

(from 162.8 in May 1998 to 166.2 in May 1999) in the series for all items of the CPI for All Urban Consumers, published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor.

The total amount of payments available to each State agency for distribution to institutions participating in the program is based on the rates contained in this notice.

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. This notice has been determined to be exempt under Executive Order 12866.

This program is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under No. 10.558 and is 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 final rule related notice published at 48 FR 29114, June 24, 1983.)

This notice imposes no new reporting or recordkeeping provisions that are subject to Office of Management and Budget review in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501-3518).

Authority: Secs. 4(b)(2), 11a, 17(c) and 17(f)(3)(B) of the National School Lunch Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1753(b)(2), 1759a, 1766(f)(3)(B)) and section 4(b)(1)(B) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1773(b)(1)(B)).

Dated: July 2, 1999.

Samuel Chambers, Jr.,
Administrator.

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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, 1999 through June 30, 2000.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Mary Jane Whitney, Section Chief, School Programs Section, Policy and Program Development Branch, Child Nutrition Division, Food and Nutrition Service, USDA, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 1007, Alexandria, VA 22302 or phone (703) 305-2620.

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 which 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 (Code 0231), published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor.

For the period July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000, 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 12.75 cents. This reflects a decrease of 1.41 percent in the Producer Price Index for Fluid Milk Products (Code 0231) from May 1998 to May 1999 (from a level of 141.7 in May 1998 to 139.7 in May 1999).

As a reminder, schools or institutions with pricing programs which 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, 1999 through June 30, 2000 reflect a 2.49 percent increase in the Price Index during the 12-month period May 1998 to May 1999 (from a level of 160.6 in May 1998 to 164.6 in May 1999).

Section 103(b) of the William F. Goodling Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act of 1998, Pub. L. 105-336, enacted October 31, 1998 amended section 11(a)(3)(B) of the National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1759a(a)(3)(B)) and changed the method of computing the annual adjustments to the national average payment rates for meals and afterschool snacks served to *needy* children. Effective July 1, 1999, the annual adjustments to the payment rates for free and reduced price meals under section 11(a)(2) of the National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1759a(a)(2)), section 4 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773) and section 17A(c) of the National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1766a(c)), authorized under section 11(a)(3)(B) of the National School Lunch Act are rounded down to the nearest whole cent. This complements section 704(b) of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, Pub. L. 104-193, enacted August 22, 1996, which amended section 11(a)(3)(B) of the National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1759a(a)(3)(B)) to change the method for computing the annual adjustments to the national average payment rates for meals and afterschool snacks served to *nonneedy* children. Effective July 1, 1997, the annual adjustments to the payment rates for *paid* meals under Section 4 of the National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1753), and Section 4 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773)

and *paid* afterschool snacks under section 17A(c) of the National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1766a(c)), authorized under section 11(a)(3)(B) of the National School Lunch Act, were rounded down to the nearest whole cent. Thus, these two statutory amendments implement a provision wherein annual 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 breakfast rates are in effect from July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000. 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 1997–98, the payments for meals served are: *Contiguous States*—paid rate—19 cents, free and reduced price rate—19 cents, maximum rate—27 cents; *Alaska*—paid rate—30 cents, free and reduced price rate—30 cents, maximum rate—42 cents; *Hawaii*—paid rate—22 cents, free and reduced price rate—22 cents, maximum rate—31 cents.

In school food authorities which served *60 percent or more* free and reduced price lunches in School Year 1997–98, payments are: *Contiguous States*—paid rate—21 cents, free and reduced price rate—21 cents, maximum rate—27 cents; *Alaska*—paid rate—32 cents, free and reduced price rate—32 cents, maximum rate—42 cents; *Hawaii*—paid rate—24 cents, free and reduced price rate—24 cents, maximum rate—31 cents.

Section 11 National Average Payment Factors—Contiguous States—free lunch—179 cents, reduced price lunch—139 cents; *Alaska*—free lunch—291 cents, reduced price lunch—251 cents; *Hawaii*—free lunch—210 cents, reduced price lunch—170 cents.

