

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**National Agricultural Statistics Service****Notice of Intent To Seek Approval to Conduct an Information Collection**

AGENCY: National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. No. 104-13) and Office of Management and Budget regulations at 5 CFR part 1320 (60 FR 44978, August 29, 1995), this notice announces the intent of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) to request approval for an information collection, the *Women on U.S. Farms Survey*.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by June 8, 2000 to be assured of consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Contact Rich Allen, Associate Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Room 4117 South Building, Washington, D.C. 20250-2000, (202) 720-4333.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Women on U.S. Farms Survey.

Type of Request: Intent to Seek Approval to Conduct an Information Collection.

Abstract: The goal of this National Agricultural Statistics Service and Penn State University co-operative project is to expand the knowledge base concerning the participation of women in U.S. agriculture. This knowledge will be useful for formulating policy related to agriculture and rural development and will also be helpful for social and economic researchers interested in farming and agriculture. Farm women have been found to contribute substantially to agricultural production through their involvement in farm work, farm decisions, and agricultural organizations. The U.S. Census of Agriculture, the major source of data about agricultural production and farm operators in the United States, undercounts women's involvement in farm enterprises because only one operator per farm is counted. In addition, no national-level study has sought information about women's participation in agriculture since 1980. We have only limited information about how changes in agriculture and farming have affected women's work on farms and their participation in decisions related to farming. The findings from the proposed study will provide

information for developing government policies that can more effectively serve women as well as men who live and work on farms. Policies and programs that lower structural barriers and increase opportunities for women can improve the economic viability of U.S. farms.

The project addresses the following objectives: (1) To analyze the nature and extent of women's participation in farm operations in the U.S. today, including their participation in farm tasks, farm decision-making, farm organizations, and government agriculture programs; to ascertain the variation in such involvement by region, type of farm, and the socio-demographic characteristics of the women themselves; and to describe changes that have occurred in the last 20 years. (2) To assess the current participation of women on U.S. farms in nonfarm work, including the type and extent of off-farm employment, nonfarm self-employment, and involvement in the informal economy and changes in nonfarm work patterns since 1980.

The sample is 5,000 farms operated as sole proprietorships, partnerships, or family corporations. The respondent will be the farm operator, if a woman, or the wife of the male farm operator at each of the selected farms. While it is anticipated that the overwhelming majority of farm operators will be men, most are expected to have spouses present in the household. The projected usable sample of farm women is thus approximately 4,000 cases. In addition, 500 farm men will be interviewed to compare the work of farm men and women and to identify differences in men's and women's perceptions of women's involvement in the farm enterprise. The men who will be interviewed will be spouses or partners of 500 of the farm women who are interviewed in the study. All interviews will be conducted using a computer-assisted telephone interviewing system, which provides for quality control monitoring of interviews, managing call scheduling and call-backs, automatic record keeping, question presentation, and response recording. Approximately two weeks prior to the beginning of the interviews, letters will be sent to the sample members explaining the purpose of the study and alerting them to the coming call.

These data will be collected under the authority of 7 U.S.C. 2204(a). Individually identifiable data collected under this authority are governed by Section 1770 of the Food Security Act of 1985, 7 U.S.C. 2276, which requires USDA to afford strict confidentiality to

non-aggregated data provided by respondents.

Estimate of Burden: Test interviews indicated that the women's interview will require approximately 28 minutes and the men's approximately 20 minutes. There will be a pre-survey letter mailed to all 5,000 in the sample.

Respondents: Female and male farm operators.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 4,000 women and 500 men.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 2,400 hours.

Copies of this information collection and related instructions can be obtained without charge from Ginny McBride, Agency OMB Clearance Officer, at (202) 720-5778.

Comments: Comments are invited on: (a) 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; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (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 or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to: Ginny McBride, Agency OMB Clearance Officer, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Room 4162 South Building, Washington, D.C. 20250-2000. All responses to this notice will become a matter of public record and be included in the request for OMB approval.

Signed at Washington, D.C., March 6, 2000.

Rich Allen,

Associate Administrator.

[FR Doc. 00-8248 Filed 4-3-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-20-P

**ARCHITECTURAL AND
TRANSPORTATION BARRIERS
COMPLIANCE BOARD**
**Passenger Vessel Access Advisory
Committee; Meeting**

AGENCY: Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance

Board (Access Board) has established an advisory committee to assist it in developing a proposed rule on accessibility guidelines for newly constructed and altered passenger vessels covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act. This document gives notice of the dates, times, and location of the next meeting of the Passenger Vessel Access Advisory Committee (committee).

