

*Need and Use of the Information:*

Persons wishing to haul commercial will use form FS 7700-40. The form provides identifying information about the applicant such as the name; address; telephone number; description of mileage of roads; purpose of use; use schedule; and plans for future use. FS will use the information to prepare the applicant's permit to identify the road maintenance that is the direct result of the applicant's traffic, to calculate any applicable collections for recovery of past Federal investments in roads and assure that the requirements are met. Without the Road Use Permit, the backlog of maintenance would increase and the FS would have great difficulty providing the transportation system necessary to meet its mission.

*Description of Respondents:* Business or other for-profit; Individuals or households; State, Local or Tribal Government; Not-for-profit institutions.

*Number of Respondents:* 2000.

*Frequency of Responses:* Reporting: On occasion.

*Total Burden Hours:* 500.

**Rural Business-Cooperative Service**

*Title:* Notice of Funds Availability Inviting Applications for the Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Improvements Grant Program.

*OMB Control Number:* 0570-0044.

*Summary of Collection:* The establishing of the Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements Program under Title IX, Section 9006 requires the Secretary of Agriculture to create a program to make direct loans, loan guarantees, grants to farmers, ranchers and rural small business to purchase renewable energy systems and make energy efficiency improvements. The program is designed to help farmers, ranchers and rural small businesses reduce energy cost and consumption, develop new income streams and help meet the nation's critical energy needs. Mandatory funding beginning in fiscal year (FY) 2003 is provided to the Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS) annually for 5 years; however, RBS has decided to execute the grant program only for FY 2003.

*Need and Use of the Information:* RBS will use the information to determine applicant/grantee eligibility, project feasibility and to ensure that grantees operate on a sound basis and use grant funds for authorized purposes.

*Description of Respondents:* Business or other for-profit.

*Number of Respondents:* 133.

*Frequency of Responses:* Recordkeeping; Reporting: On occasion; Quarterly.

*Total Burden Hours:* 6,251.

**Rural Utilities Service**

*Title:* 7 CFR Part 1738, Rural Broadband Access.

*OMB Control Number:* 0572-NEW

*Summary of Collection:* Adding Title VI, Rural Broadband Access, amended The Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (RE Act), to provide loans and loan guarantees to fund the cost of construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment for the provision of broadband service in eligible rural communities in States and territories of the United States. The regulation prescribes the types of loans available, facilities financed and eligible applicants, as well as minimum credit support requirements considered for a loan. In addition, Title VI of the RE Act requires that Rural Utilities Service (RUS) make or guarantee a loan only if there is reasonable assurance that the loan together with all outstanding loans and obligations of the borrower will be repaid in full within the time agreed.

*Need and Use of the Information:* RUS will collect information to determine whether an applicant's eligibility to borrow from RUS under the terms of the RE Act and that the applicant complies with statutory, regulatory and administrative eligibility requirements for loan assistance. RUS will use the information to determine that the Government's security for loans made are reasonably adequate and that the loans will be repaid within the time agreed.

*Description of Respondents:* Business or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions.

*Number of Respondents:* 300.

*Frequency of Responses:* Reporting: On occasion.

*Total Burden Hours:* 28,475.

**Rural Housing Service**

*Title:* 7 CFR 1980-D, Rural Housing Loans.

*OMB Control Number:* 0575-0078.

*Summary of Collection:* The Rural Housing Service (RHS) is a credit agency for rural development for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The purpose of the Guaranteed Rural Housing (GRH) program is to assist low and moderate-income individuals and families in acquiring or constructing a single-family residence in a rural area with loans made by private lenders. Eligibility for this program includes low to moderate-income families or persons whose income does not exceed 115% of the median income for the area. The information requested by RHS includes borrower financial information such as

household income, assets and liabilities, and monthly expenses.

*Need and Use of the Information:* All information collected is vital for RHS to determine if borrowers qualify for all the assistance for which they are eligible. Information requested by lenders is required to ensure lenders are eligible to participate in the GRH program and are in compliance with OMB Circular A-129. If the information were collected less frequently or not at all, the agency could not effectively monitor lenders and assess the program.

*Description of Respondents:*

Individuals or households; Business or other for-profit; State, Local or Tribal Government.

*Number of Respondents:* 37,456.

*Frequency of Responses:* Reporting: Monthly; On occasion.

*Total Burden Hours:* 120,442.

**Rural Housing Service**

*Title:* 7 CFR 1940-G, Environmental Program.

*OMB Control Number:* 0575-0094.

*Summary of Collection:* The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires Federal agencies prior to the approval of proposed actions to consider the potential environmental impacts of these actions. Consequently, for the agencies to comply with NEPA, it is necessary to have information on the types of environmental resources on site or in the vicinity that might impact the proposed action. Also, information is required on the nature of the project selected by the applicant.

*Need and Use of the Information:* The agency will collect environmental data using form RD 1940-20, Request for Environmental Information. Having all activities and environmental information on the proposed project site will enable the Agency official to determine the magnitude of the potential environmental impacts and whether the project is controversial for environmental reasons. The agency failure to collect environmental information would result in a violation of NEPA. Thus, the agency would have no basis to support a decision regarding the need for an environmental impact statement.

*Description of Respondents:* Farms; Individuals or households; Business or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions; State, Local or Tribal Government.

*Number of Respondents:* 3,915.

*Frequency of Responses:* Reporting: On occasion.

*Total Burden Hours:* 21,812.

**National Agricultural Statistics Service**

*Title:* Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey.