

(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.

Send comments to Jane Duffield, Chief, Payment Accuracy Branch, Food and Nutrition Service, USDA, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 818, Alexandria, Virginia, 22302.

All comments will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the information collection. All comments will become a matter of public record.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Leslie Byrd at (703) 305-2472.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Federal Claims Collection Methods for Food Stamp Program Recipient Claims.

OMB Number: 0584-0446.

Form Number: None.

Expiration Date: September 30, 2006.

Type of Request: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: Section 13(b) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended (7 U.S.C. 2022(b)), and Food Stamp Program (FSP) regulations at 7 CFR 273.18 require State agencies to refer debtors for food stamp benefit over-issuance to the U.S. Department of the Treasury for collection. The Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996, 31 U.S.C. 3701, *et seq.*, requires these debts to be referred to Treasury for collection when they are 180 days or more delinquent. Through the Treasury Offset Program (TOP), 31 CFR Part 285, payments such as Federal income tax refunds, Federal salaries and other Federal payments payable to these delinquent debtors will be offset and the amount applied to the delinquent debt. TOP places a burden on States agencies and/or former food stamp recipients who owe delinquent debts in three areas: 60-day notices from State agencies to debtors that their debt will be referred to TOP; State-level submissions; and automated data processing (ADP).

TOP 60-Day Notice Proposed Burden

The proposed burden associated with the 60-day notice involves both the debtors and the State agencies. The 60-day notice notifies the debtor of the

proposed referral to TOP and provides the right for review and appeal. The State agency prepares and mails the notices as well as responds to inquiries and appeals. The debtor, in turn, receives and reads the notice and may make an inquiry or appeal the impending action. Based on an average of the number of records for claims the States proposed to send to TOP for calendar years 2003, 2004 and 2005, we estimate that State agencies will send out and that debtors will read 291,336 notices. In addition, we estimate that the debtors will submit and State agencies will respond to about 2,900 inquiries and appeals. The total number of responses being proposed for the 60-day notice portion of the proposed burden is 588,472 respondents (291,336 notices + 2,900 follow-up inquiries and appeals times 2) per year resulting in an annual reporting and recordkeeping burden of 41,745 hours. The existing burden for activity relating to the 60-day notice is 39,549 hours based on 558,132 respondents. The net increase of 2,196 hours is due to the fact that State agencies have increased the number of debts they are adding to TOP and this is increasing the number of 60 day notices sent to debtors.

TOP State-Level Submissions

Treasury prescribes specific processes and file formats for FNS to use to send debts to TOP. FNS provides guidance and file formats to State agencies and monitors their compliance with such. State agencies must submit specified documents and/or information to FNS and FNS sends required information to Treasury. The first such document is an annual letter to FNS certifying that all of the debts submitted by the State agency to TOP are valid and legally enforceable in the amount stated. The second document certifies that Internal Revenue Service (IRS) information is safeguarded in accordance with IRS instructions. Lastly, State agencies report TOP collections on the FNS-209 Status of Claims against Households report. (The burden for the remainder of the FNS-209 report is already covered under OMB burden number 0584-0069).

FNS estimates that it will take State agencies a total of 135 hours per year for these State submissions. There is no change in the number of hours required for these reports from the previous submission.

TOP ADP Proposed Burden

The proposed burden for ADP includes weekly file processing, monthly address requests and system maintenance. Weekly and monthly file processing includes requesting

addresses to use to send out 60-day notices, adding and maintaining debts in TOP, correcting errors on unprocessable records, and posting weekly collection files. Much of this activity is completed using automation and involves an estimated 1.9 million records annually. FNS estimates that this activity takes 17,017 annual reporting and recordkeeping burden hours. This is an increase of 578 hours over the previous submission because of the increased number of records.

Summary of Estimated Burden

The net aggregate change from the existing to the proposed annual burden for this entire Proposed Collection is an increase of 2,773 hours over the previous submission. For the activity relating to the 60-day notice, we are increasing the estimated annual burden for State agencies and debtors from 39,549 hours to 41,745 hours to reflect an increase in the number of notices sent to debtors. The State-level submissions portion of the reporting and recordkeeping burden is estimated to require the same number of hours as the previous submission. The annual ADP portion of this burden package is being increased from 16,439 to 17,017 hours primarily to reflect the processing associated with the additional 60 day notices and associated records.

Affected Public: State and local government, and food stamp households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 294,236.

Number of Responses per Respondent: 6.08.

Total Number of Annual Responses: 1,790,109.

Estimated Hours per Response: 0.03.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 58,896 hours.

Dated: May 18, 2006.

George A. Braley,

Acting Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Plumas County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC)

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Plumas County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will hold a meeting on June 2, 2006, in Quincy, CA. The purpose of the meeting is to review

final applications for the 6th and final cycle of funding under the Title 2 provisions of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000. Selected projects will be recommended to the Plumas (PNF) or Lassen (LNF) National Forest Supervisor for funding.

