

# 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 Marketing Service

[Document No. AMS-ST-18-0043]

#### Plant Variety Protection Board; Open Teleconference Meeting

**AGENCY:** Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is announcing a meeting of the Plant Variety Protection Board (Board). The meeting is being held to discuss a variety of topics including, but not limited to, work and outreach plans, subcommittee activities, and program activities. The meeting is open to the public. This notice sets forth the schedule and location for the meeting.

**DATES:** Tuesday, August 14, 2018, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Room 3543, South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC, 20250.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jeffery Haynes, Acting Commissioner, Plant Variety Protection Office, USDA, AMS, Science and Technology Programs, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250. Telephone: (202) 720-1066; Fax: (202) 260-8976, or Email: [Jeffery.Haynes@ams.usda.gov](mailto:Jeffery.Haynes@ams.usda.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Pursuant to the provisions of section 10(a) of the FACA (5 U.S.C., Appendix 2), this notice informs the public that the Plant Variety Protection Office (PVPO) is sponsoring a meeting of the Board on August 14, 2018. The Plant Variety Protection Act (PVPA) (7 U.S.C. 2321 *et seq.*) provides legal protection in the form of intellectual property rights to developers of new varieties of plants, which are reproduced sexually by seed

or are tuber-propagated. A certificate of Plant Variety Protection is awarded to an owner of a crop variety after an examination shows that it is new, distinct from other varieties, genetically uniform and stable through successive generations. The term of protection is 20 years for most crops and 25 years for trees, shrubs, and vines. The PVPA also provides for a statutory Board (7 U.S.C. 2327). The Board is composed of 14 individuals who are experts in various areas of development and represent the seed industry sector, academia and government. The duties of the Board are to: (1) Advise the Secretary concerning the adoption of rules and regulations to facilitate the proper administration of the FACA; (2) provide advisory counsel to the Secretary on appeals concerning decisions on applications by the PVP Office and on requests for emergency public-interest compulsory licenses; and (3) advise the Secretary on any other matters under the Regulations and Rules of Practice and on all questions under Section 44 of the FACA, "Public Interest in Wide Usage" (7 U.S.C. 2404).

**Meeting Agenda:** The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss the PVPO 2018 program activities, the electronic application system, and cooperation with other countries. The Board plans to discuss program activities that encourage the development of new plant varieties and address appeals to the Secretary. The meeting will be open to the public. Those wishing to participate are encouraged to pre-register by August 3, 2018, by contacting Jeffery Haynes, acting commissioner, at Telephone: (202) 720-1066; Fax: (202) 260-8976, or Email: [Jeffery.Haynes@ams.usda.gov](mailto:Jeffery.Haynes@ams.usda.gov).

**Meeting Accommodation:** The meeting at USDA will provide reasonable accommodation to individuals with disabilities where appropriate. If you need reasonable accommodation to participate in this public meeting, please notify Jeffery Haynes at: Telephone: (202) 720-1066; Fax: (202) 260-8976, or Email: [Jeffery.Haynes@ams.usda.gov](mailto:Jeffery.Haynes@ams.usda.gov).

Determinations for reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis. Minutes of the meeting will be available for public review 30 days following the meeting on the internet at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/PVPO>.

Dated: June 21, 2018.

**Bruce Summers,**  
Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 2018-13751 Filed 6-26-18; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-02-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Food and Nutrition Service

#### Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request—School Nutrition and Meal Cost Study-II

**AGENCY:** Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of Information Collection; request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) invites the general public and other public agencies to comment on this proposed information collection. This collection is a new collection for the School Nutrition and Meal Cost Study-II (SNMCS-II). The purpose of SNMCS-II is to provide a comprehensive picture of school food service operations and the nutritional quality, cost, and acceptability of meals served in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP).

**DATES:** Written comments on this notice must be received on or before August 27, 2018.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments may be sent to: John Endahl, Office of Policy Support, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 1004, Alexandria, VA 22302. Comments may also be submitted via fax to the attention of John Endahl at 703-305-2576 or via email to [john.endahl@fns.usda.gov](mailto:john.endahl@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 the Food and Nutrition Service during regular business hours (8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday) at 3101 Park Center Drive, 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 John Endahl at 703-305-2127.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*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 of 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 to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

*Title:* School Nutrition and Meal Cost Study-II.

*Form Number:* N/A.

*OMB Number:* Not yet assigned.

*Expiration Date:* Not yet determined.

*Type of Request:* New collection.

