

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

Food and Nutrition Service

National School Lunch, Special Milk, and School Breakfast Programs; National Average Payments/Maximum Reimbursement Rates

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This Notice announces the annual adjustments to: The "national average payments," the amount of money the Federal Government provides States for lunches, afterschool snacks and breakfasts served to children participating in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs; the "maximum reimbursement rates," the maximum per lunch rate from Federal funds that a State can provide a school food authority for lunches served to children participating in the National School Lunch Program; and the rate of reimbursement for a half-pint of milk served to nonneedy children in a school or institution which participates in the Special Milk Program for Children. The payments and rates are prescribed on an annual basis each July. The annual payments and rates adjustments for the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs reflect changes in the Food Away From Home series of the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers. The annual rate adjustment for the Special Milk Program reflects changes in the Producer Price Index for Fluid Milk Products. These payments and rates are in effect from July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Barbara Semper, Acting Section Chief, School Programs Section, Policy and Program Development Branch, Child Nutrition Division, Food and Nutrition Service, USDA, 3101 Park Center Drive,

Room 640, Alexandria, VA 22302 or phone (703) 305-2590.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Special Milk Program for Children

Pursuant to section 3 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1772), the Department announces the rate of reimbursement for a half-pint of milk served to nonneedy children in a school or institution that participates in the Special Milk Program for Children. This rate is adjusted annually to reflect changes in the Producer Price Index for Fluid Milk Products, published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor.

For the period July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003, the rate of reimbursement for a half-pint of milk served to a nonneedy child in a school or institution which participates in the Special Milk Program is 13.50 cents. This reflects a decrease of 6.83 percent in the Producer Price Index for Fluid Milk Products from May 2001 to May 2002 (from a level of 157.9 in May 2001 to 147.1 in May 2002).

As a reminder, schools or institutions with pricing programs that elect to serve milk free to eligible children continue to receive the average cost of a half-pint of milk (the total cost of all milk purchased during the claim period divided by the total number of purchased half-pints) for each half-pint served to an eligible child.

National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs

Pursuant to Sections 11 and 17A of the National School Lunch Act, (42 U.S.C. 1759a and 1766a), and Section 4 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, (42 U.S.C. 1773), the Department annually announces the adjustments to the National Average Payment Factors and to the maximum Federal reimbursement rates for lunches and afterschool snacks served to children participating in the National School Lunch Program and breakfasts served to children participating in the School Breakfast Program. Adjustments are prescribed each July 1, based on changes in the Food Away From Home series of the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor. The changes in the national average payment rates for schools and residential child care institutions for the

period July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003 reflect a 2.6 percent increase in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers during the 12-month period May 2001 to May 2002 (from a level of 173.1 in May 2001 to 177.6 in May 2002). Adjustments to the national average payment rates for all lunches served under the National School Lunch Program, breakfasts served under the School Breakfast Program, and afterschool snacks served under the National School Lunch Program are rounded down to the nearest whole cent.

Lunch Payment Levels

Section 4 of the National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1753) provides general cash for food assistance payments to States to assist schools in purchasing food. The National School Lunch Act provides two different Section 4 payment levels for lunches served under the National School Lunch Program. The lower payment level applies to lunches served by school food authorities in which less than 60 percent of the lunches served in the school lunch program during the second preceding school year were served free or at a reduced price. The higher payment level applies to lunches served by school food authorities in which 60 percent or more of the lunches served during the second preceding school year were served free or at a reduced price.

To supplement these Section 4 payments, Section 11 of the National School Lunch Act provides special cash assistance payments to aid schools in providing free and reduced price lunches. The Section 11 National Average Payment Factor for each reduced price lunch served is set at 40 cents less than the factor for each free lunch.

As authorized under Sections 8 and 11 of the National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1757, 1759a), maximum reimbursement rates for each type of lunch are prescribed by the Department in this Notice. These maximum rates are to ensure equitable disbursement of Federal funds to school food authorities.

Afterschool Snack Payments in Afterschool Care Programs

Section 17A of the National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1766a) establishes National Average Payments for free, reduced price and paid afterschool

snacks as part of the National School Lunch Program.

