

Notices

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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 Consumer Service

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Food Stamp Program Identification Card Requirements

AGENCY: Food and Consumer Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice invites the general public and other public agencies to comment on proposed information collections. This notice announces the Food and Consumer Service's (FCS) intention to request OMB review of the agency's proposal to continue requiring State agencies, in accordance with the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (the Act) and regulations issued pursuant to the Act, to issue a Food Stamp Program (FSP) identification card to each household certified eligible to receive and use food stamps.

Section 7(a) of the Act requires that food stamp benefits be issued only to households which have been duly certified as eligible to participate in the Food Stamp Program. Further, under section 7(b) food stamp benefits issued to eligible households shall be used by them to purchase food in authorized retail food stores. Part 274.10(a) of the FSP regulations requires that an eligible household member or authorized representative show the household ID card as proof of household identity and eligibility to receive food stamp benefits. Part 278.2(h) of the FSP regulations provides that if a food retailer has cause to believe that a person presenting food stamps has no right to use the food stamps, the food retailer should request the person to show the food stamp ID card of the household to establish the right of that

person to use the food stamps. Part 278.2(i) of the FSP regulations provides that an authorized meal delivery service require the recipient of a delivered meal to show the specially marked food stamp ID card establishing the recipient's right to use food stamps for the service the first time food stamps are offered as payment. Thereafter, the delivery service may request that the specially marked food stamp ID card be shown at any time the delivery service has cause to question the continued eligibility of the person to use food stamps for delivered meals.

Section 11(e) paragraphs (15) and (19) of the Act and Part 274.10(b) of the regulations require State agencies to issue photographic identification cards (photo ID cards) in project areas or portions thereof with more than 100,000 participants, and in those project areas with less than 100,000 participants that have been identified by the Department's Inspector General as needing photo ID cards, to reduce the number of unauthorized issuances of benefits. Neither the Act or FSP regulations require issuance and use of Photo ID cards in project areas where all issuances of benefits are delivered by direct mail or an electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) system. State agencies may request voluntary use of photo ID cards in any project area with less than 100,000 participants and not required to use photo ID cards. However, State agencies are rapidly implementing EBT systems project area by project area and in groups of project areas. This effort is continuing to reduce the use of photo ID cards.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before May 13, 1997.

ADDRESSES: 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 has 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; (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. Comments may be sent to James I. Porter, Assistant Branch Chief, State Administration Branch, Food Stamp Program, Food and Consumer Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information regarding this information collection should be directed to James Porter, (703) 305-2385.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Food Stamp Program Identification Card Requirements.

OMB Number: 0584-0124.

Form Number: None.

Expiration Date: 4/30/97.

Type of Request: Extension of the expiration date of a currently approved information collection without any change in the substance or in the method of collection.

Abstract: The FSP regulations require that photo ID cards be controlled documents by the use of serial numbers. State agencies are required to include on all ID cards, the name of the household member who is authorized to receive the household's issuance, a photograph of the household member, other appropriate information, and laminate the photo ID card at the time of household certification to participate. Also, blank serial numbered photo ID cards must be maintained in secure storage. Households are required to present their photo ID cards to receive benefits and the issuance agents are required to annotate the card serial number on the authorization to participate documents. In addition, households may be required to present their cards for identity when food stamps are presented to an authorized food retailer or meal service to purchase food.

Affected Public: State and local governments, and food stamps households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 9,195,545.

Number of Responses Per Respondent: 25.590.

Estimated Total Annual Burden:
1,012,998.

Dated: March 4, 1997.

William E. Ludwig,

Administrator, Food and Consumer Service.

[FR Doc. 97-6519 Filed 3-13-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-30-M

Forest Service

Extension of Currently Approved Information Collection for Interpretive Services Program

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent; request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Forest Service announces its intent to request an extension of a currently approved information collection. The Cooperative Funds and Deposits Act of 1975 (16 U.S.C. 565a through 565a-3) authorizes the Forest Service to enter into cooperative agreements with interpretive associations to provide interpretive services and educational literature for visitors on National Forest System lands. As part of the cooperative agreement, the Forest Service requires that the interpretive associations submit to the agency, annually, information regarding the types of interpretive services and educational literature provided. This collected information is used to compile the national report, "National Interpretive Associations Annual Report," for the Chief of the Forest Service. The agency will use the collected information to evaluate cooperative agreements between the Forest Service and interpretive associations and to ensure effective management of the agency's interpretive services program. Information is requested using the Forest Service 2300-5 Annual Report Interpretive Associations Form.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing on or before May 13, 1997.