*Abstract:* SNMCS-II will provide a comprehensive picture of the NSLP and SBP, and will provide critical information about the nutritional quality, cost, and acceptability of school meals seven years after major reforms began being phased in during the 2012-2013 school year (SY). SNMCS-II will collect a broad range of data from nationally representative samples of public school food authorities (SFAs), public, non-charter schools, students, and parents/guardians during SY 2019-2020. These data will provide Federal, State, and local policymakers with current information about how federally sponsored school meal programs are operating by updating the information that was collected in SY 2014-2015 for the first School Nutrition and Meal Cost Study (SNMCS-I). In addition, findings from SNMCS-II will be compared to those from SNMCS-I to explore trends in key domains including the nutrient content of school meals, meal costs and revenues, and student participation, plate waste, and dietary intakes. SNMCS-II will also estimate the costs of producing reimbursable school meals in up to five States and Territories outside of the 48 contiguous States and the District of Columbia (DC), and examine the relationship of costs to revenues in

those five outlying areas. Section 28(a) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act authorizes this assessment of the cost of producing meals, and the nutrient profile of meals under the NSLP and SBP.

The sample frame of SFAs is divided into four groups, including the outlying areas. Samples in Groups 1, 2, and 3 are limited to the contiguous 48 States and DC. The outlying areas sample includes SFAs and schools in Alaska, Guam, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Data collected from the Group 1 sample will provide the precision required for national estimates of SFA-level characteristics and food service operations. Data collected from the Group 2 sample will be used to address study objectives related to the school nutrition environment and food service operations; the food and nutrient content of school meals; student participation in the NSLP and SBP; student/parent satisfaction with the school meal programs; and students' characteristics and dietary intakes. Data collected from the Group 3 sample will be used to address study objectives related to the school nutrition environment and food service operations; the food and nutrient content of school meals; the costs to produce reimbursable school lunches and breakfasts, including indirect and local administrative costs, and the ratios of revenues to costs; and plate waste in the school meals programs. Data collected from the outlying areas sample will be used to estimate the costs of producing reimbursable school meals and the ratios of revenues to costs.

There is pre-testing burden that is associated with this collection. This burden was reviewed and approved by the Office of Management and Budget on March 19, 2018 under OMB# 0584-0606 FNS Generic Clearance for Pre-Testing, Pilot, and Field Test Studies (School Nutrition and Meal Cost Study-II, Outlying Areas Cost Study Feasibility Assessment). This burden is not included in the burden estimates for this collection.

*Affected Public:* State, Local, and Tribal Governments respondent groups include: (1) State Child Nutrition Agency directors; (2) State Education Agency finance officers; (3) school district superintendents; (4) SFA directors; (5) local educational agency business managers; (6) menu planners; (7) school nutrition managers (SNMs); (8) principals; and (9) school study liaisons appointed by principals. Private Sector For-Profit Business respondents include food service management company managers. Individual

respondents include: (1) Students (first grade through high school) and (2) their parents/guardians.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* A total of 12,979 members of the public will be initially contacted to participate in the study. This includes 4,954 from State, Local, and Tribal Governments, 25 from Private Sector For-Profit Businesses, and 8,000 Individuals. Initial contact will vary by type of respondent and may include study notification, recruiting, or data collection. FNS anticipates that approximately 12,904 of this sample will respond to initial contact and 75 will not respond. Some respondents who respond to the initial contact may subsequently become non-respondents to one or more components of the data collection. The number of unique respondents expected to provide data for the study is 7,886.

The Group 1 completed sample includes 125 SFAs but no schools. Group 1 SFA directors will participate in the SFA Director Survey.

The Group 2 completed sample comprises 125 SFAs, 250 schools, and 2,000 students and their parents/guardians. SFA and school staff will participate in the SFA Director and School Planning Interviews; SFA Director, SNM, and Principal Surveys; the Basic Menu Survey, A la Carte Foods Checklist, and Meal Pattern Crediting Report; and Cafeteria Observation Guide and Competitive Foods Checklists. Students and parents/guardians will complete the Student Interview, including height and weight measurement; 24-dietary recall; and Parent Interview.

The Group 3 completed sample includes 250 SFAs and 750 schools. SFA and school staff will participate in the SFA Director and School Planning Interviews; SFA Cost Interview and Food Cost Worksheet; SFA Follow-Up Web Survey and Cost Interview; SNM Cost Interview; Principal Cost Interview; SFA Director, SNM, and Principal Surveys; the Expanded Menu Survey, A la Carte Foods Checklist, and Meal Pattern Crediting Report; and Cafeteria Observation Guide and Competitive Foods Checklists. Forty State Education Agency finance officers will complete the State Agency Indirect Cost Survey. Plate waste will be observed for 3,900 reimbursable lunches and 2,000 reimbursable breakfasts at a subsample of 130 schools among this Group 3 sample.

In the outlying areas, following recruitment, SFA and school staff in 33 SFAs and 216 schools will complete the SFA Director and School Planning Interviews; SFA Cost Interview and

Food Cost Worksheet; SFA Follow-Up Web Survey and Cost Interview; SNM Cost Interview; Principal Cost Interview; and the Expanded Menu Survey. Up to 5 State Education Agency finance officers will complete the State Agency Indirect Cost Survey and the State Child Nutrition Agency directors in Hawaii and the U.S. Virgin Islands will complete the SFA Cost Interview and SFA Follow-Up Cost Interview to capture the State agencies' involvement in SFAs' food service operations.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* All respondents will be asked to respond to each specific data collection activity only once. The overall average number of responses per respondent across the entire collection is 3.52.

*Estimated Total Annual Responses:* 45,653.

*Estimated Time per Response:* 33 minutes (0.55 hours). The estimated response varies from 1 minute to 10.25 hours, depending on the data collection

activity and the respondent group, as shown in the table below.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 25,184 hours. This includes 24,950 hours for respondents and 234 hours for non-respondents. See the table below for each type of respondent.

Dated: June 20, 2018.

**Brandon Lipps,**

*Administrator Food and Nutrition Service.*

Affected public	Data collection activity	Respondents	Response				Non-Response					Grand total annual burden estimate (hours)	
			Estimated number of respondents	Frequency of response	Total annual re-sponses	Average burden hours per response	Total annual burden estimate (hours)	Estimated number of respondents	Frequency of response	Total annual re-sponses	Average burden hours per response		Total annual burden estimate (hours)
State	Study Notification and SFA Data Request Email (a)(b)(c).	State Child Nutrition Agency Directors (Groups 1, 2, 3, outlying areas).	54	1	54	0.40	21.60	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	21.60
State	Telephone Interview (SFA Cost Interview, provide financial records).	State Child Nutrition Agency Directors (outlying areas).	2	1	2	3.08	6.16	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	6.16
State	Telephone Interview (SFA Follow-Up Cost Interview, provide financial records).	State Child Nutrition Agency Directors (outlying areas).	2	1	2	2.00	4.00	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	4.00
State	Self-Administered Form (study letter, State Agency Indirect Cost Survey) (a)(b)(c).	State Education Agency Finance Officers (Group 3, outlying areas).	45	1	45	0.17	7.65	9	1	9	0.07	0.63	8.28
Local and Tribal	Recruitment (a)(c) .....	Superintendents (Groups 2, 3, outlying areas).	438	1	438	0.33	144.54	35	1	35	0.07	2.45	146.99
Local and Tribal	Study Notification (a) .....	SFA Directors (Groups 2, 3, outlying areas).	473	1	473	0.10	47.30	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	47.30
Local and Tribal	Recruitment (c) .....	SFA Directors (Groups 2, 3, outlying areas).	438	1	438	0.28	122.64	35	1	35	0.07	2.45	125.09
Local and Tribal	Telephone Survey (SFA Director Planning Interview, study confirmation).	SFA Directors (Groups 2, 3, outlying areas).	438	1	438	0.58	254.04	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	254.04
Local and Tribal	Web Survey Advance Letter (a)(c).	SFA Directors (Group 1)	139	1	139	0.05	6.95	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	6.95
Local and Tribal	Web Survey Invitation .....	SFA Directors (Groups 1, 2, 3).	555	1	555	0.02	11.10	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	11.10
Local and Tribal	Self-Administered Web Survey (SFA Director Survey) (b)(c).	SFA Directors (Group 1)	125	1	125	0.83	103.75	14	1	14	0.07	0.93	104.68
Local and Tribal	Self-Administered Web Survey (SFA Director Survey) (b)(c).	SFA Directors (Group 2)	125	1	125	0.83	103.75	14	1	14	0.07	0.93	104.68
Local and Tribal	Self-Administered Web Survey (SFA Director Survey) (b)(c).	SFA Directors (Group 3)	250	1	250	0.83	207.50	27	1	27	0.07	1.80	209.30
Local and Tribal	Web Survey Reminder ...	SFA Directors (Groups 1, 2, 3).	278	1	278	0.15	41.70	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	41.70
Local and Tribal	School Roster Request Email.	SFA Directors (Group 2)	98	1	98	1.00	98.00	32	1	32	0.07	2.24	100.24
Local and Tribal	On-Site Data Collection Logistics Email.	SFA Directors (Groups 2, 3).	390	1	390	0.05	19.50	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	19.50
Local and Tribal	In-person Interview (SFA Cost Interview, Food Cost Worksheet, provide records).	SFA Directors (Group 3)	250	1	250	3.25	812.50	14	1	14	0.14	1.96	814.46
Local and Tribal	Telephone Interview (SFA Cost Interview, Food Cost Worksheet, provide records) (b).	SFA Directors (outlying areas).	33	1	33	3.25	107.25	2	1	2	0.14	0.28	107.53
Local and Tribal	In-person or Telephone Interview (SFA Cost Interview, provide records) (a)(b)(c).	LEA Business Managers (Group 3, outlying areas).	283	1	283	3.08	871.64	16	1	16	0.07	1.12	872.76
Local and Tribal	Follow-Up Web Survey Invitation.	SFA Directors (Group 3, outlying areas).	283	1	283	0.05	14.15	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	14.15
Local and Tribal	Self-Administered Web Survey (SFA Follow-Up Web Survey) (c).	SFA Directors (Group 3, outlying areas).	269	1	269	0.50	134.50	14	1	14	0.07	0.93	135.43
Local and Tribal	Telephone Interview (SFA Follow-Up Cost Interview, provide financial records).	SFA Directors (Group 3, outlying areas).	269	1	269	2.00	538.00	14	1	14	0.07	0.93	538.93

