Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

December 1, 2011.

The Department of Agriculture has submitted the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. Public Law 104–13. Comments regarding (a) whether the 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 burden 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 should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), OIRA_Submission@OMB.EOP.GOV or fax (202) 395–5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, DC 20250–7602. Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of this notification. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720–8958. An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Economic Research Service

Title: National Household Food Acquisition and Purchase Survey. OMB Control Number: 0536–NEW.

Summary of Collection: The Economic Research Service (ERS) will be conducting the National Household Food Acquisition and Purchase Survey (aka National Food Study). The mission of ERS is to provide timely research and analysis to public and private decision makers on topics related to agriculture, food, the environment, and rural America. To achieve this mission, ERS requires a variety of data that describe agricultural production, food distribution channels, availability and price of food at the point of sale, and household demand for food products. There is a great need for the above information as it relates to low-income households. It is critical for USDA to better understand the food acquisition behaviors of low-income, program-eligible households in order to effectively serve this segment of the population with efficient and effective programs. Section 17 (U.S.C. 2026)(a)(1) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 provides legislative authority for the planned data collection. This section authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into contracts with private institutions to undertake research that will help to improve the administration and effectiveness of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in delivering nutrition-related benefits.

Need and Use of the Information: The National Food Study will collect information about household food acquisitions, including foods purchased and foods obtained at no cost (e.g., home-grown vegetables). Information also will be collected about household characteristics, including demographics, income, major categories of nonfood expenditures, food security, health status (including heights and weights), and dietary knowledge. This survey will provide ERS with information to support the analysis of a wide variety of research questions.

Description of Respondents: Individuals or household.

Number of Respondents: 24,675.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 44,695.

Ruth Brown, Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2011–31303 Filed 12–5–11; 8:45 am]

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Establishment of the Council for Native American Farming and Ranching

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and Call for Nominations.

SUMMARY: The Department of Agriculture (USDA) is announcing the establishment of the Council for Native American Farming and Ranching (Council). The purpose of the Council is to provide recommendations to the Secretary on how to eliminate barriers to Native American participation in Farm Service Agency (FSA) farm loan programs and other farm programs. The Council will discuss issues related to the participation of Native American farmers and ranchers in USDA farm loan programs and transmit recommendations concerning any changes to FSA regulations or internal guidance or other measures. The Council is necessary and in the public interest. USDA is seeking nominations for individuals to be considered Council members. Candidates who wish to be considered for membership on the Council should submit an AD–755 Nominations.

Nominations.

Notice and Call for Nominations.

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DATES: Submit nominations on or before January 20, 2012.

ADDRESSES: All nomination materials should be mailed in a single, complete package and postmarked by January 20, 2012. Nominations may be submitted by mail to:

• Thomas Vilsack, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington DC, 20250. Attn: Council on Native American Farmers and Ranchers.

• Send comments to the Office of Tribal Relations, 500A Whitten
Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington DC 20250.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janie Simmons Hipp, Senior Advisor, Tribal Relations or John Lowery, Management Analyst, Office of Tribal Relations. Email your questions to Janie.Hipp@osec.usda.gov or John Lowery at John.Lowery@osec.usda.gov or call (202) 205–2249.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Council Act (FACA) as amended (5 U.S.C. App. 2) and with the concurrence of the General Services Administration, USDA is announcing the establishment of an advisory Council for Native American farmers and ranchers. The Council is a discretionary advisory Council established under the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture, in furtherance of the settlement agreement in Keepseagle v. Vilsack that was granted final approval by the District Court for the District of Columbia on April 28, 2011. The Council will operate under the provisions of the FACA and report to the Secretary of Agriculture.

The purpose of the Council is (1) to advise the Secretary of Agriculture on issues related to the participation of Native American farmers and ranchers in USDA farm loan programs; (2) to transmit recommendations concerning any changes to FSA regulations or internal guidance or other measures that would eliminate barriers to program participation for Native American farmers and ranchers; (3) to examine methods of maximizing the number of new farming and ranching opportunities created through the farm loan program through enhanced extension and financial literacy services; (4) to examine methods of encouraging intergovernmental cooperation to mitigate the effects of land tenure and probate issues on the delivery of USDA farm loan programs; (5) to evaluate other methods of creating new farming or ranching opportunities for Native American producers; and (6) to address other related issues as deemed appropriate.

