

Notices

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Thursday, February 16, 2012

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.

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

Board of Directors Meeting

Time: Tuesday, February 28, 2012, 8:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Place: African Development Foundation, Conference Room, 1400 I Street NW., Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20005.

Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2012.

Status:

1. Open session, Tuesday, February 28, 2012, 8:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.; and
2. Closed session, Tuesday, February 28, 2012, 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

Due to security requirements and limited seating, all individuals wishing to attend the open session of the meeting must notify Sarah Conway at (202) 233-8811 or sconway@usadf.gov of your request to attend by 5 p.m. on Thursday, February 23, 2012.

Lloyd O. Pierson,
President & CEO, USADF.

[FR Doc. 2012-3593 Filed 2-15-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6117-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comments Request—Study of Organizations Providing or Administering SNAP Incentives at Farmers' Markets

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice invites the public and other public agencies to comment on this proposed information collection. This is a revision to a previous data collection to understand better the shopping

patterns of SNAP participants at farmers' markets. The purpose of this collection is for the Food and Nutrition Service to understand how private organizations operate Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) financial incentive programs for clients purchasing fruits and vegetables at farmers' markets. Information collected will be used to examine how these organizations design, operate, and evaluate incentive programs to encourage SNAP clients to shop for fruits and vegetables at farmers' markets. It will also assist in assessing how much these programs influence the purchase of fruits and vegetables at farmers' markets using SNAP benefits.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before April 16, 2012.

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 shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden on the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions that were used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (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: Steven Carlson, Office of Research and Analysis, Food and Nutrition Service/USDA, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 1014, Alexandria, VA 22302. Comments may also be submitted via fax to the attention of Steven Carlson at 703-305-2576 or via email to Steve.Carlson@fns.usda.gov. Comments will also be accepted through the Federal eRulemaking Portal. Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and follow the online instructions for submitting comments electronically.

All written comments will be open for public inspection at the Office of Research and Analysis, Food and Nutrition Service during regular business hours (8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday) at 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 1014, Alexandria, Virginia 22302.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information or copies of this information collection should be directed to Steven Carlson at 703-305-2017.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Study of Organizations Providing or Administering SNAP Incentives at Farmers' Markets.

OMB Number: 0584-0564.

Expiration Date of Approval: November 30, 2014.

Abstract: The USDA, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), is undertaking initiatives to improve access to healthy foods among nutrition assistance program participants. Among these are steps to support access to fresh fruits and vegetables through farmers' markets. The overall objective of this collection is to understand how private organizations provide and administer financial incentives for SNAP participants shopping at farmers' markets. In addition, this collection aims to assess how well these incentive programs work concerning the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables at farmers' markets by SNAP participants. The two main study objectives are to: (1) Describe and compare how private organizations design, operate, and evaluate incentive program for SNAP clients at farmers' markets; and (2) describe and compare the performance, outcomes and/or impacts of each incentive program for SNAP clients operated during 2012 based upon the FNS SNAP Anti-Fraud Locator for EBT Redemption Transactions (ALERT) data and incentive organization self-evaluation data.

This study is not intended to be nationally representative. Organizations to be included in this study will be chosen from a list of private organizations that is developed based on responses received from farmers' market managers responding to the FNS study, Nutrition Assistance in Farmers' Markets: Understanding Current Operations (76 FR 79646, 12/22/11). To assist in the selection process, the list will tentatively categorize the organizations (Business-for and not-for-profit) into three groups:

(1) Type I: fairly large organizations that provide grant money to other organizations that administer incentive program for SNAP clients;

(2) Type II: smaller than the Type I organizations, Type II organizations distribute the SNAP financial incentives to farmers' markets and administer the incentive program for SNAP clients in the markets that they support; and

(3) Type III: local organizations that provide money for incentive program for SNAP clients.

Further stratification of the frame may be made based on whether the organizations also provide non-financial support. Non-financial support might include providing information and technical assistance for implementing or managing incentive program for SNAP clients or providing staff to work at the farmers' markets and assist with the management of the programs onsite.

There are two main data collection activities for this study. They include:

- Conducting a telephone interview with each of one to three key staff at selected organizations that provide and/or administer farmers' market SNAP incentives. The interview is designed to gather qualitative data to better understand the:

- Relationship of the organizations to the farmers' markets that obtain incentive funds for SNAP clients;

- Primary mission of the organizations and their history with SNAP;

- Source of the financial support for the organizations' incentive program for SNAP clients, and whether other types of support are offered;

- Number of markets a specific organization supported in 2012;

- Selection process and requirements for farmers' markets to be awarded incentive dollars for distribution to SNAP clients;

- Factors that make it difficult to implement and manage incentive programs; and

- Characteristics of successful incentive programs.

The telephone interview will also capture information on whether the organizations maintain and/or collect information on the performance of their incentive program. This self-evaluation data may include information regarding the number of incentives redeemed by markets with an incentive program, vendor satisfaction with the program, and/or data used for assessing the impact of these programs on farmers' market sales and SNAP participation at farmers' markets.

- Collecting and evaluating self-evaluation data of participating organizations. Organizations identified during the telephone interviews as maintaining data on their incentive program for SNAP clients will be asked to share this data for the purpose of this research study. Self-evaluation data shared by organizations may include for example, the number of other organizations or farmers' markets that they awarded or are managing financial incentive programs for, the volume of SNAP incentive redemptions, dollar amount of unredeemed incentives, and other information. These data will help identify differences across incentive programs with respect to performance in 2012. In combination, the self-evaluation data, organizational and incentive program characteristics obtained through interviews, and ALERT data, will inform how such incentive programs for SNAP clients may work best in the context of individual markets.

