

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.

AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Establishment of the U.S. Agency for International Development as an Executive Agency

AGENCY: U.S. Agency for International Development.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Agency for International Development ("USAID") gives notice of the establishment of USAID as an Executive agency and the abolition of the U.S. International Development Cooperation Agency ("IDCA"). Under the provisions of the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998, as contained in Public Law 105-277, IDCA was abolished and USAID was established as an Executive agency, effective April 1, 1999.

DATES: Effective April 1, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jan Miller, Office of General Counsel, 202-712-4174; jmillers@usaid.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the provisions of the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998, as contained in Public Law 105-277, IDCA was abolished and USAID was established as an Executive agency, effective April 1, 1999.

Elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal Register**, USAID has amended chapter II of title 22 of the Code of Federal Regulations to delete the reference to IDCA. The abolition of IDCA does not affect the status and validity of USAID regulations, directives, rulings, policies; they continue in effect.

Singleton B. McAllister,
General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 99-7969 Filed 3-31-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6116-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency

Commodity Credit Corporation

Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCIES: Farm Service Agency and the Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, this notice announces the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) intention to request an extension for a currently approved information collection. This information is used to support payment eligibility determinations for the Conservation Reserve Program, the Price Support Program, and the Production Flexibility Contract Program authorized by the Agricultural Marketing Transition Act.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received on or before June 1, 1999 to be assured consideration.

Additional Information and Comments: Contact James Baxa, Agricultural Program Specialist, Production, Emergencies, and Compliance Division, Farm Service Agency, United States Department of Agriculture, STOP 0517, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-0517, (202) 720-4189, facsimile (202) 720-4941.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Payment Eligibility and Payment Limitation Determinations for the receipt of program benefits under the Conservation Reserve Program, Price Support Program, and the Production Flexibility Contract Program.

OMB Control Number: 0560-0096.

Expiration Date of Approval: April 30, 1999.

Type of Request: Extension and revision of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The collection of this information is necessary to determine the eligibility of individuals and entities for program payments for various programs administered by Farm Service Agency, on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation, including the Conservation Reserve Program, Price Support Programs, and the Production Flexibility Contract Program. The

regulations at 7 CFR part 1400 provide for an "actively engaged in farming" determination be made for individuals or entities, with respect to a particular farming operation, in order to determine their eligibility for payments under covered programs. The regulations at 7 CFR part 1400 also require a determination of "person" as defined in the same regulations for the use in limiting payments to an amount specified in each of the covered programs. These programs impact a potential participant universe of 2,000,000 respondents. Forms CCC-502A, CCC-502B, CCC-502C, CCC-502D, CCC-502EZ, CCC-501A, and CCC-501B will continue to be used for making determinations under part 1400, as will ASCS-561, ASCS-561A, and ASCS-561B, which are used for these purposes in connection with the Conservation Reserve Program. The forms are not required to be completed on an annual basis. Once the appropriate forms are submitted and the corresponding determinations made, the producer is not required to provide this information again, unless there is a substantial change in the farming operation or status of the producer requesting program benefits that would affect the payment eligibility and payment limitation determinations previously made.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to be 52 minutes per response.

Respondents: Producers who, as owner, landlord, tenant, or sharecropper, are involved in the farming operations and who would seek benefits under the Conservation Reserve Program, Price Support and the Production Flexibility Contract Programs.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 351,960.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: To determine initial eligibility or when a substantial change in operations or status occurs.

Estimated Total Burden Hours: 305,032.

Proposed topics for comment include, but are not limited to: (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 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; or (4) ways to minimize the burden of collection on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of informational technology. Comments regarding this information collection requirement should be directed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Attention: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Washington, DC 20503, and to Diane Sharp, Director, Production, Emergencies, and Compliance Division, Farm Service Agency, United States Department of Agriculture, STOP 0517, Room 4754-South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-0517.

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

Signed at Washington, D.C., on March 24, 1999.

Parks Shackelford,

Acting Administrator, Farm Service Agency, and Acting Executive Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.

[FR Doc. 99-7873 Filed 3-31-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Significant Amendment of the Land and Resource Management Plan of the Ouachita National Forest for Managing Approximately 111,580 Acres of Acquired Lands in McCurtain County, OK

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 1604(f)(4), the Forest Service will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the decision to amend the Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) for the Ouachita National Forest. Comments should focus specifically on the preliminary proposal described below and on possible alternatives.

The current Forest Plan, which provides programmatic guidance for management of the Ouachita National Forest, was implemented in 1986 and subsequently has been amended 30 times (including a significant amendment in 1990 that resulted in the publication of a new Forest Plan.) As many as six primary decisions may be made in the amendment described in this notice: (a) Modification of forest-wide goals, objectives, standards, and/or guidelines (if needed); (b) allocation of lands and waters to management areas; (c) identification of lands suitable for timber production; (d) re-determination of forest-wide allowable sale quantity (ASQ) (if needed); (e) identification of lands suitable and potentially available for cattle grazing; and (f) determination

of the eligibility and suitability of the Glover and Mountain Fork Rivers for possible Congressional designation under the National Wild and Scenic River System (NWSRS).

Significant amendments to Forest Plans follow the same procedures required for the development and approval of forest plans (36 CFR part 219.10(f)), including completion of an EIS. The Forest Service determined that the amendment discussed in this notice will be significant because (a) it will establish goals, objectives, management areas, standards, and guidelines for a block of approximately 111,580 acres of acquired lands newly added to the National Forest System (the "Broken Bow unit") and (b) as a result of allocating these lands to management areas, this amendment may change the overall desired future condition of the Ouachita National Forest. An EIS is also needed because the analysis conducted during the amendment process may result in a recommendation to Congress concerning possible additions to the NWSRS.

As part of the overall effort to ensure that treaty rights are honored and responsibilities to American Indian Tribes are met, the Forest Service will consult and exchange information routinely with affected and interested Tribes on a government-to-government basis throughout this amendment process. The Forest Service will also work closely with local governments, State and Federal agencies, and elected officials.

The environmental analysis and decision-making process will include the following opportunities for public participation and comment:

Estimated date	Step	Public involvement
Late March 1999	Publish formal Notice of Intent (with preliminary proposal).	30-day formal comment period; Newsletter; press releases, Web site.
Mid-May 1999	Summarize issues in response to the proposal and amendment.	Workshop Newsletter, Web page update.
By mid-June 1999	Develop alternatives	Mailing, Web page update; Workshop and informal meetings, if needed.
July 1999	Issue draft EIS	Invite public comment; 90-day formal review; Workshop and informal meetings; Newsletter, press releases, Web site update.
December 1999	Issue amendment and EIS	Newsletter, press releases, Web site update.

The Forest Service will meet with interested groups, organizations, and individuals to discuss the proposed amendment. The agency will also host at least one workshop in McCurtain County, Oklahoma, to present and clarify the preliminary proposal, describe ways the public can participate in the process, and accept comments from the public on the proposal for

amending the Forest Plan. The Forest Service will also consider comments received at any time during the amendment process.

Following the publication of this Notice of Intent (NOI), a draft EIS will be prepared and published. The draft EIS will include a preferred alternative with specific language to amend the Forest Plan. This preferred

alternative will be developed based on issues that are raised in response to the preliminary proposal presented in this NOI. The Forest Service will then again actively seek information, comments, and assistance from Federal, State and local agencies and from individuals and organizations that may be interested in or affected by the preferred alternative in the draft EIS. It is very important that