ADDRESSES: All comments should be addressed to: Director, Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness Resources (MAIL STOP 1125), Forest Service, USDA, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, D.C. 20090-6090.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Richard Calnan, Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness Resources Staff, at (202) 205-1228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Description of Information Collection

The following describes the information collection to be extended:

Title: FS-2300-5 Annual Report Interpretive Associations.

OMB Number: 0596-0097.

Expiration Date of Approval: June 30, 1997.

Type of Request: Extension of a previously approved information collection.

Abstract: For over 20 years, the Forest Service has entered into cooperative agreements with interpretive associations under the authority of the Cooperative Funds and Deposits Act of 1975 (16 U.S.C. 565a-1 through 565a-3) to provide interpretive services and educational materials to the public. Fifty-eight interpretive associations have signed cooperative agreements with the Forest Service for fiscal year 1997 on 122 National Forests.

Interpretive associations develop and publish educational materials about National Forest System land resources and programs, with the assistance of Forest Service employees. The associations also conduct field seminars, operate concession campgrounds under special use permits, and raise funds for projects and programs on National Forest System lands. Each year interpretive associations donate funds, employee staff time, and materials worth over \$1 million in support of the agency's interpretive services program.

Forest Service policy requires that interpretive associations provide to the Regional Forester and Forest Supervisor an annual narrative, accomplishment report, and financial statement by March 1 each year. The Forest Service compiles the reports submitted to the Regional Foresters into a national report, "National Interpretive Associations Annual Report," for the Chief of the Forest Service. The reports to the Regional Foresters also are used to compile an annual "Directory of Interpretive Associations." The Directory is used by other Federal agencies and entities wishing to do business with interpretive associations that have entered into cooperative agreements with the Forest Service. The Forest Service will use FS-2300-5 Annual Report Interpretive Associations Form to collect the information for the reports. The Form is divided into five parts.

Part I asks for the name, address and telephone number of the association; the name of the Forest Service Region with which the association has entered into an agreement; the name(s) of the national forests with which the association is affiliated; the names of any other Forest Service Regions within which the association operates; and the names of any other agencies the

association serves. For example, the Northwest Interpretive Association operates in Forest Service Regions 1, 5, and 6, and serves the Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers.

Part II asks for the interpretive association's gross receipts for the fiscal year. Gross receipts are the sum of the following line items: (a) sales of printed materials, such as books and pamphlets; (b) sales of audio-visual aids, such as video tapes, slides, and posters; (c) sales of theme-related objects or products, such as stuffed animals with a companion book for children; (d) sales of visitor convenience items, such as food, film, and stamps; (e) receipts from presentations, such as guided tours through National Forest System lands, or special movies or videos, such as the Chugach National Forest, Alaska video, "Prince William Sound—Where an Ocean of Time Meets a Land of Change;" and (f) receipts from membership dues, donations, gifts, interest income, and other as specified.

Part III asks for the total amount in dollars of benefits provided by the interpretive association to the Forest Service during the fiscal year. The total dollar benefits equate to the sum of the costs to the association of the following line items: (a) the cost of signs provided by the interpretive association, such as interpretive signs on the Shallow Flats Wetland Trail in Kentucky; (b) the cost of designing, fabricating, and installing new exhibits, such as the exhibit at the Mount St. Helens Visitor Center at Silver Lake, Washington; (c) the cost of providing equipment necessary to accomplishing the interpretive services mission, such as the purchase of a computer to monitor earthquake activity in the Eastern Sierra, California; (d) the cost of equipment, supplies, and travel necessary to conduct research activities, such as field trips to the Mount Evans Byway in Colorado to produce an audio tape tour, guide book, and Jr. Ranger book about the area; (e) the cost of providing free publications to the public; (f) the cost of improving recreational facilities, such as cleaning campgrounds and picnic sites, clearing and maintaining trails, or repairing and rehabilitating structures like the historic Ice House and the McKenzie house at the Custer Townsite in South Dakota; (g) the cost of improvements to wildlife habitat or of range, forest, or watershed projects, such as the eagle habitat study program in California; (h) the cost of special events, such as a visitor facility dedication; (i) the cost of training and educational programs, such as developing a curriculum guide for