Local and Tribal	Telephone Interview (SFA Follow-Up Cost Interview, provide financial records) (c)	269	1	269	2.00	538.00	14	1	14	0.07	0.93	538.93
Local and Tribal	Self-Administered Web Survey (Meal Pattern Crediting Report) (a)(b)(c)	375	1	375	1.50	562.50	15	1	15	0.07	1.05	563.55
Local and Tribal	Study Notification (a) ....	1,541	1	1,541	0.13	200.33	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	200.33
Local and Tribal	Self-Administered Web Survey (School Planning Interview) (c)	966	1	966	0.25	241.50	50	1	50	0.07	3.50	245.00
Local and Tribal	On-Site Data Collection Logistics Email.	1,040	1	1,040	0.05	52.00	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	52.00
Local and Tribal	Self-Administered Web Survey (Basic Menu Survey, A la Carte Foods Checklist, SNM Survey) (b)(c)	250	1	250	8.25	2,062.50	13	1	13	0.14	1.78	2,064.28
Local and Tribal	Self-Administered Web Survey (Expanded Menu Survey, A la Carte Foods Checklist, SNM Survey) (b)(c)	750	1	750	10.25	7,687.50	39	1	39	0.14	5.33	7,692.83
Local and Tribal	Self-Administered Web Survey (Expanded Menu Survey) (b)(c)	216	1	216	8.34	1,801.44	11	1	11	0.07	0.75	1,802.19
Local and Tribal	In-person or Telephone Interview (SNM Cost Interview)	966	1	966	1.00	966.00	50	1	50	0.07	3.33	969.33
Local and Tribal	Interviewer-Completed Observation (Self-Serve/Made-to-Order Bar Form)	173	1	173	0.17	28.83	9	1	9	0.07	0.60	29.43
Local and Tribal	Interviewer-Completed Observation (Cafeteria Observation Guide)	1,000	1	1,000	0.08	83.00	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	83.00
Local and Tribal	Interviewer-Completed Observation (Point-of-Sale Form)	250	1	250	0.08	20.83	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	20.83
Local and Tribal	In-person Data Request (Reimbursable Meal Sale Data Request)	250	1	250	0.17	41.67	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	41.67
Local and Tribal	Interviewer-Completed Observation (Plate Waste Observation Booklet)	130	1	130	0.17	21.67	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	21.67
Local and Tribal	Study Notification and On-Site Data Collection Logistics Email (a)	1,040	1	1,040	0.18	187.20	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	187.20
Local and Tribal	Study Notification (a) ....	227	1	227	0.13	29.51	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	29.51
Local and Tribal	Web Survey Invitation ...	1,000	1	1,000	0.02	20.00	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	20.00
Local and Tribal	Self-Administered Web Survey (Principal Survey) (b)(c)	900	1	900	0.50	450.00	100	1	100	0.07	6.67	456.67
Local and Tribal	Web Survey Reminder ...	500	1	500	0.15	75.00	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	75.00
Local and Tribal	In-person Interview (Principal Cost Interview)	750	1	750	0.75	562.50	39	1	39	0.07	2.60	565.10
Local and Tribal	Telephone Interview (Principal Cost Interview) (b)(c)	216	1	216	0.75	162.00	11	1	11	0.07	0.73	162.73
Local and Tribal	Self-Administered Web Survey (School Planning Interview) (a)(b)(c)	264	1	264	0.25	66.00	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	66.00
Local and Tribal	On-Site Data Collection Logistics Email.	250	1	250	0.05	12.50	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	12.50
Local and Tribal	School Roster Request Email.	70	1	70	1.00	70.00	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	70.00

