

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

May 23, 2018.

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 are requested regarding (1) 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; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) 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 and other forms of information technology.

Comments regarding this information collection received by June 28, 2018 will be considered. Written comments should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), New Executive Office Building, 725-17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503. Commentors are encouraged to submit their comments to OMB via email to: OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov or fax (202) 395-5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, DC 20250-7602. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720-8681.

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.

Forest Service

Title: Timber Sale Contract Operations and Administration.

OMB Control Number: 0596-0225.

Summary of Collection: The Forest Service (FS) is authorized under the National Forest Management Act (16 U.S.C. 472a); Contract Disputes Act of 1978; Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008; Executive Order 11246, as amended by E.O. 11375 and E.O. 12086; 36 CFR 223.30-60 and 36 CFR 223.110-118; 40 CFR 112 and Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief Act of 1990, § 620d Monitoring and Enforcement, as amended in 1997 by Public Law 105-83 and current through Public Law 110-450 and Agricultural Act of 2014, Title VIII Forestry, to collect information associated with operations and administration of bilateral contracts for the sale of timber and other forest products.

Need and Use of the Information: The information is needed by the FS for a variety of uses associated with operations and administration of contracts for the sale and disposal of National Forest System timber and other forest products. The information collected includes plans, inspections, requests for action by the other party, agreements, modifications, acceptance of work, and notices necessary for operations under the terms of the contracts. Each contract specifies the information the contractor will be required to provide, including the timing and frequency of the information collection. The information is submitted in a variety of formats including FS forms; Government Standard forms; forms developed by individual contractors, charts, maps, email messages and letters.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit; Farms; Not-for-profit institutions.

Number of Respondents: 3,400.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Annually; Semi-annually; Monthly; On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 40,139.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2018-11387 Filed 5-25-18; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Information Collection Activity; Comment Request

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) invites comments on this information collection for which RUS intends to request approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by July 30, 2018.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Thomas P. Dickson, Acting Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, STOP 1522, Room 5164-South Building, Washington, DC 20250-1522. Telephone: (202) 690-4492, FAX: (202) 720-8435 or email: Thomas.Dickson@wdc.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) regulation (5 CFR part 1320) implementing provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) requires that interested members of the public and affected agencies have an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping activities (see 5 CFR 1320.8(d)). This notice identifies an information collection that RUS is submitting to OMB for extension.

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 will 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 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: Thomas P. Dickson, Director, Acting Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 1522, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-1522. Telephone: (202) 690-4492, FAX: (202) 720-8435 or email Thomas.Dickson@wdc.usda.gov.

Title: Rural Alaska Village Grant Program.

OMB Control Number: 0572-0150.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: The Rural Alaska Village Grant (RAVG) Program is authorized under Section 305D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (CONACT), (7 U.S.C. 1926(d)), as amended. Governing regulations are currently codified in 7 CFR 1780. Under the RAVG program, the Secretary of Agriculture may make grants to the State of Alaska for the benefit of rural or Native Villages in Alaska to provide for the development and construction of water and wastewater systems to improve the health and sanitation conditions in those Villages. To be eligible to receive a grant under the RAVG program, the project must provide 25 percent in matching funds from the State of Alaska. The matching funds must come from non-Federal sources. The Secretary shall consult with the State of Alaska on a method of prioritizing the allocation of grants according to the needs of, and relative health and sanitation conditions in, each village.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1.36 hours per response.

Respondents: Business or other for-profit, not-for-profit institutions, State, Local, or Tribal Government.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 25.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 13.8.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 469.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Rebecca Hunt, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, at (202) 205-3660, FAX: (202) 720-8435 or email: rebecca.hunt@wdc.usda.gov. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included

in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: April 30, 2018.

Kenneth L. Johnson,

Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.

[FR Doc. 2018-11398 Filed 5-25-18; 8:45 am]

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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.

Agency: U.S. Census Bureau.

Title: American Community Survey Methods Panel Tests.

OMB Control Number: 0607-0936.

Form Number(s): ACS-1 and ACS-1(GQ).

Type of Request: Regular Submission.
Number of Respondents: 455,500 per year.

Average Hours per Response: 40 minutes.

Burden Hours: 266,168 per year.

Needs and Uses: The U.S. Census Bureau requests authorization from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for the American Community Survey (ACS) Methods Panel Tests.

An ongoing data collection effort with an annual sample of the magnitude of the ACS requires that the Census Bureau continue research, testing, and evaluations aimed at improving data quality, achieving survey cost efficiencies, reducing respondent burden, and improving ACS questionnaire content and related data collection materials. The ACS Methods Panel is a robust research program focused on enhancing the quality of the respondent experience, survey operations, and data.

From 2018 to 2021, the ACS Methods Panel program may include testing methods for increasing survey efficiencies, reducing survey cost, improving the respondent experience, increasing response rates, and improving data quality. At this time, plans are in place to propose several tests:

- Mail Materials Test that will explore ways to improve the respondent experience and address respondent concerns about the perceived intrusiveness of the ACS balanced against increasing self-response to the survey.

- Self-Response Mail Messaging Tests that research various aspects of the mail materials and contact strategy.

- Multilingual Testing that would explore ways to engage respondents with limited English proficiency during the self-response portion of data collection.

- Content Tests that will test new and/or revised content.

- Respondent Burden Questions Test that would incorporate questions about respondents' experience with the survey.

- Respondent Comment/Feedback Test which would add a comment field to make it easy for respondents to give feedback about the ACS.

- Administrative Data Use Test to assess the potential for supplementing or replacing survey content with administrative data.

- Group Quarters Test to assess the feasibility of making an internet self-response option available to non-institutional GQ residents.

Since the ACS Methods Panel is designed to address emerging issues, we may conduct additional testing as needed. Any additional testing would focus on methods for reducing data collection costs, improving data quality, revising content, or testing new questions that have an urgent need to be included on the ACS. The tests may be conducted on HUs, GQs, or both. As more details are developed for the additional tests, the Census Bureau will submit a non-substantive change request, (and **Federal Register** Notice, as necessary) documenting the change or revision.

The tests proposed allow the Census Bureau to continue to examine operational issues, research the data quality, collect cost information and make recommendations for improvements to this annual data collection.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Frequency: Multiple one-time tests over a 3-year period.

Respondent's Obligation: Mandatory.

Legal Authority: Title 13, United States Code, Sections 141, 193, and 221.

This information collection request may be viewed at www.reginfo.gov.

Follow the instructions to view Department of Commerce collections currently under review by OMB.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this