

effectively collect fees, ensure remittances in a timely manner, and determine proper credit for payment of international air passenger, aircraft clearance, commercial truck, commercial railroad car, commercial vessel, phytosanitary certificate, import/export, and veterinary diagnostic user fees. APHIS no longer receives an appropriation to fund these activities; instead, user fees are calculated and assessed to ensure full cost recovery of each user fee program. If the information was not collected, the Agency would not be able to perform the services since the fees collected will fund the work.

Requestors of our services usually are repeat customers, and, in many cases, request that we bill them for our services. Also, the 1996 Debt Improvement Collection Act requires that agencies collect tax identification numbers (TIN's) from all persons doing business with the Government for purposes of collecting delinquent debts. Without a TIN, service cannot be provided on a credit basis.

We are responsible for ensuring that the fees collected are correct and that they are remitted in full and in a timely manner. To ensure this, the party responsible for collecting and remitting fees (ticketing agents for transportation companies) must allow APHIS personnel to verify the accuracy of the fees collected and remitted, and otherwise determine compliance with the statute and regulations. We also require that whoever is responsible for making fee payments advise us of the name, address, and telephone number of a responsible officer who is authorized to verify fee calculations, collections, and remittances. The requests for our services are in writing, by telephone, or in person. The information contained in each request identifies the specific service requested and the time in which the requester wishes the service to be performed. This information is necessary in order for the animal import centers and port offices to schedule the work and to calculate the fees due.

We have reviewed paperwork requirements of the user fee programs and have made every possible effort to streamline our processes and minimize the impact on the public. Whenever possible, we are using existing billing/collection methods to minimize the cost to the Agency. If the work is not performed, individuals and business entities will not be able to import animals, fruits, vegetables, plants, and animal and plant products.

We are asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to

approve the continued use of this information collection activity.

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public (as well as affected agencies) concerning our information collection. We need this outside input to help us:

- (1) Evaluate 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;
- (2) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- (3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- (4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, through use, as appropriate, of automated, electronic, mechanical, and other collection technologies, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Estimate of burden: The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.03663 hours per response.

Respondents: Arriving international passengers, international means of conveyance, and importers and exporters who wish to import or export animals and animal products.

Estimated annual number of respondents: 17,761.

Estimated annual number of responses per respondent: 11.7773.

Estimated annual number of responses: 209,177.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 7,663 hours. (Due to rounding, the total annual burden hours may not equal the product of the annual number of responses multiplied by the average reporting burden per response.)

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.

Done in Washington, DC, this 3rd day of March 1998.

Craig A. Reed,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 98-5988 Filed 3-6-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 98-011-1]

Notice of Request for Extension of Approval of an Information Collection

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Extension of approval of an information collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's intention to request an extension of approval of an information collection in support of plant pest, noxious weed, and garbage regulations.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by May 8, 1998 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Send comments regarding the accuracy of burden estimate, ways to minimize the burden (such as through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology), or any other aspect of this collection of information to: Docket No. 98-011-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, suite 3C03, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please send an original and three copies, and state that your comments refer to Docket No. 98-011-1. Comments received may be inspected at USDA, room 1141, South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Persons wishing to inspect comments are requested to call ahead on (202) 690-2817 to facilitate entry into the comment reading room.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: For information regarding the plant pest and noxious weed regulations, contact Polly Lehtonen, Botanist, Biological Assessments & Taxonomic Support, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road, Unit 133, Riverdale, MD 20737, (301) 734-4394. For copies of more detailed information on the information collection, contact Ms. Celeste Sickles, APHIS' Information Collection Coordinator, at (301) 734-7477.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Federal Plant Pest and Noxious Weed Regulations.

OMB Number: 0579-0054.

Expiration Date of Approval: August 31, 1998.

Type of Request: Extension of approval of an information collection.

Abstract: The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), United States Department of Agriculture, is responsible for preventing the introduction and dissemination of plant pests, noxious weeds, and communicable livestock and poultry diseases. APHIS is also responsible for eradicating plant pests, noxious weeds, and livestock and poultry diseases when eradication is feasible.