Affected public	Data collection activity	Respondents	Response				Non-Response					Grand total annual burden estimate (hours)
			Estimated number of respondents	Frequency of response	Total annual responses	Average burden hours per response	Total annual burden estimate (hours)	Estimated number of respondents	Frequency of response	Total annual re-sponses	Average burden hours per response	
Subtotal State, Local, and Tribal Governments.			4,879		18,630	19,620.70	75		577		43.94	19,664.64
Private Sector For-Profit.	Study Notification (a) ....	Food Service Management Company Manager (Groups 2, 3, outlying areas).	25	1	25	1.75	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	1.75
Private Sector For-Profit.	Recruitment (c) .....	Food Service Management Company Manager (Groups 2, 3, outlying areas).	24	1	24	6.00	1	1	1	0.07	0.07	6.07
Subtotal Private Sector For-Profit Businesses.			25		49	7.75	0	1	1		0.07	7.82
Individual .....	Study Notification (a) ....	Parents/Guardians (Group 2).	4,000	1	4,000	520.00	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	520.00
Individual .....	Study Consent Form (c)	Parents/Guardians (Group 2).	3,712	1	3,712	371.20	288	1	288	0.07	20.16	391.36
Individual .....	Survey Invitation .....	Parents/Guardians (Group 2).	2,222	1	2,222	44.44	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	44.44
Individual .....	Self-Administered Web Survey or Telephone Interview (Parent Interview) (b)(c).	Parents/Guardians (Group 2).	2,000	1	2,000	833.33	222	1	222	0.07	15.54	848.87
Individual .....	Self-Administered Form (dietary recall reminder, Food Diary, Day 1/Day 2).	Parents/Guardians (Group 2).	1,066	1	1,066	198.99	196	1	196	0.02	3.92	202.91
Individual .....	Telephone Interview (24-Hour Dietary Recall, Day 1).	Parents/Guardians (Group 2).	820	1	820	205.00	91	1	91	0.07	6.37	211.37
Individual .....	Telephone Interview (24-Hour Dietary Recall, Day 2) (c).	Parents/Guardians (Group 2).	246	1	246	184.50	105	1	105	0.07	7.00	191.50
Individual .....	Study Assent Form (a) ...	Students (Group 2) .....	4,000	1	4,000	200.00	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	200.00
Individual .....	Study Reminder, Day 1	Students (Group 2) .....	2,857	1	2,857	57.14	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	57.14
Individual .....	In-person Interview (Student Interview, 24-Hour Dietary Recall, Day 1) (b)(c).	Students (Group 2) .....	2,000	1	2,000	2,240.00	857	1	857	0.14	119.98	2,359.98
Individual .....	Study Reminder, Day 2	Students (Group 2) .....	857	1	857	17.14	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	17.14
Individual .....	Telephone Interview (24-Hour Dietary Recall, Day 2) (c).	Students (Group 2) .....	600	1	600	450.00	257	1	257	0.07	17.13	467.13
Subtotal Individuals.			8,000		24,380	5,321.74	0		2,016		190.10	5,511.84
Grand Total .....		12,904 .....		43,059	0.58	24,950.19	75		2,594		234.11	25,184.30

[FR Doc. 2018-13827 Filed 6-26-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-30-P

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE****Forest Service****Revision of the Land Management Plans for the Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho States****AGENCY:** USDA Forest Service.**ACTION:** Notice of the opportunity to object to the Revised Land Management Plans for the Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests.

