

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

Agricultural Research Service

Notice of Intent To Renew an Information Collection

AGENCY: Agricultural Research Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Agricultural Research Service's (ARS) intention to request an extension of a currently approved information collection, Form AD-761, USDA Patent License Application for Government Invention that expires October 31, 2018.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before July 3, 2018.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be sent to Mojdeh Bahar, USDA, ARS, Office of Technology Transfer, 5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Room 4-1174, Beltsville, Maryland 20705-5131; Telephone Number 301-504-5989.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mojdeh Bahar, USDA, ARS, Office of Technology Transfer, 301-504-5989.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: USDA Patent License Application.

OMB Number: 0518-0003.

Expiration Date of Approval: October 31, 2018.

Type of Request: To extend a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The USDA patent licensing program grants patent licenses to qualified businesses and individuals who wish to commercialize inventions arising from federally supported research. The objective of the program is to use the patent system to promote the utilization of inventions arising from such research. The licensing of federally owned inventions must be done in accordance with the terms, conditions

and procedures prescribed under 37 CFR part 404. Application for a license must be addressed to the Federal agency having custody of the invention.

Licenses may be granted only if the license applicant has supplied the Federal agency with a satisfactory plan for the development and marketing of the invention and with information about the applicant's capability to fulfill the plan. 37 CFR 404.8 sets forth the information which must be provided by a license applicant. For the convenience of the applicant, USDA has itemized the information needed on Form AD-761, and instructions for completing the form are provided to the applicant. The information submitted is used to determine whether the applicant has both a complete and sufficient plan for developing and marketing the invention and the necessary manufacturing, marketing, technical and financial resources to carry out the submitted plan.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 3 hours per response.

Description of Respondents: Businesses or other for profit individuals.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 75.

Frequency of Responses: One time per invention.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 225 hours.

This data will be collected under the authority of 44 U.S.C. #3506(c)(2)(A).

Copies of this information collection and related instructions can be obtained without charge from Mojdeh Bahar, USDA, ARS, Office of Technology Transfer by calling 301-504-5989.

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 will have 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; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, such as through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or

other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g. permitting electronic submission of responses.

Comments may be sent to USDA, ARS, Office of Technology Transfer, 5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Room 4-1174, Beltsville, Maryland 20705-5131. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Mojdeh Bahar,

Assistant Administrator.

[FR Doc. 2018-09472 Filed 5-3-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-03-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Council for Native American Farming and Ranching

AGENCY: Office of Tribal Relations, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a forthcoming meeting of The Council for Native American Farming and Ranching (CNAFR), a public advisory committee of the Office of Tribal Relations (OTR). Notice of the meetings are provided in accordance with section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended. This will be the second meeting held during fiscal year 2018 and will consist of, but not be limited to: hearing public comments and subcommittee report outs. This meeting will be open to the public.

DATES: The meeting will be held on June 20, 2018. The meeting will be open to the public with time set aside for public comment on June 20 at approximately 4:00-6:00 p.m. The OTR will make the agenda available to the public via the OTR website (<http://www.usda.gov/tribalrelations>) no later than 10 business days before the meeting and at the meeting.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Whitten Building located at 1400 Jefferson Dr. SW, Washington, DC 20250—Whitten Building Patio—1st floor.

Written Comments: Written comments may be submitted to the CNAFR Contact Person: Abby Cruz, Designated Federal Officer and Senior Policy Advisor for the Office of Tribal Relations, 1400

Independence Ave. SW, Whitten Bldg., 501-A, Washington, DC 20250; by Fax: (202) 720-1058; or by email: Abigail.Cruz@osec.usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions should be directed to the CNAFR Contact Person: Abby Cruz, Designated Federal Officer and Senior Policy Advisor for the Office of Tribal Relations, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Whitten Bldg., 501-A, Washington, DC 20250; by Fax: (202) 720-1058; or by email: Abigail.Cruz@osec.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended (5 U.S.C. App. 2), USDA established an advisory council for Native American farmers and ranchers. The CNAFR is a discretionary advisory committee established under the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture, in furtherance of the *Keepseagle v. Perdue* settlement agreement that was granted final approval by the District Court for the District of Columbia on April 28, 2011.

