

implementation. Until all of the paper food coupons issued are redeemed, the Redemption Certificate will remain an essential document to the food stamp redemption process.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before May 6, 2005 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to: Andrea Gordon, Chief, Redemption Management Branch, Benefit Redemption Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 404, Alexandria, VA 22302. Comments may also be submitted via fax to the attention of Andrea Gordon at (703) 305-1863 or via e-mail to: brdhq-web@fns.usda.gov.

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 the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

All written comments will be open for public inspection at the office of the Food and Nutrition Service during regular business hours (8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday) at 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, Virginia 22302, Room 404.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval. All comments will be a matter of public record.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of this information collection should be directed to Andrea Gordon, (703) 305-2456.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Food Stamp Redemption Certificate.

OMB Number: 0584-0085.

Form Number: FNS-278B and FNS-278-4.

Expiration Date: February 28, 2005.

Type of Request: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture is the Federal Agency responsible for the Food Stamp Program

(FSP). Section 10 of the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, (7 U.S.C. 2019) requires that FNS provide for the redemption, through financial institutions, of food coupons accepted by retail food stores and wholesale food concerns from program participants. 7 CFR 278.3 and 7 CFR 278.4 of the FSP regulations governs the participation of authorized wholesale food concerns and retail stores in the food coupon redemption process. Form FNS-278B, Food Stamp Redemption Certificate and Form FNS-278-4, Wholesaler Redemption Certificates (RCs) are required to be used by all authorized wholesalers or retailers, and are processed by financial institutions when they are presented for cash or credit. Without the RCs, no vehicle would exist for financial institutions, Federal Reserve Banks, and FNS to track deposits of food coupons.

The burden associated with this form is derived from the numbers of RCs processed annually, based on information available in our Store Tracking and Redemption System database. As of September 2004, the number of program respondents was 152,499 retailers and wholesalers and 5,850 banks participating in the FSP. The number of completed RC responses by authorized retailers was 438,955 annually. We estimate that it takes an average of 1.2 minutes (or .020 hours) for a retailer to complete the information on the RC and for the financial institution to handle and process the document.

For this information collection package, we calculated the burden hours from each year, added them together (2005-2007) and divided by three to obtain the average burden for which we are seeking OMB approval. We estimate the average burden hours for the next three years to be 69.501 hours.

The burden for each of the three fiscal years (FYs) are estimated as follows:

In FY 2005, we estimate the number of program respondents will be 7,624 respondents with 5,850 banks continuing to participate in the FSP—a reduction of 144,874 (or 95 percent) respondents. We also estimate that the number of completed RC responses by authorized retailers to be 8,779.1 annually—providing for a reduction of 430,175.9 (or 95 percent) annual responses, and a total burden hours calculated to be 175.582 hours.

In FY 2006, we estimate the number of program respondents will be 2,668.73 respondents with 5,850 banks continuing to participate in the FSP—a reduction of 4,956.22 (or 65 percent) respondents. We also estimate that the

number of completed RC responses by authorized retailers to be 1,316.86 annually—providing for a reduction of 7,462.23 (or 85 percent) annual responses, and a total burden hours calculated to be 26.337 hours.

In FY 2007, we estimate the number of program respondents will be 667.18 respondents with 5,850 banks continuing to participate in the FSP—a reduction of 2,001.55 (or 75 percent) respondents. We also estimate that the number of completed RC responses by authorized retailers to be 329.217 annually—providing for a reduction of 987.66 (or 75 percent) annual responses, and a total burden hours calculated to be 6.584 hours.

The estimated reduction of respondents and annual burden hours is based on a projected decrease in the number of authorized retailers participating in the FSP, and a decrease in the number of RCs processed as a result of fewer authorized retailers accepting paper food coupons due to FNS phasing out the use of paper food coupons.

Respondents: Businesses, wholesale food concerns, or other not-for-profit financial institutions.

Estimated Average Number of Respondents: 3,653.62.

Estimated Annual Number of Responses per Respondent: 0.951.

Estimated Total Average Annual Responses: 3,475.062.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .020 hours per response.

Estimated Total Average Annual Burden: 69.501 hours.

Dated: March 1, 2005.

Roberto Salazar,

Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service.

[FR Doc. 05-4298 Filed 3-4-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-30-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

2005 Forest Land Recovery Program

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of program implementation.

SUMMARY: The Military Construction Appropriations and Emergency Hurricane Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2005 (Pub. L. 108-324) makes \$10,000,000 available to the Secretary of Agriculture to provide assistance to eligible nonindustrial private forest landowners who suffered losses during 2004, as a result of hurricane, tropical

storm, or related events for the purposes of debris removal, replanting of timber, and other related purposes. The USDA Forest Service will administer this program, in partnership with State forestry agencies in the States of Alabama and Florida, where significant loss and damage to forest resources has occurred.