Breakfast Payment Factors

Section 4 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773) establishes National Average Payment Factors for free, reduced price and paid breakfasts served under the School Breakfast Program and additional payments for free and reduced price breakfasts served in schools determined to be in "severe need" because they serve a high percentage of needy children.

Revised Payments

The following specific Section 4, Section 11 and Section 17A National Average Payment Factors and maximum reimbursement rates for lunch, the afterschool snack rates, and the breakfast rates are in effect from July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003. Due to a higher cost of living, the average payments and maximum reimbursements for Alaska and Hawaii are higher than those for all other States. The District of Columbia, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and Guam use the figures specified for the contiguous States.

National School Lunch Program Payments

Section 4 National Average Payment Factors—In school food authorities which served *less than 60 percent* free and reduced price lunches in School Year 2000–01, the payments for meals served are: *Contiguous States*—paid

rate—20 cents, free and reduced price rate—20 cents, maximum rate—28 cents; *Alaska*—paid rate—33 cents, free and reduced price rate—33 cents, maximum rate—44 cents; *Hawaii*—paid rate—24 cents, free and reduced price rate—24 cents, maximum rate—32 cents. In school food authorities which served 60 percent or more free and reduced price lunches in School Year 2000–01, payments are: *Contiguous States*—paid rate—22 cents, free and reduced price rate—22 cents, maximum rate—28 cents; *Alaska*—paid rate—35 cents, free and reduced price rate—35 cents, maximum rate—44 cents; *Hawaii*—paid rate—26 cents, free and reduced price rate—26 cents, maximum rate—32 cents.

Section 11 National Average Payment Factors—*Contiguous States*—free lunch—194 cents, reduced price lunch—154 cents; *Alaska*—free lunch—314 cents, reduced price lunch—274 cents; *Hawaii*—free lunch—226 cents, reduced price lunch—186 cents.

Afterschool Snacks in Afterschool Care Programs—The payments are: *Contiguous States*—free snack—58 cents, reduced price snack—29 cents, paid snack—5 cents; *Alaska*—free snack—95 cents, reduced price snack—47 cents, paid snack—8 cents; *Hawaii*—free snack—68 cents, reduced price snack—34 cents, paid snack—6 cents.

School Breakfast Program Payments

For schools "not in severe need" the payments are: *Contiguous States*—free

breakfast—117 cents, reduced price breakfast—87 cents, paid breakfast—22 cents; *Alaska*—free breakfast—187 cents, reduced price breakfast—157 cents, paid breakfast—32 cents; *Hawaii*—free breakfast—137 cents, reduced price breakfast—107 cents, paid breakfast—24 cents.

For schools in "severe need" the payments are: *Contiguous States*—free breakfast—140 cents, reduced price breakfast—110 cents, paid breakfast—22 cents; *Alaska*—free breakfast—223 cents, reduced price breakfast—193 cents, paid breakfast—32 cents; *Hawaii*—free breakfast—163 cents, reduced price breakfast—133 cents, paid breakfast—24 cents.

Payment Chart

The following chart illustrates: the lunch National Average Payment Factors with the Sections 4 and 11 already combined to indicate the per lunch amount; the maximum lunch reimbursement rates; the reimbursement rates for afterschool snacks served in afterschool care programs; the breakfast National Average Payment Factors including "severe need" schools; and the milk reimbursement rate. All amounts are expressed in dollars or fractions thereof. The payment factors and reimbursement rates used for the District of Columbia, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and Guam are those specified for the contiguous States.

