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Zach Ducheneaux,

Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

[FR Doc. 2023-20210 Filed 9-18-23; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Hiawatha National Forest Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, Agriculture (USDA).

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Hiawatha National Forest Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will hold a public meeting according to the details shown below. The Committee is authorized under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (the Act) and operates in compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). 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 Title II of the Act as well as to make recommendations on recreation fee proposals for sites on the Hiawatha National Forest within Chippewa County, consistent with the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act. **DATES:** An in-person meeting will be held on September 25, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. through 4:30 p.m., eastern daylight time (EDT).

Written and Oral Comments: Anyone wishing to provide in-person comments must pre-register by 11:59 p.m. EDT on September 15, 2023. Written public comments will be accepted by 11:59 p.m. EDT on September 15, 2023. Comments submitted after this date will be provided to the Forest Service, but

the Committee may not have adequate time to consider those comments prior to the meeting.

All RAC meetings are subject to cancellation. For status of the meeting prior to attendance, please contact the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

ADDRESSES: This meeting will be held in person at the St. Ignace District Ranger Office, located at W1900 US-2, St. Ignace, MI 49781. RAC information and meeting details can be found by contacting the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Written Comments: Written comments must be sent by email to rita.mills@usda.gov or via mail (*i.e.*, postmarked) to Rita Mills, Hiawatha National Forest, 820 Rains Drive, Gladstone, MI 49837. The Forest Service strongly prefers comments be submitted electronically.

Oral Comments: Persons or organizations wishing to make oral comments must pre-register by 11:59 p.m. EDT, September 20, 2023, and speakers can only register for one speaking slot. Oral comments must be sent by email to rita.mills@usda.gov or via mail (*i.e.*, postmarked) to Rita Mills, Hiawatha National Forest, 820 Rains Drive, Gladstone, MI 49837.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Shannon Rische, Designated Federal Officer (DFO), by phone at 906-428-5839 or email at shannon.rische@usda.gov or Rita Mills, RAC Coordinator, at 906-241-0258 or email at rita.mills@usda.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The

purpose of the meeting is to:

1. Make funding recommendations;
2. Plan outreach efforts for additional chairs;
3. Plan field trip;
4. Introduce new Forest Supervisor and District Ranger; and
5. Schedule the next meeting.

The agenda will include time for individuals to make oral statements of three minutes or less. Individuals wishing to make an oral statement should make a request in writing at least three days prior to the meeting date to be scheduled on the agenda. Written comments may be submitted to the Forest Service up to 14 days after the meeting date listed under **DATES**.

Please contact the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**, by or before the deadline, for all questions related to the meeting. 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 upon request.

Meeting Accommodations: The meeting location is compliant with the

Americans with Disabilities Act, and the USDA provides reasonable accommodation to individuals with disabilities where appropriate. If you are a person requiring reasonable accommodation, please make requests in advance for sign language interpretation, assistive listening devices, or other reasonable accommodation to the person listed under the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section or contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Equal opportunity practices in accordance with USDA's policies will be followed in all appointments to the Committee. To ensure that the recommendations of the Committee have taken in account the needs of the diverse groups served by USDA, membership shall include to the extent possible, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, and persons with disabilities. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Dated: September 12, 2023.

Cikena Reid,

USDA Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 2023-20212 Filed 9-18-23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3411-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Census Bureau

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; American Community Survey Methods Panel: 2024 Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Test

AGENCY: Census Bureau, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of information collection, request for comment.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed, and continuing information collections, which helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. The purpose of this notice is to allow for 60 days of public comment on the proposed revision of the American Community Survey Methods Panel Tests, prior to the submission of the information collection request (ICR) to OMB for approval.

