

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Submission for OMB Review;
Comment Request**

October 4, 2006.

The Department of Agriculture has submitted the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Comments regarding (a) 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; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; (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 should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), OIRA_Submission@OMB.EOP.GOV or fax (202) 395-5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, DC 20250-7602. Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of this notification. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720-8681.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Rural Housing Service

Title: 7 CFR Part 1924-A, Planning and Performing Construction and Other Development.

OMB Control Number: 0575-0042.

Summary of Collection: The Rural Housing Service (RHS) is the credit agency for rural housing and community development within the Rural Development mission area of the United States Department of Agriculture. RHS offers a supervised credit program to build modest housing

and essential community facilities in rural areas. Section 501 of Title V of the Housing Act of 1949, authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to extend financial assistance to construct, improve, alter, repair, replace, or rehabilitate dwellings, farm buildings and/or related facilities to provide decent, safe sanitary living conditions and adequate farm building and other structures in rural areas.

Need and Use of the Information: RHS provides several forms to assist in the collection and submission of information. The information will be used to determine whether a loan/grant can be approved; to ensure that RHS has adequate security for the loans financed; to monitor compliance with the terms and conditions of the agency loan/grant and to monitor the prudent use of Federal funds. If the information is not collected and submitted, RHS would have no control over the type and quality of construction and development work planned and performed with Federal funds.

Description of Respondents: Individuals or households; Business or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions; Farms.

Number of Respondents: 25,340.

Frequency of Responses:

Recordkeeping; Report: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 117,858.

Charlene Parker,

*Departmental Information Collection
Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. E6-16727 Filed 10-10-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XT-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Submission for OMB Review;
Comment Request**

October 5, 2006.

The Department of Agriculture has submitted the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Comments regarding (a) 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; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; (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 should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB),

OIRA_Submission@OMB.EOP.GOV or fax (202) 395-5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, DC 20250-7602. Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of this notification. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720-8681.

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Rural Business Service

Title: Intermediary Re-lending Program.

OMB Control Number: 0570-0021.

Summary of Collection: The objective of the Intermediary Relending Program (IRP) is to improve community facilities and employment opportunities and increase economic activity in rural areas by financing business facilities and community development. This purpose is achieved through loans made by the Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS) to intermediaries that establish programs for the purpose of providing loans to ultimate recipients for business facilities and community development. The Food Security Act of 1985 provides USDA with the authority to make loans to nonprofit entities who will in turn provide financial assistance to rural businesses to improve business, industry and employment opportunities as well as provide a diversification of the economy in rural areas.

Need and Use of the Information: The information requested is necessary for RBS to process applications in a responsible manner, make prudent credit and program decisions, and effectively monitor the intermediaries' activities to protect the Government's financial interest and ensure that funds obtained from the Government are used appropriately. Various forms are used to include information to identify the intermediary, describe the intermediary's experience and expertise, describe how the intermediary will operate its revolving loan fund, provide

for debt instruments, loan agreements, and security, and other material necessary for prudent credit decisions and reasonable program monitoring.

Description of Respondents: Not-for-profit institutions; Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 202.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 17,959.

Charlene Parker,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. E6-16752 Filed 10-10-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency

Finding of No Significant Impact

AGENCY: Farm Service Agency, USDA.

SUMMARY: The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is issuing a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 with respect to the implementation of the following Disaster Assistance Programs: (1) Hurricane Indemnity Program, (2) Feed Indemnity Program, (3) Livestock Indemnity Program, (4) Tree Indemnity Program, and (5) Aquaculture Grant Program as well as (6) the 2006 Livestock Assistance Grant Program.

DATES: This action is effective November 13, 2006.

ADDRESSES: The Final Programmatic Environmental Assessment and FONSI may be reviewed at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/cepd/epb/assessments.htm>. Written comments should be directed to Mike Linsenbigler, USDA/FSA/CEPD/Stop 0513, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-0513. Electronic comments may be submitted to Mike.Linsenbigler@wdc.usda.gov. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication (Braille, large print, audio tape, etc.) should contact the USDA Target Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: FSA prepared a Final Programmatic Environmental Assessment for disaster assistance programs supporting production loss and damage caused by damaging weather that occurred between 2005 and 2006. Consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321, *et seq.*) (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the

Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), and FSA's policy and procedures (7 CFR part 799), FSA is issuing a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) with respect to the implementation of the Proposed Action under consideration here. These actions involve 2005-2006 disaster assistance programs that solely transfer funds to offset production and disaster related losses with no site-specific or ground-disturbing actions occurring as an immediate result of implementing these programs. These programs include the following Disaster Assistance Programs: (1) Hurricane Indemnity Program, (2) Feed Indemnity Program, (3) Livestock Indemnity Program, (4) Tree Indemnity Program, (5) Aquaculture Grant Program, and (6) the 2006 Livestock Assistance Grant Program. Because normal agricultural related production was hindered by the widespread and significant destruction caused by the 2005 hurricanes and the severe droughts occurring from March 7, 2006, to August 31, 2006, the Secretary is responding by utilizing the equivalent of 30 percent of annual customs revenues available under Section 32 to restore purchasing power to affected eligible producers.

Current disaster programs operated by USDA and other Federal and State agencies do not fully cover the types of loss and destruction experienced by a majority of producers within the States affected by these hurricanes and drought. Without the immediate financial assistance provided by these programs, producers would face delays and experience additional financial hardships in their efforts to return their farming or livestock operations to pre-disaster or pre-drought levels.

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, FSA would disburse up to \$300 million either through direct payments to eligible producers or through grants administered by State agencies for the grant programs. In making direct payments, FSA does not require that payments be used for specific purposes. These programs solely provide payments to eligible producers for weather-related losses. The direct-payment programs are based on the producers documenting the type and amount of the weather-related loss.

Determination: In consideration of the analysis documented in the Final Programmatic Environmental Assessment and the reasons outlined in this FONSI, the preferred alternative would not constitute a *major* State or Federal action that would significantly affect the human environment. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act regulations at 40 CFR part 1502.4, "Major Federal

actions requiring the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements," and 7 CFR Part 799, "Environmental Quality and Related Environmental Concerns—Compliance with NEPA implementing the regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality," and 40 CFR parts 1500-1508, I find that neither the proposed action nor any of the alternatives analyzed constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. Therefore, no environmental impact statement will be prepared.

Signed in Washington DC on October 2, 2006.

Glen L. Keppy,

Acting Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

[FR Doc. E6-16734 Filed 10-10-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Notice of New Fees; Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (Title VIII, Pub. L. 108-447)

AGENCY: Chugach National Forest, USDA Forest Service.

ACTION: Notice of new fees.

SUMMARY: The Chugach National Forest will begin charging fees for a group campsite, cabins, individual campsites, and a backcountry permit for the Whistle Stop project area. Fees for other group campsites, cabins, and individual campsites on the Chugach National Forest have shown that the public values the availability of these facilities. In addition, market research conducted for the Whistle Stop project shows that people understand the need for backcountry permits given the remote nature of the area. Fees will be commensurate with the benefits and services provided. Funds received from the fees will be used for the continued operation and maintenance of the facilities and enhanced services of the area.

DATES: Backcountry Permits will be available spring 2007 for the 2007 Whistle Stop season. The group campsite, individual campsites, and cabins are expected to be available in 2008.

ADDRESSES: Forest Supervisor, Chugach National Forest, 3301 C Street, Anchorage, AK 9503.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Adam McClory, Whistle Stop Project Manager, 907-754-2352.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Federal Recreation Lands Enhancement