

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) conducts a pre-clearance consultation program to provide the public and Federal agencies an opportunity to comment on proposed, revised, and continuing information collections before submitting them to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

This program helps to ensure requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements can be properly assessed.

USDA is requesting an increase the approved burden hours to cover grant or cooperative agreement activity and funding announcements of new programs for other types of Federal financial assistance. USDA requests an increase in the responses by 880,000, and the burden hours by 1.5 million hours. USDA has successfully used the existing approval for ongoing information collection activities and is expecting to well beyond the initial estimates when the ICR was first approved by OMB. The increase has been for the Federal financial assistances for new programs.

Grants or Cooperative Agreement

Periodically USDA solicits grant applications on <http://grants.gov> by issuing a Funding Opportunity Announcement, Request for Applications, Notice of Funding Announcement, Notice of Solicitation of Applications, *Grants.gov* announcement, or other funding announcement type. To ensure grants are awarded to the applicant(s) best suited to perform the functions of the grant, applicants are generally required to submit an application. The first part of USDA grant applications consists of submitting the application form(s), which includes the Standard Form 424, Application for Federal Assistance and may include additional standard grant application forms. The second part of a grant application usually requires a technical proposal demonstrating the applicant's capabilities in accordance with a statement of work or selection criteria and other related information as specified in the funding announcement. Following the grant award, the grant awardee may also be required to provide progress reports or additional documents.

Federal Financial Assistance Programs

In addition to grants and agreements, there are other types of funding announcements. USDA agencies announce new Federal financial

assistance programs in the **Federal Register** in a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) or other types of funding or program announcements. Generally, the applicants need to apply for financial assistance under the new program. The agencies generally require application forms and related forms for the applicants can apply for the Federal financial assistance.

A Federal agency generally cannot conduct or sponsor a collection of information, and the public is generally not required to respond to an information collection, unless it is approved by OMB under the PRA and displays a currently valid OMB control number. In addition, notwithstanding any other provisions of law, no person will be subject to penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if the collection of information does not display a valid control number (see 5 CFR 1320.5(a) and 1320.6). USDA intends to seek approval from OMB for the revision request for this collection of information for 3 years.

Interested parties are encouraged to provide comments to the individual listed in the **ADDRESSES** section above.

Comments must be written to receive consideration, and they will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval of the final ICR. The comments will also become a matter of public record. Comments responsive to this request will be made available online, without redaction, as part of the submission to OMB; therefore, USDA is particularly interested in comments that:

- 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;
- Evaluate 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;
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including using appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, for example, permitting electronic submission of responses.

USDA will consider the comments received and amend the ICR as appropriate. The final ICR package will then be submitted to OMB for review and approval. At that time, USDA will

issue another **Federal Register** notice to announce the submission of the ICR to OMB and the opportunity to submit additional comments to OMB.

Agency: USDA Office of the Secretary.

Type of Review: Revision.

OMB Control Number: 0503-0028.

Title of Collection: USDA Generic Solution for Solicitation for Funding Opportunity Announcements.

Affected Public: State, Local, and Tribal Governments; Private Sector—businesses or other for-profits and not-for-profit institutions.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1 million.

Frequency: On occasion.

Total Estimated Annual Responses: 1 million.

Estimated Average Time per Response: 20 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 20 million hours.

Total Estimated Annual Other Cost Burden: \$0.

Stephen O'Neill,

Legislative and Regulatory Division, OBPA-USDA.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Agriculture has submitted the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Comments are requested regarding whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments regarding this information collection received by January 29, 2024 will be considered. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be submitted within 30 days of the publication of this notice on the following website www.reginfo.gov

public/do/PRAMain. Find this particular information collection by selecting “Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments” or by using the search function.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Food Safety and Inspection Service

Title: Salmonella Initiative Program (SIP).

OMB Control Number: 0583–0154.