DATES: To ensure consideration, comments regarding this proposed information collection must be received on or before November 20, 2023.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments by email to acso.pra@census.gov. Please reference American Community Survey SOGI Test in the subject line of your comments. You may also submit comments, identified by Docket Number USBC-2023-0007, to the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. All comments received are part of the public record. No comments will be posted to <http://www.regulations.gov> for public viewing until after the comment period has closed. Comments will generally be posted without change. All Personally Identifiable Information (for example, name and address) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information. You may submit attachments to electronic comments in Microsoft Word, Excel, or Adobe PDF file formats.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or specific questions related to collection activities should be directed to Elizabeth Poehler, ADC for Survey Methods, U.S. Census Bureau, 301-763-9305, elizabeth.poehler@census.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The American Community Survey (ACS) is an ongoing monthly survey that collects detailed housing and socioeconomic data from about 3.5 million addresses in the United States and about 36,000 addresses in Puerto Rico each year. The ACS also collects detailed socioeconomic data from about 195,000 residents living in group quarters facilities in the United States and Puerto Rico each year. Data is collected via self-response modes

(internet and paper) as well as interviewer-administered modes via telephone and in person. Resulting tabulations from this data collection are provided on a yearly basis. The ACS allows the Census Bureau to provide timely and relevant housing and socioeconomic statistics, even for low levels of geography.

The Census Bureau plans to request Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval to conduct a test of sexual orientation and gender identity questions on the ACS. The test is referred to as the 2024 ACS Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) Test. Federal agencies have expressed interest in and identified legal uses for this information, including civil rights and equal employment enforcement.

The Census Bureau proposes to test question wording, response categories, and placement of sexual orientation and gender identity questions on the questionnaire. Of specific interest is how the questions perform when completed by proxy respondents. In the ACS, one person at an address typically answers questions about everyone living there. When one person answers a survey about others, we call this "proxy reporting." Questions on sexual orientation and gender identity are not currently asked on any federal surveys that use proxy reporting. The test will build on existing qualitative research conducted throughout the federal government and private sector, including work by the Federal Interagency Working Group on Measuring SOGI, the Measuring SOGI Research Group as part of the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology, and the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM).

We are proposing to test up to two versions of the questions using a nationally representative, split-panel test. A sample of housing units will be selected for this test; housing units in sample for the ACS will not be eligible. We are also proposing to test a variation in display of the questions in the internet mode. A follow-up reinterview will also be conducted to assess the reliability and quality of responses.

Building on recommendations from NASEM and OMB Best Practices, the Census Bureau proposes to test a two-step gender identity question: first asking about sex assigned at birth and then asking about current gender. These questions will replace the existing question on sex.

The proposed 'sex assigned at birth' question would ask: What sex was <Name> assigned at birth? *Mark (X) ONE box.* The Census Bureau is

proposing to omit the text, "on your original birth certificate" from the sex assigned at birth question as proposed by NASEM and OMB. Asking the question without this phrase has been used by some federal surveys and cognitively tested without issue (Asking About SOGI in the CPS: Cognitive Interview Results ([census.gov](https://www.census.gov))). Removing the reference to the birth certificate is more culturally sensitive to non-English speakers, some of whom may not have a birth certificate or have seen it. In recent years, many people who have a designation of X on their birth certificate were assigned male or female at birth before their parents chose to use X instead. Removing the birth certificate reference may help parents of those children answer this question. The Census Bureau also proposes to keep the existing order of the male and female categories to address a serious concern about how an inconsistency in the order of male/female categories across Census Bureau surveys could lead to interviewers accidentally selecting the wrong response category. Keeping the male/female order also minimizes the number of changes being tested at once.

The 'current gender' question will be asked only of people who are 15 and older. The proposed question is: What is <Name's> current gender? The response categories will be Male, Female, Transgender, Nonbinary, and "This person uses a different term" (with a space to write in a response). The proposed question stem aligns with the NASEM report recommendations. It refers to the subject of the question in the stem so that respondents are not left to reason what the question is asking based solely on the response options. The wording is also more concise when administered in the proxy version of the question as shown above.

The Census Bureau proposes to add "nonbinary" as a response option. Estimates suggest that over one million adults in the U.S. use this term to describe themselves. In previous research (e.g., CPS pretesting), respondents have commented that this category should be added and that not every person who is nonbinary considers themselves transgender. Data on the nonbinary population was also part of requests from federal agencies.

The OMB best practices suggest using a 'mark all that apply' instruction for the gender question. However, most federal surveys do not use 'mark all that apply' for this question. Additionally, the California Health Interview Survey (CHIS) decided not to implement 'mark all that apply' in part due to concerns about "the potential for increases in

gender minority reporting from those who do not primarily identify as non-cisgender” artificially inflating estimates. Given the lack of consensus in this area, the Census Bureau proposes to test two treatments. A treatment that allows only one response category to be marked will be compared to a treatment that allows multiple categories to be marked.