DATES & ADDRESSES: The meeting will take place from 9–4 at the Mineral Building—Plumas/Sierra County Fairgrounds, 208 Fairgrounds Road, Quincy, CA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lee Anne Schramel Taylor, Forest Coordinator, USDA, Plumas National Forest, P.O. Box 11500/159 Lawrence Street, Quincy, CA, 95971; (530) 283-7850; or by e-mail eataylor@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Agenda items for the June 2 meeting include: (1) Forest Service Update; (2) Review final applications submitted for Cycle 6 funding consideration/select projects to be recommended to Forest Supervisors for funding consideration; and, (3) Review future meeting schedule and agenda. The meetings are open to the public and individuals may address the Committee after being recognized by the Chair. Other RAC information including previous meeting agendas and minutes may be obtained at http://www.notes.fs.fed.us:81/r4/payments_to_states.

Dated: May 18, 2006.

Fred J. Krueger,

Public Services Staff Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Hood/Willamette Resource Advisory Committee (RAC)

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Action of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Hood/Willamette Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will meet on Friday, June 29, 2006. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. and will conclude at approximately 12 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Express; 105 Opal Street, NE., Albany, Oregon; (541) 928-8820. The tentative agenda includes: (1) Recommendations on 2007 Projects; and (2) Public Forum.

The Public Forum is tentatively scheduled to begin at 9:15 a.m. Time allotted for individual presentations will be limited to 3–4 minutes. Written comments are encouraged, particularly

if the material cannot be presented within the time limits for the Public Forum. Written comments may be submitted prior to the June 29th meeting by sending them to Designated Federal Official Donna Short at the address given below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For more information regarding this meeting, contact Designated Federal Official Donna Short; Sweet Home Ranger District; 4431 Highway 20; Sweet Home, Oregon 97386; (541) 367-3540.

Dated: May 17, 2006.

Scott G. Fitzwilliams,

Deputy Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 06-4852 Filed 5-24-06; 8:45 am]

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ARCTIC RESEARCH COMMISSION

Invitation for the Public To Provide Recommendations to the U.S. Arctic Research Commission Regarding Future Goals for U.S. Arctic Research

AGENCY: Arctic Research Commission.

ACTION: Invitation for public comments and recommendations.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Arctic Research Commission is drafting its biennial report to the President an Congress on goals for the U.S. Arctic research program, due in January 2007. This notice is an invitation to the Arctic research community and the public at large to provide recommendations to the Commission for consideration in its “Report on Goals and Objectives 2007.”

Arctic research is conducted by 15 agencies of the United States government and is coordinated by the Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee (IARPC) chaired by the National Science Foundation. Recent focus of U.S. Arctic research spans a number of goals and objectives including the study of Arctic climate change, geophysics, health of Arctic ecosystems, health of Arctic residents, assessment of Arctic resources, and studies of Arctic infrastructure. Under the Arctic Research and Policy Act of 1984, the seven citizen members of the U.S. Arctic Research Commission provide goals for that program which, if approved by the President, are incorporated into the nation’s five year Arctic Research Plan. In its last report in 2005, submitted to the President and Congress, the Commission sought five broad research objectives for programs integrated across Federal agencies. The Commission also made specific recommendations to Federal agencies

for work within their own programs, for international coordination of research and for investment in Arctic research infrastructure.

The public is invited to participate in the Commission’s formulation of its recommendations for the 2007 Goals Report. We invite your comments and recommendations regarding the future U.S. Arctic research program and the Arctic research priorities of the Federal agencies. Comments should be addressed to Kathy Farrow at the Commission offices by e-mail at k.farrow@arctic.gov (in the subject line please insert “goals report”) or by fax 1-703-525-0114, and should be received at the Commission’s Arlington, Virginia office by no later than 1 July 2006.

The Commission will meet to hear public comment and invited testimony regarding the future U.S. Arctic research program on the following dates:

Barrow, Alaska: 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.,

Tuesday, 27 June 2006 at the Inupiat Heritage Center.

Anchorage, Alaska: 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.,

Thursday, 29 June 2006 at the North Pacific Research Board, 1007 West 3rd Avenue, Suite 100, Anchorage.

Individuals wishing to address recommendations directly to the Commission while it is in session in Barrow or Anchorage should request a time slot from the Commission by e-mail or fax in advance of their desire to speak. They should include their name, address and telephone number. Speakers are limited to a maximum of five (5) minutes each. Written amplification of their public comments will be accepted at that time. Speaking period will be assigned on a first come, first served basis.

Copies of the “Report on Goals and Objectives 2005” and other documents of the Commission may be found at <http://www.arctic.gov>.

Any person planning to attend this meeting who requires special accessibility features and/or auxiliary aids, such as sign language interpreters, must inform the Commission in advance of those needs.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kathy Farrow, U.S. Arctic Research Commission, 703-525-0111 or TDD 703-306-0090.

George B. Newton,

Chair, U.S. Arctic Research Commission.

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