**SUMMARY:** The USDA Forest Service has prepared Revised Land Management Plans (Forest Plans) for the Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests (also termed the Blue Mountains Forests). The Forest Service has also prepared a single Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and a combined Draft Record of Decision. This notice is to inform the public that a 60-day objections period is being initiated for individuals or entities who have submitted substantive formal comments related to the revision of the Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman Forest Plans during the opportunities for public comment provided during the planning process for that decision. Objections must be based on previously submitted substantive formal comments attributed to the objector unless the objection concerns an issue that arose after the opportunities for formal comment.

**DATES:** The Revised Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman Forest Plans, FEIS, Draft Record of Decision, and other supporting documentation are available on the following web page: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/BlueMountainsPlanRevision>.

A legal notice of the initiation of the 60-day objection period is being published in *The Oregonian*, which is the newspaper of record for Regional Forester decisions in the Pacific Northwest Region of the Forest Service. The 60-day objection period will begin the day following the date of the publication of the legal notice in *The Oregonian*. A copy of the legal notice will be posted on web page listed above.

**ADDRESSES:** Electronic objections must be submitted to the Objection Reviewing Officer via email to [objections-chief@fs.fed.us](mailto:objections-chief@fs.fed.us), with a subject line stating: "Objection regarding the Revised Blue Mountains Forest Plans." Electronic submissions must be submitted in a format (Word, PDF, or Rich Text) that is

readable and searchable with optical character recognition software.

Faxed objections must be sent and addressed to "Chris French, Objection Reviewing Officer" at (202) 649-1172 and must include a subject line stating: "Objection regarding the Revised Blue Mountains Forest Plans." The fax coversheet should specify the number of pages being submitted.

Hardcopy objections may be submitted by regular mail, private carrier, or hand delivery to the following address: USDA Forest Service, Attn: Chris French, Objection Reviewing Officer, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, EMC-PEEARS, Mailstop 1104, Washington, DC 20250. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding Federal holidays. Hardcopy submissions must include a subject line on page one stating: "Objection regarding the Revised Blue Mountains Forest Plans."

Individuals who need to use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) to transmit objections may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Team Leader, Peter Fargo, 1550 Dewey Ave., Suite A, Baker City, OR 97814, (541) 523-1231.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The decision to approve the Revised Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman Forest Plans will be subject to the objection process identified in 36 CFR part 219 subpart B (219.50 to 219.62). Individuals and entities who have submitted substantive formal comments related to the revision of the Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman Forest Plans during the opportunities for public comment, as provided in 36 CFR part 219 subpart A, during the planning process for that decision may file an objection.

Objections must be based on previously submitted substantive formal comments attributed to the objector unless the objection concerns an issue that arose after the opportunities for formal comment. The burden is on the objector to demonstrate compliance with requirements for objection. All objections must be filed, in writing, with the reviewing officer for the Revised Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman Forest Plans. Objections received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who object, will be considered part of the public record on these proposed actions and will be available for public inspection. At a

minimum, an objection must include the following (36 CFR 219.54(c)):

(1) The objector's name and address along with a telephone number or email address if available. In cases where no identifiable name is attached to an objection, the Forest Service will attempt to verify the identity of the objector to confirm objection eligibility;

(2) Signature or other verification of authorship upon request (a scanned signature for electronic mail may be filed with the objection);

(3) Identification of the lead objector, when multiple names are listed on an objection. The Forest Service will communicate to all parties to an objection through the lead objector. Verification of the identity of the lead objector must also be provided if requested;

(4) The name of the Plan Revision(s) being objected to, and the name and title of the responsible official;

(5) A statement of the issues and/or parts of the Plan Revision(s) to which the objection applies;

(6) A concise statement explaining the objection and suggesting how the proposed plan decision may be improved. If the objector believes that the plan revision is inconsistent with law, regulation, or policy, an explanation should be included;

(7) A statement that demonstrates the link between the objector's prior substantive formal comments and the content of the objection, unless the objection concerns an issue that arose after the opportunities for formal comment; and

(8) All documents referenced in the objection (a bibliography is not sufficient), except that the following need not be provided:

a. All or any part of a Federal law or regulation,

b. Forest Service Directive System documents and land management Plans or other published Forest Service documents,

c. Documents referenced by the Forest Service in the planning documentation related to the proposal subject to objection, and

d. Formal comments previously provided to the Forest Service by the objector during the plan revision comment period.

Prior to the issuance of the reviewing officer's written response, either the reviewing officer or the objector may request to meet to discuss issues raised in the objection. Interested persons who wish to participate in meetings to discuss issues raised by objectors must have previously submitted substantive formal comments related to the objection issues. Interested persons