Consistent with recommendations, a verification question will also be asked for anyone whose answer to the ‘sex assigned at birth’ question and ‘current gender’ question does not match. In addition, for evaluation purposes, the Census Bureau is considering asking the verification question to a sample of respondents whose answers are the same in the two questions. The Census Bureau is also proposing to add an open-ended write-in question to gather additional information about a person’s gender identity for research purposes.

The ‘sexual orientation’ question will be asked only of people who are 15 and older. The proposed question is: Which of the following best represents how <Name> thinks of themselves? With response categories of: Gay or lesbian, Straight—that is not gay or lesbian, Bisexual, and This person uses a different term (with space to write-in a response). This question is in alignment with current recommendations of how to ask about sexual orientation, however it omits an explicit “I don’t know” response category. This approach follows the conventions of the ACS, which does not offer an explicit “don’t know” response option for any topics in the survey to minimize item nonresponse and increase data quality.

Respondents can skip this question on the internet and paper modes. Interviewers can mark “don’t know” and “refusal” in the computer-assisted personal interview (CAPI) instrument.

To help address sensitivity in interviewer-led modes, especially if other household members are present, the Census Bureau is also proposing to use a flashcard for in-person interviews and use numbered response categories for both in person and telephone interviews so that respondents can indicate a response category number to select the appropriate category or categories.

Both the ‘current gender’ and ‘sexual orientation’ question allow a write-in response. In the internet mode we will test two versions of the write in. In the first version the respondent will see the question, response categories, and the write-in field when they get to the screen with the question. In the second version, the respondent will only see the question and response categories when they get to the screen with the question. If the respondent selects the “This person uses a different term” category, then the write-in space will display, and the respondent can provide a write-in response. This display experiment will be embedded within the question wording experiment.

A follow-up content reinterview is also proposed for this test. A subset of the ACS questions will be re-asked in the reinterview to measure response reliability. For half of the reinterview sample, we will reinterview the sample respondent as the original interview, for the other half we will reinterview another adult member of the household.

This will allow us to compare response reliability for proxy vs. self-responses. We will also compare the reliability of the SOGI questions to other questions in the ACS.

II. Method of Collection

Data collection for the test will mirror the data collection protocol for the ACS, which includes internet, paper, telephone, and in-person interviewing. In addition, a content follow-up reinterview will be conducted, most likely by telephone, though other modes such as internet are being considered. Interviews will be administered in English and Spanish.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0607–0936.
Form Number(s): ACS–1, ACS–1(SP), ACS CAPI(HU).

Type of Review: Regular submission, Request for a Revision of a Currently Approved Collection.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: We estimate that 271,680 sampled housing units will respond to the test of the 480,000 housing units sampled for the test. Additionally, responding housing units are eligible for a content follow-up reinterview. We estimate that 65,280 sampled housing units will also complete the reinterview.

Estimated Time per Response: 40 minutes for the average household questionnaire and 20 minutes for the content follow-up reinterview.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 203,015 hours.

	Estimated number of respondents	Estimated burden (in hours)	Total estimated burden hours
ACS interview	271,680	0.667	181,211
Content Follow-up Reinterview	65,280	0.334	21,804
Total			203,015

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$0. (This is not the cost of respondents’ time, but the indirect costs respondents may incur for such things as purchases of specialized software or hardware needed to report, or expenditures for accounting or records maintenance services required specifically by the collection.)

Respondent’s Obligation: Mandatory.
Legal Authority: Title 13 U.S. Code, Sections 141, 193, and 221.

IV. Request for Comments

We are soliciting public comments to permit the Department/Bureau to: (a)

Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the time and cost burden for this proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) Evaluate ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. We will include, or summarize, each comment in our request to OMB to approve this ICR. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we

cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Sheleen Dumas,

Department PRA Clearance Officer, Office of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, Commerce Department.

[FR Doc. 2023-20256 Filed 9-18-23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-07-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Census Bureau

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Automated Export System (AES)

The Department of Commerce will submit the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, on or after the date of publication of this notice. We invite the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed, and continuing information collections, which helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. Public comments were previously requested via the **Federal Register** on November 21, 2022 during a 60-day comment period. This notice allows for an additional 30 days for public comments.