Afterschool Snacks in Afterschool Care Programs—The payments are: *Contiguous States*—free snack—54 cents, reduced price snack—27 cents, paid snack—5 cents; *Alaska*—free snack—88 cents, reduced price snack—44 cents, paid snack—8 cents; *Hawaii*—free snack—63 cents, reduced price snack—31 cents, paid snack—5 cents.

School Breakfast Program Payments

For schools “not in severe need” the payments are: *Contiguous States*—free breakfast—109 cents, reduced price breakfast—79 cents, paid breakfast—21 cents; *Alaska*—free breakfast—174 cents, reduced price breakfast—144 cents, paid breakfast—30 cents; *Hawaii*—free breakfast—127 cents, reduced price breakfast—97 cents, paid breakfast—23 cents.

For schools in “severe need” the payments are: *Contiguous States*—free breakfast—130 cents, reduced price breakfast—100 cents, paid breakfast—21 cents; *Alaska*—free breakfast—208 cents, reduced price breakfast—178 cents, paid breakfast—30 cents; *Hawaii*—free breakfast—151 cents, reduced price breakfast—121 cents, paid breakfast—23 cents.

Payment Chart

The following chart illustrates: The lunch National Average Payment Factors with 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.

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SCHOOL PROGRAMS				
MEAL, SNACK AND MILK PAYMENTS TO STATES AND SCHOOL FOOD AUTHORITIES				
Expressed in Dollars or Fractions Thereof				
Effective from July 1, 1999 - June 30, 2000				
NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM *		LESS THAN 60%	60% OR MORE	MAXIMUM RATE
CONTIGUOUS STATES	PAID	\$.19	\$.21	\$.27
	REDUCED PRICE	1.58	1.60	1.75
	FREE	1.98	2.00	2.15
ALASKA	PAID	\$.30	\$.32	\$.42
	REDUCED PRICE	2.81	2.83	3.07
	FREE	3.21	3.23	3.47
HAWAII	PAID	\$.22	\$.24	\$.31
	REDUCED PRICE	1.92	1.94	2.11
	FREE	2.32	2.34	2.51
SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM		NON-SEVERE NEED		SEVERE NEED
CONTIGUOUS STATES	PAID	\$.21		\$.21
	REDUCED PRICE	.79		1.00
	FREE	1.09		1.30
ALASKA	PAID	\$.30		\$.30
	REDUCED PRICE	1.44		1.78
	FREE	1.74		2.08
HAWAII	PAID	\$.23		\$.23
	REDUCED PRICE	.97		1.21
	FREE	1.27		1.51
SPECIAL MILK PROGRAM		ALL MILK	PAID MILK	FREE MILK
PRICING PROGRAMS WITHOUT FREE OPTION		\$.1275	N/A	N/A
PRICING PROGRAMS WITH FREE OPTION		N/A	\$.1275	Average cost per ½ pint of milk.
NONPRICING PROGRAMS		\$.1275	N/A	N/A
AFTERSCHOOL SNACKS SERVED IN AFTERSCHOOL CARE PROGRAMS				
CONTIGUOUS STATES	PAID	\$.05		
	REDUCED PRICE	.27		
	FREE	.54		
ALASKA	PAID	\$.08		
	REDUCED PRICE	.44		
	FREE	.88		
HAWAII	PAID	\$.05		
	REDUCED PRICE	.31		
	FREE	.63		

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

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: July 2, 1999.