Affected Public: Respondent groups identified include individuals working for organizations (Businesses for- and not for-profit. Note: preliminary research suggests that all organizations in the sample will be not for-profit businesses. However, the study leaves open the possibility that some for-profit businesses will be part of the sample)

that provide or administer financial incentives at farmers' markets for use with SNAP clients.

Estimated Number of Respondents: The total number of respondents is 225 individuals at 115 organizations. This includes up to 3 individuals working for each of the 15 Type I and 40 Type II organizations, and 1 individual at each of the 45 Type III organizations. Out of the 225 individuals, it is estimated that 10 percent from each type of organization, a total of 23 individual, invited to participate will refuse (2.5 Type I, 8 Type II, and 4.5 Type III organizations). If a selected organization refuses to participate, another similar organization will be selected as a replacement.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: One time.

Estimated time per Response: For 110 individuals participating from Type I and II organizations, and 45 individuals from Type III organizations, the telephone interview will take 60 minutes (1 hour) to complete. For 55 participating individuals (the Type I and II organizational leaders), the telephone interview will take 20 minutes (0.33 hours) to complete. It is estimated that 23 organizational leaders (from 15 organizations) that refuse to participate will spend approximately 15 minutes (0.25 hours) on the telephone. Further, of the 90 organizations that participate and complete the telephone interviews, 80 organizations will agree to provide self-evaluation data for their programs. To provide the data, it will take 120 minutes (2.0 hours) of a staff member's time (1 from each organization). For the 10 organizations that elect not to share their self-evaluation data, it will take 30 minutes (0.50) hours of a staff member's time (1 from each organization).

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 341.9 hours.

Affected Public	Respondent	Estimated number of respondents	Responses annually per respondent	Total annual responses	Estimated average number of hours per response	Estimated total annual hours of response burden
Business (for/not-for-profit).	Type I Organization					
	Telephone Interviews					
	Leaders Completed	15	1	15	0.33	4.95
	Leaders Non-response	2.5	1	2.5	0.25	0.625
	Staff *	30	1	30	1.00	30.00
	Subtotal Type I	45	1	47.5	.....	35.575
	Type II Organization					
	Telephone Interviews					
	Leaders Completed	40	1	40	0.33	13.2

Affected Public	Respondent	Estimated number of respondents	Responses annually per respondent	Total annual responses	Estimated average number of hours per response	Estimated total annual hours of response burden
	Leaders Non-response	8	1	8	0.25	2
	Staff *	80	1	80	1.00	80
	Subtotal Type II	120	1	128	.....	95.2
Type III Organization Telephone Interviews						
	Leaders or Staff Completed	45	1	45	1.00	45
	Leaders or Staff Non-response	4.5	1	4.5	0.25	1.125
	Subtotal Type III	45	1	49.5	.....	46.125
	GRAND TOTAL	210	.....	225	.....	176.9
Provision of Organizational Self-Evaluation Data Type I, II, and III Organizations						
	Number of Organizations Providing Self-Evaluation Data.	80	1	80	2.00	160
	Number of Organizations that Refuse to Provide Self-Evaluation Data.	10	1	10	0.50	5
	Total	90	1	90	.....	165

* 100% response anticipated for this group.

Dated: February 7, 2012.

Audrey Rowe,
Administrator,

Food and Nutrition Service.

[FR Doc. 2012-3619 Filed 2-15-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-30-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Los Padres National Forest: California; Environmental Impact Statement for the Removal of the Noxious Weed Tamarisk on the Los Padres National Forest

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: The USDA, Forest Service, Los Padres National Forest, gives notice of intent to conduct analysis and prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the removal of the noxious weed Tamarisk across the Los Padres National forest. This notice announces the beginning of scoping, describes the proposed action, decisions to be made, and estimates the dates for filing the draft and final EIS. This notice also provides information concerning public participation, and the names and addresses of the Agency officials who can provide information.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis will be received for 45 days from publication in the **Federal Register**. The draft environmental impact statement is expected in summer of 2012 and the final environmental impact statement is expected late 2012.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Los Padres National Forest, 6755 Hollister Avenue, Suite 150, Goleta, CA 93117, attention: Lloyd Simpson, Forest Botanist. Comments may also be sent via e-mail to: *comments-pacificsouthwest-los-padres-ojai@fs.fed.us*, or via facsimile to 805-646-0408.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be part of the public record for this proposed action.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions about the proposed action may be directed to Project Team Leader, Lloyd Simpson, Los Padres National Forest, Ojai Ranger District, 1190 E. Ojai Ave., Ojai, CA 93023; or by telephone: (805) 646-4348 ext. 316. E-mail: *comments-pacificsouthwest-los-padres-ojai@fs.fed.us*.

Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose and Need for Action

There is a need to eradicate the noxious weed tamarisk from Piru Creek, Lockwood Creek, Cuyama River, Santa Ynez River, Sisquoc River, and Arroyo Seco River in order to restore and maintain habitat for riparian dependent species such as the federally listed arroyo toad, California red-legged frog, and steelhead trout. The purpose of this project is to eradicate tamarisk in a timely manner and with an approach that is pest-specific, cost effective, and safe for the human and aquatic environments.

The project area is on the Los Padres National Forest in portions of the Piru Creek, Lockwood Creek, Cuyama River, Santa Ynez River, Sisquoc River, and Arroyo Seco River watersheds. The analysis area covers 4,247 acres and 368 miles of perennial and intermittent streams. Infestations of tamarisk occurring in these streams and their tributaries within the analysis area are targeted for removal.

For fish and wildlife, direction is provided to maintain fisheries habitat for viable populations of native fish species and to prevent the destruction or adverse modification of habitat essential to threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. The Forest Plan states that "management activities or practices may occur in riparian areas as long as habitat and species diversity of the area is maintained in a healthy state" and