Agency: U.S. Census Bureau, Department of Commerce.

Title: Automated Export System (AES).

OMB Control Number: 0607-0152.

Form Number(s): Automated Export System (AES).

Type of Request: Regular submission, request for extension without change of a currently approved collection.

Number of Respondents: 17,025,219.

Average Hours per Response: 3 minutes per AES transaction.

Burden Hours: 851,261.

Needs and Uses: The Census Bureau requires mandatory filing of all export information via the Automated Export System (AES). This requirement is mandated through Public Law 107-228 of the Foreign Trade Relations Act of 2003. This law authorizes the Secretary of Commerce with the concurrences of the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Homeland Security to require all persons who file export information according to title 13, United States Code (U.S.C.), chapter 9, to file such information through the AES. With this submission, the Census Bureau is

requesting continued clearance of the AES program.

The AES is the primary instrument used for collecting export trade data, which are used by the Census Bureau for statistical purposes. The AES provides the means for collecting data on U.S. exports. Title 13, U.S.C., chapter 9, sections 301-307, mandates the collection of these data. The regulatory provisions for the collection of these data are contained in the Foreign Trade Regulations (FTR), title 15, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), part 30. The official export statistics collected from these tools provide the basic component for the compilation of the U.S. position on merchandise trade. These data are an essential component of the monthly totals provided in the U.S. International Trade in Goods and Services (FT-900) Press Release, a principal federal economic indicator, and a primary component of the Gross Domestic Product. The published export data enable the private and public sector to develop practical marketing strategies as well as provide a means to assess the impact of exports on the domestic economy. These data are used in the development of U.S. Government economic and foreign trade policies, including export control purposes under the Export Control Reform Act of 2018, 50 U.S.C. 4801-4852. The Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS), U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), and other enforcement agencies use these data to detect and prevent the export of certain items by unauthorized parties to unauthorized destinations or end users.

In order to publish accurate export trade statistics, the Census Bureau is responsible for maintaining the FTR, which implements the provisions for filing export information in the AES. In addition to the publication of the FT-900, the Census Bureau releases data on imports of steel mill products in advance of the regular monthly trade statistics release. This exception to the normal procedure was initially approved by the OMB in January 1999 and had been subsequently extended annually through means of a separately submitted memo. This exception has permitted the public release of preliminary monthly data on imports of steel under the provisions of the OMB's Statistical Policy Directive No. 3 on the Compilation, Release and Evaluation of Principal Federal Economic Indicators. With the revision to the AES Program in 2019, the Census Bureau eliminated the need for an annual approval from OMB since it is included in the Information Collection Request (ICR).

With this submission, the Census Bureau is requesting continued clearance of the AES program as a result of the publication of a final rule in the **Federal Register** on August 10, 2023 (88 FR 54234) adding a conditional data element to the AES called the Directorate of Defense Trade Controls Category XXI Determination Number. The final rule will require on the effective date of November 8, 2023 AES filers (the U.S. Principal Party in Interest (USPPI) or the authorized agent) to report the DDTC Category XXI Determination Number only when the DDTC United States Munitions List (USML) Category XXI is selected in the DDTC USML Category Code field in the AES. In calendar year 2022, 156,195 (0.6%) AES records consisted of USML Category XXI commodities.

The Census Bureau published a notice of proposed rulemaking in the **Federal Register** on May 3, 2023 (88 FR 27815) inviting public comments on our plans to add the conditional data element. The Census Bureau gave the public 60 days to comment, and at the conclusion of the 60 days, no comments were received. In the final rule published on August 10, 2023, the Census Bureau sought public comments regarding: whether this proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; the accuracy of the burden estimate; ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

The information collected via the AES conveys what is being exported (description and commodity classification number); how much is exported (quantity, shipping weight, and value); how it is exported (method of transport, exporting carrier, and whether containerized); who the parties to the transaction are (USPPI, authorized agent, and intermediate and ultimate consignees); from where (State of origin and port of export); to where (port of unloading and country of ultimate destination); and when a commodity is exported (date of exportation). Profile information on the USPPI and the authorized agent provides a contact for verification of the information.

The data collected from the AES serves as the official record of export transactions and is used by the U.S. Federal Government and the private sector. The Federal Government uses