BILLING CODE 3410-30-P

| SCHOOL PROGRAMS | | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------------|-------------|----------------------------------|
| MEAL, SNACK AND MILK PAYMENTS TO STATES AND SCHOOL FOOD AUTHORITIES | | | | |
| Expressed in Dollars or Fractions Thereof | | | | |
| Effective from July 1, 2002 - June 30, 2003 | | | | |
| NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM * | | LESS THAN 60% | 60% OR MORE | MAXIMUM RATE |
| CONTIGUOUS STATES | PAID | .20 | .22 | .28 |
| | REDUCED PRICE | 1.74 | 1.76 | 1.91 |
| | FREE | 2.14 | 2.16 | 2.31 |
| ALASKA | PAID | .33 | .35 | .44 |
| | REDUCED PRICE | 3.07 | 3.09 | 3.32 |
| | FREE | 3.47 | 3.49 | 3.72 |
| HAWAII | PAID | .24 | .26 | .32 |
| | REDUCED PRICE | 2.10 | 2.12 | 2.29 |
| | FREE | 2.50 | 2.52 | 2.69 |
| SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM | | NON-SEVERE NEED | | SEVERE NEED |
| CONTIGUOUS STATES | PAID | .22 | | .22 |
| | REDUCED PRICE | .87 | | 1.10 |
| | FREE | 1.17 | | 1.40 |
| ALASKA | PAID | .32 | | .32 |
| | REDUCED PRICE | 1.57 | | 1.93 |
| | FREE | 1.87 | | 2.23 |
| HAWAII | PAID | .24 | | .24 |
| | REDUCED PRICE | 1.07 | | 1.33 |
| | FREE | 1.37 | | 1.63 |
| SPECIAL MILK PROGRAM | | ALL MILK | PAID MILK | FREE MILK |
| PRICING PROGRAMS WITHOUT FREE OPTION | | .1350 | N/A | N/A |
| PRICING PROGRAMS WITH FREE OPTION | | N/A | .1350 | Average cost per ½ pint of milk. |
| NONPRICING PROGRAMS | | .1350 | N/A | N/A |
| AFTERSCHOOL SNACKS SERVED IN AFTERSCHOOL CARE PROGRAMS | | | | |
| CONTIGUOUS STATES | PAID | .05 | | |
| | REDUCED PRICE | .29 | | |
| | FREE | .58 | | |
| ALASKA | PAID | .08 | | |
| | REDUCED PRICE | .47 | | |
| | FREE | .95 | | |
| HAWAII | PAID | .06 | | |
| | REDUCED PRICE | .34 | | |
| | FREE | .68 | | |

* Payments listed for Free & Reduced Price Lunches include both sections 4 and 11 funds.

BILLING CODE 3410-30-C

This action is not a rule as defined by the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601-612) and thus is exempt from the provisions of that Act.

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3507),

no new recordkeeping or reporting requirements have been included that are subject to approval from the Office of Management and Budget.

This action is exempted from review by the Office of Management and Budget under Executive Order 12866.

National School Lunch, School Breakfast and Special Milk Programs are listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under No. 10.555, No. 10.553 and No. 10.556, respectively, and are subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, which requires

intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials. (See 7 CFR part 3015, subpart V, and the final rule related notice published at 48 FR 29114, June 24, 1983.)

Authority: Sections 4, 8, 11 and 17A of the National School Lunch Act, as amended, (42 U.S.C. 1753, 1757, 1759a, 1766a) and sections 3 and 4(b) of the Child Nutrition Act, as amended, (42 U.S.C. 1772 and 42 U.S.C. 1773(b)).

Dated: June 27, 2002.

Roberto Salazar,
Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service.
[FR Doc. 02-16694 Filed 7-2-02; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3410-30-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Dixie National Forest, Utah, Duck Creek Fuels Treatment Analysis

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: The USDA Forest Service will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to implement fuels treatments in the Duck Creek area, within the Cedar City Ranger District, Dixie National Forest, Utah. The agency gives notice of the full environmental analysis and decision-making process that will occur on the proposal so that interested and affected people may become aware of how they can participate in the process and contribute to the final decision.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received by thirty days after publication of this Notice Of Intent in the **Federal Register**. The draft environmental impact statement is expected in June, 2002. The final environmental impact statement is expected in January, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to: Duck Creek Fuels Treatment Analysis Coordinator, Cedar City Ranger District, Dixie National Forest, 1789 Wedgewood, P.O. Box 627, Cedar City, Utah 84720.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Duck Creek Fuels Treatment Analysis Coordinator, Cedar City Ranger District, Dixie National Forest, 1789 Wedgewood, P.O. Box 627, Cedar City, Utah 84720.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed treatments will implement direction in the National Fire Plan, a USDA/USDI effort to reduce impacts of wildfires on people and resources. In August, 2000 President Clinton directed

the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior to reduce the impacts of wildland fires on rural communities. The Secretaries subsequently developed the National Fire Plan. This direction was followed by congressionally-approved plans that funded "hazardous fuel reduction" near urban interface areas.