Summary of Collection: FSIS has been delegated the authority to exercise the functions of the Secretary (7 CFR 2.18 and 2.53), as specified in the Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA) (21 U.S.C. 601, *et seq.*), the Poultry Products Inspection Act (PPIA) (21 U.S.C. 451, *et seq.*), and the Egg Products Inspection Act (EPIA) (21 U.S.C. 1031, *et seq.*). These statutes mandate that FSIS protect the public by verifying that meat, poultry, and egg products are safe, wholesome, and properly labeled.

Need and Use of the Information: SIP offers incentives to meat and poultry slaughter establishments to control *Salmonella* in their operations. SIP does this by granting waivers of regulatory requirements with the condition that establishments test for *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter* (if applicable), and generic *E. coli* or other indicator organisms and share all sample results with FSIS. SIP benefits public health because it encourages establishments to test for microbial pathogens, which is a key feature of effective process control.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 79.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 17,628.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

[Docket No. NRCS–2023–0018]

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Rattlesnake Creek Watershed Plan, in Stafford, Pratt, Rice, Reno, and Edwards Counties, Kansas

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent (NOI) to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS).

SUMMARY: The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Kansas State Office in cooperation with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Kansas Department of Health and the Environment (KDHE), Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA), and Big Bend Groundwater Management District 5 (GMD–5) (project sponsor), announces its intent to prepare a watershed plan and EIS for the Rattlesnake Creek Watershed Plan, in Stafford County, KS. The proposed watershed plan will examine alternative solutions for GMD–5 to provide agricultural water management measures to Rattlesnake Creek and Quivira National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). NRCS is requesting comments to identify significant issues, potential alternatives, information, and analysis relevant to the proposed action from all interested individuals, Federal and State agencies, and Tribes.

DATES: We will consider comments that we receive by February 12, 2024. Comments received after close of the comment period will be considered to the extent possible.

ADDRESSES: We invite you to submit comments in response to this notice. You may submit your comments through one of the methods below:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and search for docket ID NRCS–2023–0018. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments; or
- *Mail or Hand Delivery:* Larry Schieferecke, Kansas State Conservation Engineer, USDA, NRCS, Kansas State Office, 760 South Broadway Boulevard, Salina, Kansas 67401–4604. In your comments, specify the docket ID NRCS–2023–0018.

All comments received will be posted without change and made publicly available on www.regulation.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Larry Schieferecke; telephone: (785) 823–4534; email: larry.schieferecke@usda.gov. Individuals who require alternative means for communication should contact the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Target Center at (202) 720–2600 (voice and text telephone (TTY)) or dial 711 for Telecommunications Relay service (both voice and text telephone users can initiate this call from any telephone).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose and Need

The primary purpose of the watershed plan is to provide for long-term, sustainable agricultural water management within the Rattlesnake Creek subbasin, including project components to address the impairment at Quivira NWR. GMD–5 has been awarded federal funding from NRCS through the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (Pub. L. 83–566, 16 U.S.C. 1001–1008—referred to as PL–566 in this document) to provide for long-term, sustainable agricultural water management within the Rattlesnake Creek subbasin of GMD–5, including project components to help address the impairment at Quivira NWR. The project is essential for the Quivira NWR’s ongoing senior water right impairment (as described below), and the importance of groundwater to the agricultural economy. The sustainability of Quivira NWR relies on surface water diversions that the KDA Division of Water Resource (KDA–DWR) has deemed impaired due to junior groundwater pumping. A predictable and consistent source of water is also required to support the region’s agricultural economy. Providing long-term agricultural water management for the region would help provide water resources for both the agricultural economy and help remedy Quivira NWR’s impaired senior water right.

A project will be developed through the preparation of the EIS that would assure a water supply for Quivira NWR while considering and minimizing economic impacts to the surrounding agricultural economy. In the state of Kansas, the use of water is monitored and regulated by KDA–DWR. Individuals that use the state water resources for any purpose other than domestic use is required to obtain a permit, or “water right.” The state regulates the water use under the prior appropriation doctrine, which provides priority access to individuals with older (or senior) water rights during water shortages as opposed to individuals with newer (or junior) water rights. The