DATES: The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for April 26 through 28, 2000, beginning at 9:00 a.m. and ending at 6:00 p.m. each day.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in the 3rd floor training room at 1331 F Street, NW, Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul Beatty, Office of Technical and Information Services, Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board, 1331 F Street, NW., suite 1000, Washington, DC 20004-1111. Telephone number (202) 272-5434 extension 119 (Voice); (202) 272-5449 (TTY). E-mail address: pvaac@access-board.gov. This document is available in alternate formats (cassette tape, Braille, large print, or computer disk) upon request. This document is also available on the Board's Internet Site at <http://www.access-board.gov/notices/pvaacmtg.htm>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board) established a Passenger Vessel Access Advisory Committee (committee) to assist the Board in developing proposed accessibility guidelines for newly constructed and altered passenger vessels covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act. 63 FR 43136 (August 12, 1998). The committee is composed of owners and operators of various passenger vessels; persons who design passenger vessels; organizations representing individuals with disabilities; and other individuals affected by the Board's guidelines.

The meeting is open to the public and interested persons can attend and communicate their views. Members of the public will have an opportunity to address the committee on issues of interest to them and the committee during the public comment period generally scheduled at the end of each meeting day. Members of groups, or individuals who are not members of the committee, may also have the opportunity to participate with subcommittees of the committee. Additionally, all interested persons will have the opportunity to comment when the proposed accessibility guidelines for

passenger vessels are issued in the **Federal Register** by the Access Board.

The facility is accessible to individuals with disabilities. Individuals who require sign language interpreters or real-time captioning systems should contact Paul Beatty by April 18, 2000. Notices of future meetings will be published in the **Federal Register**.

Lawrence W. Roffee,

Executive Director.

[FR Doc. 00-8202 Filed 4-3-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8150-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 010600C] [A]

Notice of Decision and Availability of Decision Documents on the Issuance of Permits for Incidental Take of Threatened and Endangered Species

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Commerce

ACTION: Notice of decision and availability of decision documents on the issuance of a permit (1232) for incidental takes of endangered and threatened species.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that a decision on the application for an incidental take permit by the State of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and the State of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), has been made and that the decision documents are available upon request.

DATES: Permit 1232 was issued on March 15, 2000, subject to certain conditions set forth therein, and expires on December 31, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Requests for copies of the decision documents or any of the other associated documents should be directed to the Protected Resources Division (PRD), F/NWR3, NMFS, 525 NE Oregon Street, Suite 500, Portland, OR 97232-2737 (503-230-5400).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert Koch, Portland, OR (ph: 503-230-5424, fax: 503-230-5435, e-mail: robert.koch@noaa.gov).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following species, evolutionary significant units (ESU's), and runs are covered in the permit:

Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*): threatened Snake River (SnR) spring/summer, endangered upper Columbia River (UCR) spring.

Sockeye salmon (*O. nerka*): endangered SnR.

Steelhead (*O. mykiss*): endangered UCR.

Decision

Notice was published on February 3, 2000 (65 FR 5322) that ODFW and WDFW jointly applied for a section 10(a)(1)(B) permit for incidental takes of ESA-listed anadromous fish adults associated with otherwise lawful sport and commercial fisheries on non-listed species in the lower and middle Columbia River and its tributaries in the Pacific Northwest. ODFW and WDFW submitted a Conservation Plan with their permit application that describes measures designed to monitor, minimize, and mitigate the incidental taking of ESA-listed anadromous salmonids associated with some or all of the winter/spring/summer fisheries that are expected to occur during 2000. Specifically, this Conservation Plan and Permit cover only those species, ESU's, and runs identified above which occur primarily in Columbia River mainstem fisheries through July 2000. Incidental take of other listed species, ESU's and runs during the conduct of fall season fisheries (i.e., SnR fall chinook, SnR steelhead) are not authorized by this permit and will require a separate application from ODFW and WDFW.

NMFS' decision is to adopt the preferred alternative in the Conservation Plan together with the preferred alternative in the Environmental Assessment that was completed for this permit action and issue a permit with conditions authorizing incidental takes of the ESA-listed anadromous fish species. This decision is based on a thorough review of the alternatives and their environmental consequences. NMFS' conditions will ensure that the incidental takes of ESA-listed anadromous fish will not appreciably reduce the likelihood of the survival and recovery of the species in the wild. By adopting the preferred alternative in the Conservation Plan, with the Conservation Plan's stated assurances that ODFW and WDFW's mitigation program will be implemented, all practicable means to avoid or minimize harm have been adopted.

ODFW and WDFW requested incidental takes of threatened lower Columbia River (LCR) chinook salmon, threatened upper Willamette River (UWR) chinook salmon, threatened SnR steelhead, threatened middle Columbia River (MCR) steelhead, threatened LCR