; and allow enrollment of land owned by tribes or members of tribes in 30-year contracts or 10-year cost-share agreements, or any combination of both. Forty percent of program expenditures in any fiscal year will be used for restoration cost-share agreement enrollment and 60 percent of program expenditures in any fiscal year will be for easement enrollment.

In addition to changes associated with the 2008 Act, NRCS is addressing comments received on the interim final rule and proposing additional changes that improve program implementation based on the experience gained from the HFRP implementation under the interim final rule.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before February 13, 2009. Comments will be made available to the public or posted publicly in their entirety.

ADDRESSES: You may send comments using any of the following methods:

Government-wide rulemaking Web site: Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and follow the instructions for sending comments electronically.

NRCS Web site: Go to <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov> and follow the instructions for sending comments electronically.

Mail: Easements Programs Division, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Healthy Forests Reserve Program Comments, P.O. 2890, Room 6819-S, Washington, DC 20013.

Fax: 1-202-720-4265

Hand Delivery: Room 6819-S of the USDA South Office Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays. Please ask the guard at the entrance to the South Office Building to call 202-720-4527 in order to be escorted into the building.

This proposed rule may be accessed via Internet. Users can access the NRCS homepage at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>; select *Farm Bill*