The Council will have 15 members, 11 of whom will be Native American leaders or persons who represent the interests of Native American Tribes or Native American organizations. The term “Native American leaders” is not limited to elected Tribal representatives or members or persons with Native American ancestry. The remaining four members will be high-ranking USDA officials, including: (1) The Senior Advisor to the Secretary, Tribal Relations; (2) the Farm Service Agency Administrator; (3) the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights; and (4) the Deputy Administrator for Farm Loan Programs, or their delegates.

Members shall serve without compensation, but may receive reimbursement for travel expenses and per diem in accordance with USDA travel regulations for attendance at Council functions. Council members who represent the interests of Native American farmers and ranchers may also be paid an amount not less than $100 per day for time spent away from their employment or farming or ranching operation, subject to the availability of funds. Members may include:

- Native American farmers or ranchers who have participated in USDA loan or payment programs;
- Representatives of organizations with a history of working with Native American farmers or ranchers;
- Civil rights professionals;
- Representatives of Tribal governments with demonstrated experience working with Native American farmers or ranchers; and
- Such other persons as the Secretary considers appropriate.

No individual who is currently registered as a Federal lobbyist is eligible to serve as a member of the Council.

The Secretary of Agriculture invites those individuals, organizations, and groups affiliated with the categories listed above or who have knowledge of issues related to the purpose of the Council to nominate individuals for membership on the Council. Individuals and organizations who wish to nominate experts for this or any other USDA advisory Council should submit a letter to the Secretary listing these individuals’ names and business address, phone, and email contact information. The Secretary of Agriculture seeks a diverse group of members representing a broad spectrum of persons interested in providing suggestions and ideas on how USDA can tailor its farm programs to meet the needs of Native American farmers and ranchers. Individuals receiving nominations will be contacted and asked to return the AD–755 application form and resume within 10 business days of notification. All candidates will be vetted and considered for appointment by the Secretary of Agriculture. Equal opportunity practices will be followed in all appointments to the Council in accordance with USDA policies. The Council will meet at least twice a year.

Dated: December 1, 2011.

Thomas J. Vilsack, Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2011–31235 Filed 12–5–11; 8:45 am]

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Revised Notice, Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Rosemont Copper Project on the Coronado National Forest, Nogales Ranger District, Pima County, AZ

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Revised Notice of availability and public meetings.

SUMMARY: On October 19, 2011, the USDA Forest Service, Coronado National Forest, published a Notice of Availability of the Rosemont Copper Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement and public meetings and commenting options (76 FR 64893). This revised notice advises the public of changes in the schedule of public meetings being held during the public review and comment period. All other information given in the original notice remains unchanged.

DATES: See SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section for meeting dates.

ADDRESSES: See SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section for meeting addresses.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Coronado National Forest, 300 W. Congress St., Tucson, AZ 85701, or by telephone at (520) 388–8300.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Public meeting dates and locations are as follows:

1. December 1, 2011, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., Corona Foothills Middle School, 16705 S. Houghton Road, Corona de Tucson, AZ 85641.
2. December 7, 2011, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., Benson High School, 360 S. Patagonia Street, Benson, AZ 85602.
3. December 8, 2011, 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Green Valley Recreation-West Social Center, 1111 Via Arcoiris, Green Valley, AZ 85614.
4. December 10, 2011, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Elgin Elementary School, 23 Elgin Road, Elgin, AZ 85611.
5. January 14, 2012, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Sahuarita District Auditorium, 350 West Sahuarita Road, Sahuarita, AZ 85649.

If you have questions concerning special meeting needs, contact the Coronado National Forest at (520) 388–8300 or email mailroom_r3_coronado@js.fed.us prior