DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Food and Nutrition Service

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request—School Foodservice Indirect Cost Study

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice invites the general public and other public agencies to comment on this proposed information collection. This collection is a new information collection for the School Foodservice Indirect Cost Study.

DATES: Written comments on this notice must be received by December 6, 2011.

ADDRESSES: 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 shall 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 that were 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 use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments may be sent to: John Endahl, Senior Program Analyst, Office of Research and Analysis, Food and Nutrition Service, USDA, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 1004, Alexandria, VA 22302. Comments may also be submitted via fax to the attention of John Endahl at 703–305–2576 or via e-mail to john.endahl@fns.usda.gov.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request more information on the proposed project or to obtain a copy of the data collection plans, contact John Endahl, Senior Program Analyst, Office of Research and Analysis, Food and Nutrition Service/USDA, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 1004, Alexandria, VA 22302; Fax: 703–305–2576; E-mail: john.endahl@fns.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:
Title: School Foodservice Indirect Cost Study.

OMB Number: 0584–NEW.
Expiration Date of Approval: Not yet determined.

Type of Information Collection Request: New information collection.

Abstract: The Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010 (Pub. L. 111–296) requires USDA to conduct this study to assess the extent to which school food authorities (SFAs) participating in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs pay indirect costs. The objective of the School Foodservice Indirect Cost Study is to collect and analyze up-to-date data on school districts’ policies and procedures for reporting and recovering indirect costs attributable to their foodservice operations.

The ultimate goal of this study is to provide USDA and Congress the necessary information to assess the extent to which school districts identify, treat, and charge indirect costs attributable to their foodservice operations. Some focus will be placed on whether school districts treat indirect costs attributable to their foodservice operations the same way that they treat indirect costs attributable to other grant programs. The School Lunch and Breakfast Cost Studies conducted in the early 1990s and again in the mid-2000s provide some evidence that as school district budgets have become increasingly tight, school districts have been increasingly likely to assess and recover indirect costs attributable to their food service operations. While this is permissible under USDA regulations, the regulations also stipulate that school districts must treat foodservice indirect costs in the same manner as their other grant programs. Previous research suggests that this is often not the case. This study will help FNS understand the extent to which current regulations are being followed and if there is a need for additional regulations and/or legislation to ensure that school districts treat indirect costs in the same manner across all of their grant programs.

Specifically, this study will address the following questions:

☐ What is the role of the State departments of education in establishing or approving school districts’ indirect cost rates?
☐ Are the indirect costs charged or recovered by school districts from foodservice consistent with Federal and State allocation requirements?
☐ What are the types and amounts of indirect costs charged and recovered by school districts from the foodservice account?
☐ What is the impact of school districts charging and recovering indirect costs from the foodservice account on the ability of SFAs to operate on a break-even basis?

The activities to be undertaken subject to this notice include:

☐ Conducting a multi-modal (e.g. paper, Web, and telephone) survey of approximately 1,897 SFA Directors who will complete the survey out of 2,373 recruited.
☐ Conducting a multi-modal (e.g. paper, Web, and telephone) survey of approximately 1,897 School District Business Managers who will complete the survey out of 2,373 recruited.
☐ Conducting a telephone survey of all 56 State Agency Child Nutrition Directors.
☐ Conducting a telephone survey of all 56 State Agency Financial Officers.

Affected Public: State and Local Governments.

Type of Respondents: 2,373 SFA Directors, 2,373 School District Business Managers, 56 State Child Nutrition Directors, and 56 State Agency Financial Officers.

Estimated Total Number of Respondents: 4,858.
Frequency of Response: Once annually.

Estimated Annual Responses: 4,858.
Estimate of Time per Respondent and Annual Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average thirty (30) minutes per completed Self Administered Survey for the SFA Directors and sixty (60) minutes for the completed School District Business Managers. Reporting burden is estimated at thirty (30) minutes per completed telephone interview for the State Agency Child Nutrition Directors and sixty (60) minutes for the completed State Agency Financial Officer (this includes 30 minutes for data gathering and 30 minutes to respond to the interview).

The initial sample in the School
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Deschutes Provincial Advisory Committee (DPAC); Notice of Meeting

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Deschutes Provincial Advisory Committee will meet on September 29, 2011 to conduct a field review of stream and riparian restoration projects. The meeting will also discuss the Forest Service and BLM integrated weed management programs. Members will meet at the Deschutes National Forest Supervisor’s office, Upper Deschutes Conference Room (1001 SW. Emkay Drive, Bend, Oregon) from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. All Deschutes Province Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Keown, Province Liaison, Sisters Ranger District, Pine Street and Highway 20, Sisters, Oregon, 97759, Phone (541) 549–7735.

John Allen, Deschutes National Forest Supervisor.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Sabine Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Sabine Resource Advisory Committee will meet in Hemphill, Texas. The committee is authorized under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (Pub. L. 110–343) (the Act) and operates in compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The purpose of the committee is to improve collaborative relationships and to provide advice and recommendations to the Forest Service concerning projects and funding consistent with the title II of the Act. The meeting is open to the public. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss New Title II Project Proposals.

DATES: The meeting will be held via teleconference call on Thursday, October 20, 2011, 3:30 p.m.

ADDRESS: The meeting will be held at the Sabine NF Office, 5050 State Hwy 21 East, Hemphill, TX 75948. Written comments may be submitted as described under SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION. All comments, including names and addresses when provided, are placed in the record and are available for public inspection and copying. The public may inspect comments received at 5050 State Hwy 21 East, Hemphill, TX 75948. Please call ahead to (409) 625–1940 to facilitate entry into the building to view comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William E. Taylor, Jr., Designated Federal Officer, Sabine National Forest, 5050 State Hwy 21 E., Hemphill, TX 75948: Telephone: 936–639–8501 or e-mail at: etaylor@fs.fed.us.

Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday. Requests for reasonable accommodation for access to the facility or proceedings may be made by contacting the person listed FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following business will be conducted: The purpose of the meeting is to review progress on approved Title II Projects. Anyone who would like to bring related matters to the attention of the committee may file written statements with the committee staff before or after the meeting. The agenda will include time for people to make oral statements of three minutes or less. Individuals wishing to make an oral statement should request in writing by October 14, 2011 to be scheduled on the agenda. Written comments and requests for time for oral comments must be sent to 5050 State Hwy 21 East, Hemphill, TX 75948 or by e-mail to etaylor@fs.fed.us or via facsimile to 409–625–1953.


William E. Taylor, Jr.,
Designated Federal Officer, Sabine National Forest RAC.

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