

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

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 99-056-1]

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 the National Animal Health Monitoring System's Layers '99 national study.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by November 29, 1999, to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: We invite you to comment 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. Please send your comment and three copies to: Docket No. 99-056-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Suite 3C03, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. 99-056-1.

You may read any comments that we receive on this docket in our reading room. The reading room is located in room 1141 of the USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC. Normal reading room hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 690-2817 before coming.

APHIS documents published in the **Federal Register**, and related information, including the names of organizations and individuals who have commented on APHIS rules, are available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/rad/webrepor.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information regarding the Layers '99 data collection activity, contact Ms. Marj Swanson, Program Specialist, Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health, VS, APHIS, 555 S. Howes, Fort Collins, CO 80521; (970) 490-7978. For copies of more detailed information on the information collection, contact Ms. Cheryl Groves, APHIS' Information Collection Coordinator, at (301) 734-5360.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: National Animal Health Monitoring System.

OMB Number: 0579-0079.

Expiration Date of Approval: December 31, 1999.

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

Abstract: The mission of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services, is to protect and improve the health, quality, and marketability of U.S. livestock and poultry by preventing, controlling, and monitoring animal diseases. Collection and dissemination of animal and poultry health data and information are mandated by 7 U.S.C. 391, the Animal Industry Act of 1884, which established the precursor of Veterinary Services, the Bureau of Animal Industry. Legal requirements for examining and reporting on animal disease control methods were further mandated by 21 U.S.C. 119, amended February 7, 1928, "Agents to examine and report on methods of treatment of animals and means for suppression of diseases."

Veterinary Services' National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) is charged with collecting, on a national basis, statistically valid and scientifically sound data on the prevalence and economic importance of livestock and poultry health and disease. Information from these national studies is disseminated to and used by animal and poultry producers, consumers, animal health officials, private practitioners, animal industry groups, policymakers, public health officials, media, educational

institutions, and others to improve productivity and competitiveness.

NAHMS national studies have evolved into a collaborative industry and government initiative to help improve the quality of, and to determine the most effective production of, animal and poultry health and disease. Participation in a NAHMS study is strictly voluntary and confidential.

Layers '99 will collect data that will be used to describe baseline health and management practices used by the U.S. table egg layer industry, to estimate flock prevalence of *Salmonella enteritidis*, to identify potential risk factors associated with the presence of *Salmonella enteritidis*, to support and enhance quality assurance programs, and to describe biosecurity measures being used by the industry and their effects on flock health.

We are asking the Office of Management and Budget 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 these information collection activities. These comments will:

(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 0.9048 hours per response.

Respondents: Industry personnel, private veterinary practitioners, company and independent producers, academicians, as well as other interested parties involved with poultry health and management practices in the United States.

Estimated annual number of respondents: 2,657.

Estimated annual number of responses per respondent: 3.2013.

Estimated annual number of responses: 8,506.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 7,697 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 24th day of September 1999.

Bobby R. Acord,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 99-25426 Filed 9-29-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-U

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Revision of the Land and Resource Management Plan for the Tonto National Forest Located in Gila, Maricopa, Pinal and Yavapai Counties, Arizona

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: Pursuant to 36 CFR 219.10(g), the Regional Forester for the Southwestern Region gives notice of the agency's intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Revised Tonto National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). According to 36 CFR 219.10(g), Forest Plans are ordinarily revised on a 10-year cycle or at least every 15 years. The existing Tonto National Forest Plan was approved on October 31, 1985 and has been amended 23 times. The proposed action is to update the amended Forest Plan, make format changes and edit to improve clarity, and modify based on needs determined through the EIS process.

The responsible official for approving the Forest Plan revision is Eleanor S. Towns, Regional Forester, Southwestern Region, USDA Forest Service, 517 Gold Avenue SW, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102. The Forest Supervisor, Tonto National Forest, is delegated responsibility for preparing the environmental impact statement.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis (the need to revise, add or delete specific sections of the Forest

Plan) should be received in writing by December 31, 1999. The Draft EIS should be available for public review in September 2002. The Final EIS and revised Forest Plan should be completed by March 2004.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Charles R. Bazan, Forest Supervisor, Tonto National Forest, 2324 E. McDowell Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85006, Attn: Forest Plan Revision.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Eddie Alford, Planning Group Leader or Paul Stewart, Acting Team Leader, (602) 225-5200.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The requirement and process for developing, adopting and revising land and resource management plans for the National Forest System are defined by the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended and the National Forest Management Act of 1976. Implementing regulations are defined at Title 36, Chapter II, Part 219, Subpart A of the Code of Federal Regulations (36 CFR 219, Subpart A).

The Forest Supervisor has amended the Forest Plan, pursuant to 36 CFR 219.10(f), 23 times since its adoption in 1985. The "Five Year Review" was completed and approved on November 4, 1991. This report identified changed conditions and demands, and identified amendment and revision needs. In addition, new laws and revisions to the Code of Federal Regulations have resulted in the need to update portions of the Forest Plan.

Initiation of the Forest Plan revision process has been delayed since 1995 pending finalization of proposed changes to National Forest System planning regulations, which would significantly alter the current process. Amendments continued to be processed and approved to address immediate needs. Currently proposed or needed amendments may be acted upon, consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act, during the Forest Plan revision process. Regulations at 36 CFR 219.10(g) require that the Tonto National Forest proceed with revision at this time using existing planning regulations, regardless of the status of currently proposed changes in the regulations.

The content of the Forest Plan is prescribed in planning regulations (36 CFR 219.11) and includes:

(a) A brief summary of the management situation including demand and supply conditions for commodities and services, production potentials, and use and development opportunities;

(b) Forest multiple-use goals and objectives that include a description of the desired future condition of the Forest and an identification of the quantities of goods and services that are expected to be produced or provided during the planning period;

(c) Multiple-use prescriptions and associated standards and guidelines for each management area including proposed and probable management practices; and

(d) Monitoring and evaluation requirements that will provide a basis for a periodic determination and evaluation of the effects of management practices.

Planning regulations (36 CFR 219.13) also require that area planning for specific individual resources be integrated into the Forest Plan. These individual resource-planning requirements include but are not limited to:

(a) Timber resource land suitability (219.14);

(b) Roadless areas, unless otherwise provided by law (219.17);

(c) Grazing resource suitability (219.20);

(d) Recreation resource, including the visual resource (219.21); and

(e) Research natural areas (219.25).

Alternatives required by implementing regulations of the National Forest Management Act and the National Environmental Policy Act will be considered during the planning process. An alternative addressing the Resource Planning Act (RPA) program tentative resource objectives, a "no action" alternative that reflects the current Forest Plan direction, and a reasonable range of alternatives will be developed to respond to public issues, management concerns and resource opportunities identified during the planning process (36 CFR 219.12; 40 CFR 1501.7, 1502.14). The initial proposed action is to update the amended Forest Plan by reformatting and editing to improve clarity, and to ensure direction is consistent with new laws and regulations.

The Forest Service hereby gives notice that it is beginning a full environmental analysis and decision making process for this proposal so that interested or potentially affected people may know how they may contribute to the final decision. The Forest Service invites comments and suggestions from Federal, State, and local governments and agencies, Native American tribes, individuals, organizations and businesses on the scope of the analysis to be included in the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS). The scope of the analysis is limited to