The CNAFR will operate under the provisions of the FACA and report to the Secretary of Agriculture. The purpose of the CNAFR is (1) to advise the Secretary of Agriculture on issues related to the participation of Native American farmers and ranchers in USDA programs; (2) to transmit recommendations concerning any changes to USDA regulations or internal guidance or other measures that would eliminate barriers to program participation for Native American farmers and ranchers; (3) to examine methods of maximizing the number of new farming and ranching opportunities created by USDA programs through enhanced extension and financial literacy services; (4) to examine methods of encouraging intergovernmental cooperation to mitigate the effects of land tenure and probate issues on the delivery of USDA programs; (5) to evaluate other methods of creating new farming or ranching opportunities for Native American producers; and (6) to address other related issues as deemed appropriate.

The Secretary of Agriculture selected a diverse group of members representing a broad spectrum of persons interested in providing solutions to the challenges of the aforementioned purposes. Equal opportunity practices were considered in all appointments to the CNAFR in accordance with USDA policies. The Secretary selected the members in December 2016.

Interested persons may present views, orally or in writing, on issues relating to agenda topics before the CNAFR.

Written submissions may be submitted to the CNAFR Contact Person on or before June 12, 2018. Oral presentations from the public will be heard at approximately 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on June 20, 2018. Individuals interested in making formal oral presentations should also notify the CNAFR Contact Person and submit a brief statement of the general nature of the issue they wish to present and the names, tribal affiliations, and addresses of proposed participants by June 12, 2018. All oral presentations will be given three (3) to five (5) minutes depending on the number of participants.

The OTR will also make the agenda available to the public via the OTR website (<http://www.usda.gov/tribalrelations>) no later than 10 business days before the meeting and at the meeting. The minutes from the meeting will be posted on the OTR website. OTR welcomes the attendance of the public at the CNAFR meetings and will make every effort to accommodate persons with physical disabilities or special needs. If you require special accommodations due to a disability, please contact Abby Cruz at least 10 business days in advance of the meeting.

Dated: April 23, 2018.

Linda Cronin,

Acting Director, Office of Tribal Relations.

[FR Doc. 2018-09505 Filed 5-3-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3420-AG-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Information Collection: Post-Hurricane Research and Assessment of Agriculture, Forestry, and Rural Communities in the U.S. Caribbean

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Emergency Clearance Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Forest Service is submitting a request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval under the emergency processing procedures for a new information collection request, *Post-Hurricane Research and Assessment of Agriculture, Forestry, and Rural Communities in the U.S. Caribbean*, and is seeking comments from all interested individuals and organizations.

DATES: Comments on this proposal for emergency review must be received in writing on or before June 4, 2018 to be assured of consideration. Comments

received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable. The USDA Forest Service is requesting OMB to take action by May 9, 2018.

ADDRESSES: Comments concerning this information collection should be addressed to the Office of Management and Budget, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attn: Desk Officer for the USDA Forest Service, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503, or sent via electronic mail to: oira_submissions@omb.eop.gov or via facsimile to 202-395-5806.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information should be made to Kathleen McGinley, Social Scientist, USDA Forest Service, by electronic mail to kmcginley@fs.fed.us, via facsimile 919-513-2978, or phone 919-513-3331. Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339 twenty-four hours a day, every day of the year, including holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Post-Hurricane Research and Assessment of Agriculture, Forestry, and Rural Communities in the U.S. Caribbean.

OMB Number: 0596-NEW.

Expiration Date of Approval: New.

Type of Request: New request for emergency review and clearance.

Abstract: In September 2017, two major hurricanes passed through the Caribbean, causing catastrophic damage to communities, infrastructure, farms, and forests across Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, and many neighboring islands, significantly compromising local livelihoods, food security, and economic stability throughout the region. To date, there is limited information on the impacts of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, particularly in terms of agricultural and forestry systems and the people who depend on them, and likewise, limited information about the effectiveness of related conservation practices or mitigation and adaptation strategies. Such information is critical to the design and implementation of ongoing recovery work and to longer-term resilience efforts in the U.S. Caribbean and in other regions affected by hurricanes or other major disturbances.

USDA, Forest Service seeks review and approval under the emergency processing procedures from Office of Management and Budget to collect information about the effects of Hurricanes Irma and Maria on agriculture, forestry, and rural communities in the U.S. Caribbean and the internal and external factors that