Samuel Chambers, Jr.,
Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Long Clear Project, Boise National Forest, Boise County, ID

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The Boise National Forest will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to document the analysis and disclose the environmental impacts of a proposed timber sale, and road and dispersed-campsite treatments (including road closures), in the Lower Clear Creek subwatershed of the Clear Creek drainage. During the winter months of 1996-97, heavy snows and saturated soils caused blow down of trees within the Clear Creek drainage of the Lowman Ranger district. The blown down trees were subsequently attacked by Douglas-fir beetles in the spring and summer of 1997. Pure, dense stands of Douglas-fir stressed by drought and previous insect or disease attack are particularly susceptible to Douglas-fir beetle infestations that can kill large

forested areas. Because there are dense, stressed Douglas-fir stands within the project area, many of these areas are at risk of insect and disease infestation. Some areas also remain less resistant and resilient to unnaturally severe wildfire. These areas need to be thinned, and in some cases, seral species need to be restored, to improve their resistance and resilience to uncharacteristic events. Some trees are infested with bark beetles or infected with mistletoe and other disease, and are expected to die. Prompt salvage of these trees is needed if their economic value is to be captured. In addition, many roads within the project area are contributing sediment, and need to be reconstructed, rehabilitated and/or closed to enhance water quality, protect native fish habitat and help restore healthy aquatic conditions in the Clear Creek watershed. The ford on the Long Clear road (Forest road 545), and dispersed campsites, need to be treated to reduce impacts to water quality and fish habitat.

During the winter and spring of 1998, the Lowman District prepared an environmental assessment (EA) for this proposed timber sale and a Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact was signed in May 1998. Subsequently, American Wildlands and the Idaho Sporting Congress filed suit in Federal District Court. The District Court's decision found the EA did not contain or refer to the "hard data" supporting the project's purpose and need, and directed the Forest Service to prepare adequate National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation for the proposed project. The Forest Service has determined an EIS is the appropriate form of documentation for the proposed Long Clear Timber Sale.

The Lowman Ranger District of the Boise National Forest proposes to treat about 5,700 acres through commercial thinning, precommercial thinning, salvage harvest, and reforestation, to reduce stand density and improve resistance and resilience to uncharacteristic events, and to capture the economic value of dead and dying trees. No timber harvest would occur in Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas or in the Deadwood or Red Mountain Inventoried Roadless Areas. Twelve pheromone bait stations have been established to attract Douglas-fir bark beetles into easily accessible concentrations of trees. These bait stations resulted in Douglas-fir bark beetle infestations in approximately 400 trees. These 400 trees would be harvested as a portion of this proposal. Activity (harvest-related) fuels would be

burned on about 4,600 acres to reduce fuel buildup and the potential for unnaturally intense wildfires. Prescribed fire would be undertaken on about 500 acres, to burn natural fuels in areas where natural fire has not occurred as often as could be historically expected. Ten dispersed-recreation sites along Clear Creek would be treated to reduce impacts on water quality and fish habitat resulting from recreational use. A total of 6.9 miles of currently open but impassable road would be closed year long to full-sized motorized vehicles and converted to a seasonal motorized trail. A total of 3.6 miles of currently open roads would be closed and revegetated, and 2.1 miles of currently closed roads would be revegetated. The Long Creek road (Forest road 545) bridge across Clear Creek would be reconstructed, eliminating use of the current ford. Additionally, approximately 20 miles of existing road (mostly along the Long Creek road) would be reconstructed to facilitate harvest activities and reduce sediment delivery, in accordance with INFISH guidelines.

DATES: Written comments concerning the scope of the analysis described in this Notice should be received by July 23, 1999 to ensure timely consideration. No scoping meetings are planned at this time.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Jackie Andrew, Project Coordinator, Lowman Ranger District, 7359 Highway 21, Lowman, ID 83637.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions concerning the proposed action and EIS should be directed to Jackie Andrew at 208-259-3361.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Forest Service is seeking information and comments from Federal, State, and local agencies, as well as individuals and organizations who may be interested in, or affected by, the proposed action. The Forest Service invites written comments and suggestions on the issues related to the proposal and the area being analyzed.

Information received will be used in preparation of the draft EIS and final EIS. For the most effective use, comments should be submitted to the Forest Service within 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice in the **Federal Register**. The Responsible Official is David D. Rittenhouse, Forest Supervisor, Boise National Forest. The decision to be made is whether to thin and harvest National Forest System timber, treat roads and dispersed campsites, and reduce natural and activity fuels through prescribed fire. The draft EIS is expected to be available