DATES: Assistance will be made available to eligible landowners from March 2005 until such time as all funds are expended.

ADDRESSES: Information about the Forest Land Recovery Program can be obtained by writing to the USDA Forest Service, Cooperative Forestry Staff headquarters located at 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-1123.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karl R. Dalla Rosa, Cooperative Forestry Staff, (202) 205-6206.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

National Program Administration

All program funds will be administered by the Chief of the Forest Service through the Forest Service Regional Forester, in partnership with State forestry agencies in the States of Alabama and Florida, where significant damage and loss to private forest resources has occurred. The State Foresters shall use all program funds to provide cost-share assistance to non-industrial private forest landowners in their States, who suffered losses to hurricanes and tropical storms during the 2004 hurricane season. All funds will be accounted for in accordance with Federal financial accounting standards. The Chief has final authority to resolve all issues that may arise in the administration of these funds.

State Program Administration

The State Foresters shall make all program funds available, as cost-share assistance to eligible landowners as follows:

1. For the purposes of site preparation (including debris removal), planting and other purposes related to the restoration of damaged or lost forest resources.
2. Following the preparation of a management or practice plan that identifies the needed practices, specifications, and performance period for the implementation of the practice(s) to achieve the forest restoration objectives of the landowner.
3. As reimbursements for practices completed on a 75% cost-share basis.
4. Consistent with appropriate per acre cost-share rate maximums for eligible practices, as established by the

State Foresters, through this or existing cost-share programs.

5. No single landowner shall receive more than \$75,000 total in cost-share assistance.

6. No single landowner shall receive assistance for the treatment of more than 1000 acres of forestland.

Landowner Eligibility Requirements for Cost-Share Assistance

A landowner is eligible for program assistance if all of the following requirements are met:

1. The landowner is an individual, group, association, corporation, Indian Tribe, or other legal private entity owning not more than 5,000 acres of timber producing forest land (or a person who has received concurrence from the landowner for practice implementation and who holds a lease on the land for a minimum of 10 years). Corporations whose stocks are publicly traded or owners principally engaged in the primary processing of raw wood products are excluded.

2. The landowner owns forest land in either Florida or Alabama, where significant forest resource loss or damage has occurred as a result of one or more hurricane or tropical storm during the 2004 hurricane season. The landowner has not received, nor will receive cost-share assistance from the USDA Farm Service Agency under Public Law 108-324, Section 101(c), the Tree Assistance Program.

Recapture of Cost-Share Assistance

Payments made to landowners may be recaptured under one or more of the following circumstances:

1. If any landowner, successor, or assignee uses any scheme or device to unjustly benefit from this program. A scheme or device includes, but is not limited to, coercion, fraud or misrepresentation, false claims, or any business dissolution, reorganization, revival, or other legal mechanism designed for or having the effect of evading the requirements of this program. Financial assistance payments shall be withheld or a refund of all or part of any cost-share payments otherwise due or paid to that person shall be secured.
2. If any landowner or successor takes any action or fails to take action, which results in the destruction or impairment of a prescribed practice for the duration of the practice. Cost-share payments shall be withheld or a recapture of all or part of any cost-share payments otherwise due or paid shall be secured, based on the extent and effect of destruction and impairment.

3. If it is determined that the landowner has also received assistance from the USDA Farm Service Agency under H.R. 4837, Section 101(c)(2), the Tree Assistance Program.

Landowner Application Information

Eligible landowners may apply for program assistance at their local office of the Florida Division of Forestry or the Alabama Forestry Commission.

Dated: February 25, 2005.

Sally Collins,
Associate Chief.

[FR Doc. 05-4322 Filed 3-4-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Yakutat Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Yakutat Resource Advisory Committee will meet in Yakutat, Alaska. The purpose of the meeting is continue business of the Yakutat Resource Advisory Committee. The committee was formed to carry out the requirements of the Secure Rural Schools and Self-Determination Act of 2000. The agenda for this meeting is to review submitted project proposals and consider recommending projects for funding. Project proposals are due by March 7, 2005 to be considered at this meeting.

DATES: The meeting will be held March 18, 2005 from 6-9 p.m. and will continue on March 19, 2005 from 9-12 a.m., if necessary.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Kwaan Conference Room, 712 Ocean Cape Drive, Yakutat, Alaska. Send written comments to Tricia O'Connor, c/o Forest Service, USDA, P.O. Box 327, Yakutat, AK 99689, (907) 784-3359 or electronically to poconnor@fs.fed.us.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tricia O'Connor, District Ranger and Designated Federal Official, Yakutat Ranger District, (907) 784-3359.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting is open to the public. Council discussion is limited to Forest Service staff and Council members. However, persons who wish to bring resource projects or other Resource Advisory Committee matters to the attention of the Council may file written statements with the Council staff before or after the meeting. Public input sessions will be provided and individuals who made written requests by March 7, 2005 will