

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Submission for OMB Review;
Comment Request**

April 18, 2013.

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 and other forms of information technology.

Comments regarding this information collection received by May 24, 2013 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: Bid for Advertised Timber.
OMB Control Number: 0596-0066.

Summary of Collection: Individuals, large and small businesses, and corporations who wish to purchase timber or forest products from the National Forest must enter into a timber sale contract or Forest product contract with the Forest Service (FS).

Information must be collected by FS in order to ensure that: National Forest System timber is sold at not less than appraised value; bidders meet specific criteria when submitting a bid; and anti-trust violations do not occur during the bidding process. Several statutes, regulations, and policies impose requirements on the Government and purchasers in the bidding process. The FS will collect information using several forms.

Need and Use of the Information: FS will collect information to determine bid responsiveness. The sale officer will ensure: the bidder has signed the bid form; provided a tax identification number; completed the unit rate, weighted average, or total sale value bid; entered the bid guarantee amount, type, and ensure the bid guarantee is enclosed with the bid, the bidder has provided the required information concerning Small Business Administration size and Equal Opportunity compliance on previous sales. The Timber Sale Contracting Officers will use the information to complete the contract prior to award to the highest bidder. Failure to include the required information may result in the bid being declared non-responsive or the Contracting Officer may be unable to make an affirmative finding of purchaser responsibility and not able to award the contract.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit; Individuals or households.

Number of Respondents: 1,455.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 86,940.

Forest Service

Title: Land Exchanges.

OMB Control Number: 0596-0105.

Summary of Collection: Land exchanges are discretionary, voluntary real estate transactions between the Secretary of Agriculture (acting by and through the Forest Service) and a non-Federal exchange party (or parties). Land exchanges can be initiated by a non-Federal party (or parties), and agent of a landowners, a broker, a third party, or a non-Federal public agency. Each land exchange requires preparation of an *Agreement To Initiate*, as required by Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), part 254, subpart C, section 254.4—Agreement to Initiate and Exchange. As the exchange proposal develops, the exchange parties may enter into a binding Exchange Agreement, pursuant to Title 36 CFR part 254, subpart A, section 254.14—Exchange Agreement.

Need and Use of the Information: The *Agreement To Initiate* document specifies the preliminary and on-bidding intentions of the non-Federal land exchange party and the Forest Service in pursuing a land exchange. The *Agreement To Initiate* contains information such as the description of properties considered for exchange, an implementation schedule of action items, identification of the party responsible for each action item, and target dates for completion of action items.

The Exchange Agreement documents the conditions necessary to complete the exchange. It contains information identifying parties, description of lands and interests to be exchanged, identification of all reserved and outstanding interests, and all other terms and conditions that are necessary to complete the exchange.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit; Individuals or households; State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 23.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 88.

Forest Service

Title: Secure Rural Schools Act.

OMB Control Number: 0596-0220.

Summary of Collection: The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (the Act) reauthorized in Public Law 110-343, requires the appropriate official of a county that receives funds under Title III of the Act to submit to the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of the Interior, as appropriate, an annual certification that the funds have been expended for the uses authorized under section 302(a) of the Act. Participating counties will also report amounts not obligated by September 30 of the previous year. The information will be collected annually in the form of conventional correspondence such as a letter and, at the respondent's option, attached tables or similar graphic display. At the respondent's discretion, the information may be submitted by hard copy and/or electronically scanned and included as an attachment to electronic mail.

Need and Use of the Information: The information collected will identify the participating county and the year in which the expenditures were made and will include amounts not obligated by September 30 of the previous year. Information includes the name, title, and signature of the official certifying that the expenditures were for uses authorized under section 302(a) of the

Act, and the date of the certification. Information will also be collected including the amount of funds expended in the applicable year and the uses for which the amounts were expended referencing the authorized categories; (1) Carry out activities under the Firewise Communities program; (2) reimburse the participating county for emergency services performed on Federal land and paid for by the participating county; and (3) to develop community wildfire protection plans in coordination with the appropriate Secretary or designee. The information will be used to verify that participating counties have certified that funds were expended as authorized in the Act.

Description of Respondents: State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 360.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 8,640.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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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.

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Economic Research Service

Title: Rural Establishment Innovation Survey (REIS).

OMB Control Number: 0536-NEW.

Summary of Collection: The Economic Research Service (ERS) plans to conduct the Rural Establishment Innovation Survey (REIS) as a one-time inquiry. The proposed collection will contribute to a better understanding of how international competition and the increasing knowledge intensity of economic activity in the U.S. are affecting the vitality of rural areas and effective adjustment of these pressures. Data obtain from the survey will allow ERS to examine the prevalence of innovation activity in nonmetropolitan businesses and those establishment and community-level characteristics associated with innovation. Information will be collected using a multi-mode survey where respondents will be able to complete the survey via telephone interview or by either completing a questionnaire sent via mail or available electronically through a secure web link. The legal authority for collecting this information is the Rural Development Act of 1972 U.S.C. 2662(b).

Need and Use of the Information: The data collected through the survey will help fill serious gaps in ERS understanding of what rural establishments need to be competitive in the national and global economics and provide USDA and other policymakers with sound information so they can craft more effective rural development policies. The results will inform the degree to which human capital endowments; access to credit; access to infrastructure; and potentially more limited interaction with suppliers, customers, and peer firms impedes processes of rural innovation. Failure to collect this information will severely limit the evidentiary basis for improving the innovative capacity of business

establishments located in less favorable areas.

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

Number of Respondents: 34,000.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 15,369.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Doc. No. AMS-FV-13-0025]

Softwood Lumber Research, Promotion, Consumer Education and Industry Information Order; Request for Extension and Revision of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), this document announces the Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) intention to request approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), for an extension of and revision to the currently approved information collection Softwood Lumber Research, Promotion, Consumer Education and Industry Information Order (Order).

DATES: Comments must be received by June 24, 2013.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments concerning this notice. Comments should be submitted online at www.regulations.gov or sent to the Promotion and Economics Division, Fruit and Vegetable Program, AMS, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Stop 0244, Room 1406-S, Washington, DC 20250-0244, or by facsimile to (202) 205-2800. All comments should reference the document number, the date and the page number of this issue of the **Federal Register**. All comments received will be posted without change, including any personal information provided, online at <http://www.regulations.gov> and will be made available for public inspection at the above physical address during regular business hours.