The introduction or establishment of new plant pests, noxious weeds, and communicable diseases of livestock and poultry in the United States could cause multimillion dollar losses to American agriculture.

To prevent the introduction and dissemination of plant pests, noxious weeds, and communicable diseases of livestock and poultry, APHIS engages in a number of information collection activities designed to allow us to determine whether shipments of regulated articles (such as certain plants and soil) that may be imported into the United States or moved interstate present a risk of introducing plant pests, noxious weeds, or communicable diseases of livestock and poultry.

Our primary means of obtaining this vital information is requiring individuals to apply to us for a permit to import regulated articles or to move these articles interstate. The permit application contains such information as the nature and amount of items to be imported or moved interstate, the country or locality of origin and the intended destination, and the intended port of entry in the United States.

This data enables us to evaluate the risks associated with the proposed importation or interstate movement of regulated articles, and also enables us to develop risk-mitigating conditions, if necessary, for the proposed importation or movement.

We also require owners or operators of certain garbage-handling facilities to apply to us for a permit so that they can be approved to process regulated garbage in such a way that it no longer poses a threat of disseminating plant pests or livestock and poultry diseases within the United States.

We are asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve the continued use of these information collection activities.

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public (as well as affected agencies) concerning our information collection activity. We need this outside input to help us:

(1) Evaluate 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;

(2) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, through use, as appropriate, of automated, electronic, mechanical, and other collection technologies, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Estimate of burden: The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .80966 hours per response.

Respondents: Importers and shippers of plant pests, noxious weeds, and other regulated articles; State plant health authorities; owners or operators of regulated garbage-handling facilities.

Estimated annual number of respondents: 40,912.

Estimated annual number of responses per respondent: 1.1361.

Estimated annual number of responses: 46,480.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 37,633 hours. (Due to rounding, the total annual burden hours may not equal the product of the annual number of responses multiplied by the average reporting burden per response.)

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.

Done in Washington, DC, this 3rd day of March 1998.

Craig A. Reed,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 98-5989 Filed 3-6-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Establishment of Lake Tarleton Purchase Unit

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Establishment of Lake Tarleton Purchase Unit.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of Agriculture created the 2,514-acre Lake Tarleton Purchase Unit in Grafton County, New Hampshire. A copy of the establishment document, which includes the legal description of the lands within the

purchase unit, appears at the end of this notice.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Establishment of this purchase unit was effective January 7, 1998.

ADDRESSES: A copy of the map depicting the lands within the purchase unit is on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Director, Lands Staff, 201 14th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jack Craven, Lands Staff, Forest Service, USDA, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, D.C. 20090-6090, telephone: (202) 205-1248.

Dated: February 26, 1998.

Gloria Manning,

Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest System.

Lake Tarleton Purchase Unit—Warren & Piermont Townships, Grafton County, New Hampshire

Pursuant to the Secretary of Agriculture's authority under Section 17, P.L. 94-588 (90 Stat. 2949), the lands as described hereto are within the Lake Tarleton Purchase Unit:

A tract of land lying and being in Warren and Piermont Townships, Grafton County, New Hampshire, being more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at the corner common to the Towns of Piermont, Haverhill, Benton and Warren.

Thence southerly with the Town Line common to Piermont and Warren and with Proclamation Boundary #1449 (May 16, 1918) 2700 feet.

Thence leaving said Piermont/Warren Town Line and continuing with said Proclamation Boundary #1449 in the Town of Benton southeasterly and southerly to an intersection with the centerline of State Route #25C.

Thence with said centerline of Route 25C northwesterly, at 4200 feet pass the Warren/Piermont Town Line, in all 6500 feet to an intersection with the centerline of a stream flowing out of Lake Armington.

Thence up said out flow of Lake Armington to the natural high water mark of Lake Armington.

Thence with said natural high water mark of Lake Armington as it meanders southerly to lands of Nardone Family Trust.

Thence westerly with said lands of Nardone Family Trust and lands of Roy 300 feet to lands of Meadows End Timberlands, Ltd.

Thence northwesterly with said lands of Meadows End Timberlands 8700 feet to lands of Rodimon.

Thence northeasterly with said lands of Rodimon to an intersection with the centerline of said Route 25C.