The National Fire Plan directs Federal agencies within USDA/USDI to engage states and local communities in reducing forest fuels, using a variety of fuel reduction treatments (Mechanical, prescribed fire and intensive manual treatment). Hazardous fuel reduction is a critical investment necessary to reduce fire risk and fire suppression costs into the future and is focused on areas near communities and interface areas that the States have judged to be in harm's way of a wildfire.

The analysis area of 25,741 acres of National Forest system lands is located thirty miles east of Cedar City, Utah. The analysis area includes six tracts of private lands which are surrounded by National Forest lands. The tracts are subdivided into residential lots and contain an estimated 1,900 homes and 10 businesses. The specific subdivisions are as follows:

| Subdivision | Legal location (approximate) Salt Lake base meridian |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1. Meadow View Heights. | T38S R7w Sec 6 |
| 2. Mirror Lake | T38S R7W Sec 5,8 |
| 3. Movie Ranch | T38S R7W Sec 7 |
| 4. Movie Ranch South. | T38S R7W Sec 7 |
| 5. Color Country | T38S R7W Sec 8,17 |
| 6. Timber Trails | T38S R7W Sec 7,17,18 |
| 7. Ponderosa Villa | T38S R7W Sec 16 |
| 8. Strawberry Valley .. | T38S R7W Sec 20,21 |
| 9. Swains Creek | T38S R7W Sec 26,2 |
| 10. Blackman Hill | T38S R7W Sec 26,27 |
| 11. Harris Springs | T38S R7W Sec 26 |
| 12. Swains Creek Pines. | T38S R7W Sec 33,34 |
| 13. Ponderosa Ranch | T38S R7W Sec 24; T38S R6W Sec 19 |
| 14. Zion View Mtn Estates. | T38S R8W Sec 2 |
| 15. Duck Creek Pines | T38S R7W Sec 7 |

The private lands were designated an "urban interface community at risk from wildfires on National Forestlands" by the Chief of the Forest Service (66FR 43383, August 17, 2001). This designation meant that Federal funds from the National Fire Plan could be spent to reduce fuels on National Forestlands adjacent to the private lands.

Historic prevention and suppression of wildfire has resulted in ever-

increasing accumulations of forest fuels. These buildups of forest fuels increase the risk of high intensity fires to the National Forest and to large private subdivisions within the forest boundary. The extensive development and high recreation use have also increased the threat of human-caused fires. A high intensity fire occurring within this area would cause significant damage to property and natural resources. Reducing the risk of wildfires in these areas would provide the best opportunity to protect National Forestlands and adjacent private properties. The Forest Service has determined that the fuels treatment objectives will be met without harvesting trees over nine inches in diameter.

Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose of this project is to modify existing, high fuel loads that influence fire behavior in National Forest lands adjacent to private lands in the Duck Creek Area. There is a need to reduce minute, hour, ten-hour and hundred-hour fuels adjacent to private property and in the defensible fire space zone. There is a need to change the structure and composition of the fuels throughout the project area, especially in aspendominated sites. There is a need to change the characteristics of the residual trees by removing ladder fuels from the ground to eight feet high. Changing these fuels characteristics and reducing the fuel loads would help reduce the risk of property damage and allow sufficient time for firefighters to directly attack and control a wildfire before housing and other developments are threatened or destroyed. The fuel elements that need to be treated are as follows:

Element 1—Ground Fuels Reduction

Current fuel loads adjacent to private lands range from 20–50 tons per acre. The desired condition of the area immediately surrounding the subdivisions, Defensible Fire Space (DFS), is to have fuel loads reduced to 5–10 tons per acre, a level that would not sustain a high intensity wildfire.

The current fuel loads range from 20–50 tons per acre in the general forest area outside of the DFS. Reducing the fuel loads in the general forest area to 10–15 tons per acre would slow the spread of fire and would reduce the potential for a fire to spread into the crowns of the trees.

Element 2—Ladder Fuels Reduction

Lower branches and small trees currently extend from the ground upward, the ladder a fire would climb