

Type of respondents	Number of respondents	Estimated number of responses per respondent	Average burden hours per response	Annual burden hours requested
GRAND TOTAL .....	.....	.....	.....	11,658

*Comments:* Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed record keeping requirement and collection of information are 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; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of collecting the information on respondents, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

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

*Obtaining a Copy of the Information Collection:* A copy of the information collection and related instructions may be obtained free of charge by contacting Robert Martin as directed above.

Done at Washington, DC, this 16 day of December 2015.

**Catherine E. Woteki,**  
*Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics.*

[FR Doc. 2015-32747 Filed 12-28-15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-22-P

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**Natural Resources Conservation Service**

**Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request**

December 22, 2015.

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 and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

**Natural Resources and Conservation Service**

*Title:* Volunteer Program—Earth Team.

*OMB Control Number:* 0578-0024.

*Summary of Collection:* Volunteers have been a valuable human resource to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) since 1985. NRCS is authorized by the Federal Personnel Manual (FPM) Supplement 296-33, Subchapter 33, to recruit, train and accept, with regard to Civil Service classification law, rules, or regulations, the service of individuals to serve without compensation. Volunteers may assist in any agency program/project and may perform any activities which agency employees are allowed to do. Volunteers must be 14 years of age. NRCS will collect information using NRCS forms.

*Need and Use of the Information:* NRCS will collect information on the type of skills and type of work the volunteers are interested in doing. The

collected information will be used to evaluate potential international volunteers and evaluate the effectiveness of the volunteer program. Without the information, NRCS would not know which individuals are interested in volunteering.

*Description of Respondents:*

Individuals or households; Business or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions; Farms; State, Local, or Tribal Government.

*Number of Respondents:* 3,766.

*Frequency of Responses:* Reporting: Biennially.

*Total Burden Hours:* 488.

**Ruth Brown,**

*Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.*

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BILLING CODE 3410-16-P

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**Rural Housing Service**

**Notice of Solicitation of Applications for the Section 533 Housing Preservation Grants for Fiscal Year 2016**

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Rural Housing Service (RHS), an Agency within Rural Development, announces that it is soliciting competitive applications under its Housing Preservation Grant (HPG) program. This action is taken to comply with Agency regulations found in 7 CFR part 1944, subpart N, which requires the Agency to announce the opening and closing dates for receipt of pre-applications for HPG funds from eligible applicants.

**DATES:** The closing deadline for receipt of all pre-applications in response to this Notice is 5:00 p.m., local time for each Rural Development State Office on February 12, 2016. Rural Development State Office locations can be found at: <http://www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us/state-offices>. The application should be submitted to the Rural Development State Office where the project will be located. If submitting the pre-application in electronic format, the closing deadline for receipt is 5:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on February 12, 2016. The application closing deadline