Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following business will be conducted: (1) Welcome; (2) Review and approval of minutes from last meeting; (3) Review of proposed projects; (4) Public Comment. 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 September 14, 2012 to be scheduled on the agenda. Written comments and requests for time for oral comments must be sent to De Soto Ranger District, 654 West Frontage Road, Wiggins, MS 39577, or by email to ronaldasmlth@fs.fed.us, or via facsimile to 601–528–6193. A summary of the meeting will be posted at: www.fs.usda.gov/main/pts/home within 21 days of the meeting.

Meeting Accommodations: If you are a person requiring reasonable accommodation, please make requests in advance for sign language interpreting, assistive listening devices or other reasonable accommodation for access to the facility or proceedings by contacting the person listed under FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT. All reasonable accommodation requests are managed on a case by case basis.

Ron Smith,
Designated Federal Official.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Forest Service
Siuslaw Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Meeting.

SUMMARY: The Siuslaw Resource Advisory Committee will meet in Corvallis, OR. The purpose of the meeting is RAC FY13 Business, Elect Chairperson, Set FY13 Overhead Rate, Information Share, Public Forum, 2013 Project Review, Project Selections.

DATES: The meeting will be held September 17, 2012 beginning at 9:00 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Corvallis Forestry Sciences Lab and Siuslaw National Forest, 3200 SW Jefferson Way, Room 20 A, B, C, Corvallis, OR 97331.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joni Quarnstrom, Siuslaw National Forest, 541/750–7075 or write to Forest Supervisor, Siuslaw National Forest, 3200 SW Jefferson Way, Corvallis, OR 97331.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

ACTION: Proposed collection; Comments requested.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Rural Business-Cooperative Service’s (RBS) intention to request an extension for a currently approved information collection in support of the program for Business and Industry Guaranteed Loans.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by October 30, 2012 to be assured of consideration.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan Servicing.
OMB Number: 0570–0016.
Expiration Date of Approval: November 30, 2012.
Type of Request: Extension of Paperwork Burden.

Abstract: The purpose of the Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan Program is to improve, develop, or finance business, industry, and employment and to improve the economic and environmental climate in rural communities. This purpose is achieved by bolstering the existing private credit structure through the guarantee of quality loans which will provide lasting community benefits. The information requested is necessary and vital in order for the Agency to make prudent credit and financial decisions.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .85 hours per response.
Respondents Number: 3,800.
Estimated Number of Respondents: 3,800.
Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.
Estimated Number of Responses: 23,703.
Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 20,452.
Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Jeanne Jacobs,
Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch at (202) 692–0040.

Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of RBS, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of RBS'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. Comments may be sent to Jeanne Jacobs, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, STOP 0742, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20250.

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


John C. Padalino,
Acting Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

[FR Doc. 2012–21597 Filed 8–30–12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–XY–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce will submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. chapter 35).

Agency: U.S. Census Bureau.

Title: American Community Survey Methods Panel Tests.

OMB Control Number: 0607–0936

Form Number(s): ACS–1, ACS–1(SP), ACS–1PR, ACS–1PR(SP), ACS CATI(HU), ACS CAPI(HU), ACS (Internet).

Type of Request: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Burden Hours: 276,645.

Number of Respondents: 444,150.

Average Hours per Response: 34 minutes.

Needs and Uses: The U.S. Census Bureau requests authorization from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to conduct the American Community Survey (ACS) Methods Panel tests. The ACS collects detailed socioeconomic data from about 3.5 million households in the United States and 36,000 in Puerto Rico each year. Resulting tabulations from that data collection are provided on a yearly basis. The ACS allows the Census Bureau to provide timely and relevant housing and socio-economic statistics for even small levels of geography.

An ongoing data collection effort with an annual sample of this magnitude requires continuous research, testing and evaluations aimed at improving questionnaire content and data collection operations. The ACS Methods Panel is a research program that is designed to address and respond to emerging issues and survey needs. During the 2012–2013 period, the Methods Panel may include testing methods for increasing survey efficiencies, reducing survey cost, lessening respondent burden, and improving response rates. Testing may also include methods that might increase data quality. At this time, plans are in place to propose several tests: a 2013 Questionnaire Design Test, a 2015 ACS Content Test, and a series of Internet tests. Because we cannot anticipate issues that may arise in the production survey or from the proposed studies, we may conduct additional testing as needed. Additional testing would focus on methods for reducing data collection costs, improving data quality or testing new questions that have an urgent need to be included on the ACS.

In September through December 2010, the Census Bureau conducted the 2010 ACS Content Test that included testing revisions to current ACS questions as well as two new questions (Computer ownership and Internet usage, and Parental Place of Birth). During the Content Test, the Census Bureau determined that the ACS paper questionnaire did not contain enough space to accommodate certain configurations of proposed content changes. While selected content from the test does fit on the current form, we need to be proactive to accommodate future content requests on the ACS mail questionnaire. In the 2013 ACS Questionnaire Design Test, we will study the impact of a longer (36-page) questionnaire against our current 28-page form. The experimental treatments are noted below, but we have not finalized the forms for this test at the time. We will also study whether changing the size of the form to a standard size (8.5 x 11) booklet has an impact on response, compared to both the 28- and 36-page forms. The results of this testing will help the Census Bureau to decide which questionnaire format change has the least negative impact on response and data quality.

Because the 8.5 x 11 questionnaire will be roughly 44-pages long, we cannot fold the form before mailing it as we do with the current 36-page questionnaire. Thus, this test will also include an experimental panel where a 36-page questionnaire is mailed flat (without folding) so that we can cleanly determine the effect of questionnaire size versus folding.

This test will also include several changes to make the questionnaire more compatible with optical character recognition software, including altering the response box formats for numeric write-in fields to allow them to be captured automatically rather than keyed. This part of the test will also allow us to examine any changes to response behavior as well as to estimate anticipated cost savings from the automatic capture. Lastly, this test will include a test of variations in the relationship question and the marital status series per the OMB initiative to ensure these questions are inclusive of all relationship types and partnerships. Based on the results of this testing, a secondary, follow-up test may be needed to refine the questionnaire identified as the best alternative from this test.

Second, in response to Federal agencies' requests for new and revised ACS questions, the Census Bureau plans to conduct the 2015 ACS Content Test. We will determine the changes to the current ACS content and the addition of new content through the OMB Interagency Committee for the ACS in 2013. OMB must approve requests for content changes prior to testing. The objective of the 2015 ACS Content Test, for both new and existing questions, is to determine the impact of changing question wording, response categories, and redefinition of underlying constructs on the quality of the data collected. The Census Bureau proposes to evaluate changes to the questions by comparing the revised questions to the current ACS questions, or for new questions, to compare the performance of question versions to each other as well as to other well-known sources of such information. We plan to design the test similar to past tests, using two experimental panels to compare current versus revised content. We will