

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

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 96-087-1]

Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Approved information collection extension; comment request.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's intention to request an extension of a currently approved information collection in support of the National Agricultural Pest Information System.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by December 30, 1996 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Send comments regarding the accuracy of burden estimate, ways to minimize the burden (such as the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology), or any other aspect of this collection of information to: Docket No. 96-087-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, suite 3C03, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please send an original and three copies, and state that your comments refer to Docket 96-087-1. Comments received may be inspected at USDA, room 1141, South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Persons wishing to inspect comments are requested to call ahead on (202) 690-2817 to facilitate entry into the comment reading room.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: For information on the National Agricultural Pest Information System,

contact Mr. C. David McNeal, Jr., Operations Officer, Plant Protection and Quarantine, APHIS, 4700 River Road, Unit 139, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236, (301) 734-8295; or e-mail: DMCneal@aphis.usda.gov. For copies of more detailed information, contact Ms. Cathy McDuffie, APHIS' Support Services Specialist, at (301) 734-5190.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: National Agricultural Pest Information System.

OMB Number: 0579-0010.

Expiration Date of Approval: 12/31/96.

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

Abstract: Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, United States Department of Agriculture, has joined forces with the States to create a program called the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey. This program allows the States and PPQ to conduct surveys to detect and measure the presence of plant pests and to place survey data into a national computer-based system called the National Agricultural Pest Information System. This, in turn, allows us to obtain a more comprehensive picture of pest conditions in the United States.

The information generated by this program is used by the States to predict potential pest situations. It is used by Federal interests to promptly detect and respond to the occurrence of new pests and to record the location of those pest incursions that could directly hinder the export of U.S. farm commodities.

The Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey employs several forms to carry out its information gathering activities. We are seeking OMB approval to continue the use of these forms.

The Cooperative Agreement is an agreement between PPQ and the States in which the States agree to participate in the Survey, and to carry out Survey activities according to our instructions.

During the course of their Survey activities, State cooperators gather a significant amount of information which must then be relayed to us either in writing, via telephone, or via computer.

We are seeking OMB approval to continue the use of these forms.

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public (as well as affected agencies) concerning our

information collection. We need this outside input to help us:

(1) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(2) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, through use, as appropriate, of automated, electronic, mechanical, and other collection technologies, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .0062 hours per response.

Respondents: State Cooperators.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 50.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 601.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 188 hours.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the information collection.

Done in Washington, DC, this 25th day of October 1996.

A. Strating,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 96-27974 Filed 10-30-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

[Docket No. 96-084-1]

Granting of Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) Waiver for Digital Signature Standard

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of granting of FIPS waiver request.

SUMMARY: The Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has granted a waiver to APHIS to use RSA digital signature technology in lieu of the Digital

Signature Standard specified by Federal Information Processing Standard 186. This waiver was made pursuant to section 111(d) of the Federal Property and Services Act of 1949, as amended (40 U.S.C. 759(d)), and in accordance with the procedures for waivers contained in Federal Information Processing Standard 186.

DATES: The waiver took effect April 2, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. John B. Belfrage, Staff Veterinarian, USDA, APHIS, VS, CEAH, 555 S. Howe St., Ft. Collins, CO 80521, (970) 490-7939, e-mail jbelfrage@aphis.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) 186, "Digital Signature Standard," established a standard for generating a digital signature that can be used to verify that electronic documents originated with the signatory of the document, and to protect the entire document against unauthorized modifications of its text. FIPS 186 also allows Federal agency heads to waive use of the FIPS 186 Digital Signature Standard (DSS) under certain circumstances.

A waiver may be granted if compliance with the standard would adversely affect the accomplishment of the mission of an operator of a Federal computer system.

A waiver may also be granted if compliance with the standard would cause a major adverse financial impact on the operator that is not offset by Government-wide savings.

The Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has granted a waiver for APHIS computer systems to employ the RSA digital signature algorithm instead of the DSS for electronic forms. The RSA algorithm provides document security that is at least comparable to the DSS, but unlike the DSS, the RSA algorithm is widely used in a variety of commercial software applications, making development of applications to generate secure APHIS forms feasible and cost-effective. There is very little commercial software available that employs DSS, and none that meets the current digital signature needs of APHIS. Therefore, employing the DSS would adversely affect APHIS missions that are currently beginning to rely on secure electronic documents, such as animal health certificates. The DSS would also cause major adverse financial impacts on the agency, because the cost of developing new software employing DSS would be many times the cost of using existing

commercial software that employs the RSA algorithm.

In accordance with the requirements of FIPS 186 and section 111(d) of the Federal Property and Services Act of 1949, as amended (40 U.S.C. 759(d)), notice of this waiver has been sent to the National Institutes of Standards and Technology, United States Department of Commerce; to the Committee on Government Operations of the House of Representatives; and, to the Committee on Government Affairs of the United States Senate.

Done in Washington, DC, this 28th day of October 1996.

A. Strating,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 96-27977 Filed 10-30-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

Forest Service

Eastern Washington Cascades Provincial Interagency Executive Committee (PIEC), Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Eastern Washington Cascades PIEC Advisory Committee will meet on November 14, 1996 in Campbell's Conference Center (River Room), 104 W. Wooden, Chelan, Washington. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. and continue until 4:00 p.m. The focus of this meeting will be to discuss riparian zone and grazing management under the Northwest Forest Plan. All Eastern Washington Cascades Province Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public. Interested citizens are welcome to attend.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Direct questions regarding this meeting to Paul Hart, Designated Federal Official, USDA, Wenatchee National Forest, P.O. Box 811, Wenatchee, Washington 98807, 509-662-4335.

Dated: October 25, 1996.

Sonny J. O'Neal,

Forest Supervisor, Wenatchee National Forest.

[FR Doc. 96-27928 Filed 10-30-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Depatee Creek Watershed, Independence and Jackson Counties, Arkansas

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969; the Council on Environmental Quality Guidelines (40 CFR Part 1500); the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, gives notice that an environmental impact statement is being prepared for the Depatee Creek Watershed, in Independence and Jackson Counties, Arkansas.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas H. Wehri, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Room 5404, Federal Building, 700 West Capitol Avenue, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201, Telephone (501) 324-5445.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The environmental assessment of this federally assisted action indicates that the project may cause significant local, regional, or national impacts on the environment. As a result of these findings, Thomas H. Wehri, State Conservationist, has determined that the preparation and review of an environmental impact statement is needed for this project.

The project concerns a plan for flood prevention. Alternatives under consideration to reach this objective include two upland dams and conservation easements in the floodplain for wetland restoration.

A draft environmental impact statement will be prepared and circulated for review by agencies and the public. The Natural Resources Conservation Service invites participation and consultation of agencies and individuals that have special expertise, legal jurisdiction, or interest in the preparation of the draft environmental impact statement. Further information on the proposed action may be obtained from Thomas H. Wehri, State Conservationist at the above address and telephone number.

(This activity is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under No. 10.904—Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention—and is subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372 which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials)