

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

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

February 14, 2011.

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 regarding (a) 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; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) 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 should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), OIRA_Submission@OMB.EOP.GOV or fax (202) 395-5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, DC 20250-7602. Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of this notification. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720-8958.

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.

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Title: National Management Information System (Wildlife Service).

OMB Control Number: 0579-0335.

Summary of Collection: The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Wildlife Services (WS), is a service program that responds to requests by persons and agencies needing help with wildlife damage. Assistance is available to all citizens upon request. The primary statutory authority for the APHIS/WS program is the Act of March 1931 (7 U.S.C. 426-426c; 46 Stat. 1468) as amended. Section 426 of the Act authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a program of wildlife services with respect to injurious animal species and take any action the Secretary considers necessary in conducting the program. Information provided by customers in the WS programs is voluntary so that WS can prepare to help them. APHIS/WS will collect information using several forms.

Need and Use of the Information: Information collected in most situations is used in routine business communication activities by WS as part of its cooperative programs initiated by request from the public and government entities. The collected information from the forms will help WS modify and improve its programs to better fulfill mission objectives, suit the needs of Cooperators, and provide increasingly superior service.

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

Number of Respondents: 89,902.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion; Biennially; Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 4,165.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2011-3667 Filed 2-17-11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Development of Technical Guidelines and Scientific Methods for Quantifying GHG Emissions and Carbon Sequestration for Agricultural and Forestry Activities

AGENCY: Office of the Chief Economist, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

ACTION: Notice of project undertaken to develop technical guidelines and scientific methods for quantifying greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and carbon sequestration at the practice-, process-, farm- and entity-scales.

SUMMARY: Section 2709 of the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 states that: USDA shall prepare technical guidelines that outline science-based methods to measure the carbon benefits from conservation and land management activities. In accordance with Section 2709 of the 2008 Farm Bill, USDA is developing technical guidelines and science-based methods to quantify greenhouse gas sources and sinks from the agriculture and forest sectors at the entity-, process-, and practice-scale. USDA intends to develop guidelines and methods that are verifiable and that demonstrate scientific rigor, transparency, scalability, and usability. USDA anticipates that the methods will be used by farmers and by USDA to improve management practices and to identify actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase carbon sequestration. The guidelines and methods could be used by farmers, ranchers, and forest owners to facilitate their participation in voluntary State and regional systems. In order to make the guidelines and methods most useful to a broad audience, a Web-based, user-friendly tool will be developed following the drafting of the guidelines and methods.

In carrying out this project, USDA will consult with Federal and State government agencies; farm, ranch, and forest producers; as well as other interested parties. At the Federal level, this consultation will minimize duplication of efforts and ensure consistency of the products with other U.S. Government inventory and estimation approaches. USDA anticipates that after they are developed, reviewed, and published, the Technical Guidelines, combined with the user-

friendly tool for GHG quantification, will assist farmers, ranchers, and forest owners in improving management practices and identifying actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase carbon sequestration, and could facilitate their participation in voluntary State and regional systems.

Comments received under this notice will be used in determining the scope of the effort, strengthening the proposed project approach, ensuring that relevant information and data are considered, improving the rigor of the guidelines, and enhancing the usability of the methods. USDA is interested in your comments in response to the numbered topics, categories and questions shown in the supplementary information section of this notice. When submitting your responses, please categorize your comments as per the section number designations noted. Be specific and concise. All information received will be included in the public docket without change and made available online at <http://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information provided.

Responses to this notice are not offers and cannot be accepted by the Government to form a binding contract or issue a grant. Information obtained as a result of this request may be used by the government for program planning on a non-attribution basis. Do not include any information that might be considered proprietary or confidential.

DATES: Responses to this notice should be submitted by 11:59 pm Eastern Time on April 19, 2011.

ADDRESSES: Responses to this notice must be submitted electronically through the [regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments. The <http://www.regulations.gov> Web site is an "anonymous access" system, which means USDA will not know your identity or contact information unless you provide it in the body of your comment. If you are unable to submit your responses through the Web portal, then consider these alternative delivery methods:

- Via e-mail to techguide@oce.usda.gov;
- Via fax to 202-401-1176; or,
- Via hand or courier delivery to Marlen Eve, USDA Climate Change Program Office, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Room 4407 South Bldg, Washington, DC 20250.

Responses submitted through e-mail, fax or courier will be recorded in full, including any identity and contact information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Any questions about the content of this request should be sent to Marlen Eve, USDA Climate Change Program Office, via E-mail techguide@oce.usda.gov, Telephone 202-401-0979, or Fax 202-401-1176. Additional information on this request and the project can be found at http://www.usda.gov/oce/climate_change/techguide.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Climate Change Program Office (CCPO) operates within the Office of the Chief Economist at USDA and functions as the Department-wide coordinator of agriculture, rural and forestry-related climate change program and policy issues facing USDA. The CCPO ensures that USDA is a source of objective, analytical assessments of the effects of climate change and proposed response strategies. This project addresses the need for a scientifically sound, Department-wide guideline for quantifying GHG emissions and carbon sequestration at the farm- and entity-scale. The products developed by this project will be useful in assessing the carbon and GHG related environmental service benefits of various agricultural and forestry management practices and technologies. Supplementary information on the project is included below.

1. Project scope. USDA is embarking on an effort to create a "stand alone" set of GHG inventory guidelines that builds upon existing inventory efforts such as the Department of Energy's Voluntary Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program 1605(b) Guidelines, with an aim of providing simple, transparent and robust inventory and reporting tools. As much as is possible, the guidelines, methods, and reporting tools developed in this project will utilize and extend data and tools currently available publically. The guidelines and methods are not intended as an addition to or replacement of any current Federal GHG reporting systems or requirements. The guidelines will be prepared for direct greenhouse gas emissions and carbon sequestration from agricultural and forestry processes. USDA does not plan to develop technical guidelines for indirect greenhouse gas emissions/sequestration, or address issues related to crediting reductions such as additionality or leakage under this effort. The guidelines being developed by USDA will be used within the Department and by farmers, ranchers, and forest land owners, and will be made publicly available. To ensure the project deliverables are of benefit to the widest possible set of stakeholders (including USDA, other Federal

agencies, private landowners, private and public GHG registries, NGO's, private industry, policy-makers and others) the process of developing the guidelines, methods, and reporting tools will emphasize scientific rigor, transparency, internal consistency, and reducing uncertainty. We anticipate that the guidelines will need to be reviewed and may need to be amended before being adopted by other agencies or public or private registries. Specific potential uses of the project deliverables include aiding: (1) USDA in assessing GHG and carbon sequestration increases and decreases resulting from current and future conservation programs and practices; (2) USDA and others in evaluating and improving national and regional GHG inventory efforts; and (3) landowners, NGOs, and other groups assessing increases and decreases in GHG emissions and carbon sequestration associated with changes in land management. The project is planned for completion within the next three years.

Specifically, USDA requests comments on:

1.1 How may USDA best improve upon existing greenhouse gas estimation guidelines for the agriculture and forestry sectors, while at the same time simplifying input requirements and enhancing the ease of use for individuals and entities?

1.2 USDA intends to develop a standard set of methods for practice-, process-, farm- and entity-scale inventories which could provide a technical basis for improved methods for current voluntary State and regional systems. Are there specific areas where a USDA guideline would be most useful to current State and regional systems? Are there limitations to using the proposed quantification tools in the context of State and regional systems?

2. Objectives. The guidelines will result in a methodology for an integrated emissions inventory at the entity scale for all agricultural (crop and livestock) and forest management activities, including (but not limited to) those listed below:

2.1 Cropland Agriculture

2.1.1 Crop, residue and soil management practices and technologies to increase carbon sequestration and reduce nitrous oxide emissions on mineral and cultivated wetland soils, including tillage systems, crop rotations, nutrient management, fertilizer technologies, liming, water management, cover crops, agroforestry, wetland restoration, residue removal and alternatives to biomass burning.

2.1.2 Rice cultivation practices and technologies to reduce methane emissions, including improved water table management, cultivation and fertilizer management.

2.1.3 Are there specialty crops where specific changes in management can greatly reduce GHG emissions or increase carbon sequestration that should be considered to enhance completeness and comprehensiveness of the guidelines, estimation and reporting tools?

2.1.4 Are there additional cropland activities, management practices or technologies to be accounted for to enhance completeness and comprehensiveness of the guidelines, estimation and reporting tools?

2.2 Animal Agriculture

2.2.1 Management practices and technologies to reduce methane emissions from enteric fermentation, including dietary modification, additives, feeding management, and reproductive management (genetic selection, gender differences, etc.).

2.2.2 Grazing land management practices and technologies to increase carbon sequestration and reduce nitrous oxide emissions, including rotational grazing and improved forage management.

2.2.3 Manure management practices and technologies to reduce methane and nitrous oxide emissions, including digesters, lagoon management, land application practices, and composting.

2.2.4 Are there additional grazing land and animal agriculture activities, management practices or technologies to be accounted for to enhance completeness and comprehensiveness of the guidelines, estimation and reporting tools?

2.3 Forests and Afforestation

2.3.1 Afforestation practices and technologies to increase carbon sequestration.

2.3.2 Forest management practices and technologies to reduce GHG emissions or increase carbon sequestration, including stand thinning, restoration, fertilization, and species selection.

2.3.3 Agroforestry practices and technologies to increase carbon sequestration through windbreaks, riparian buffers and silvopasture.

2.3.4 Forest preservation to reduce the risk of GHG emissions from fire, pests and disease.

2.3.5 Wood products management to reduce waste, increase product longevity and reduce the risk of GHG emissions from fire or decay.

2.3.6 Are there additional forest activities, management practices, equipment or technologies to be considered to enhance completeness and comprehensiveness of the guidelines, estimation and reporting tools?

The methods and tools will quantify all significant emissions and sinks associated with the management activities, thereby creating a standardized way to document changes in emissions and carbon sequestration resulting from conservation efforts and changing land and forest management practices. We envision the methods and tools being especially useful to USDA in evaluating the GHG-related environmental services benefits of conservation and renewable energy programs.

2.4 Are there sources of information relevant to the objectives of this project which can be made available to the author teams? If so, please provide this information or the name and contact details for the correspondent.

2.5 Are there opportunities to reduce GHG emissions and increase carbon sequestration in the agriculture and forestry sectors that should be reflected in the methods?

2.6 USDA intends to rely on engineering calculations, models, and observations as primary methodological approaches. How can USDA balance rigor while maintaining broad applicability, national consistency, and user friendliness?

2.7 What models and tools currently exist for farm- or entity- scale GHG inventory and reporting, and how might they be useful to the current project objectives? For each model noted, provide a source citation for information on the model.

3. Criteria. There are several key criteria that USDA will rely on in preparing the GHG guidelines, including the following:

3.1 *Transparency* means that the assumptions and methodologies used for an inventory should be clearly explained to facilitate replication and assessment of the inventory by users of the reported information. The transparency of inventories is fundamental to the success of the process for the communication and consideration of information.

3.2 *Consistency* means that the methods used to generate inventory estimates should be internally consistent in all its elements and the estimates should be consistent with other years. An inventory is consistent if the same methodologies are used for the base and all subsequent years and if consistent data sets are used to estimate

emissions or removals from sources or sinks. Consistency is an important consideration in merging differing estimation techniques from diverse technologies and management practices.

3.3 *Comparability* requires that the estimates of emissions and sequestration being reported by one entity are comparable to the estimates being reported by others. For this purpose, entities should use common methodologies and formats for estimating and reporting inventories. Comparability is an important consideration in determining whether the guidelines specifies one method (for any technology or management practice) or allows users to select from a menu of methods.

3.4 *Completeness* means that an inventory covers all sources and sinks, as well as all greenhouse gases. Completeness also means full coverage of sources and sinks under the control of the entity. Completeness is an important consideration to be balanced with ease of use in reporting appropriately for an entity that may have a minor activity or an activity with severely limited data availability.

3.5 *Accuracy* is a relative measure of the exactness of an emission or removal estimate. Estimates should be accurate in the sense that they are systematically neither over nor under true emissions or removals, as far as can be judged, and that uncertainties are reduced as far as practicable.

3.6 *Cost effectiveness* is a measure of the relative costs and benefits of additional efforts to improve inventory estimates or reduce uncertainty.

3.7 *Ease of use* is a measure of the complexity of the user interface and underlying data requirements.

3.8 Are these appropriate criteria by which to formulate GHG estimation and reporting guidelines, methods and tools? Are there other criteria that should also be considered?

3.9 To the extent that there are tradeoffs, which criteria are more important than others in ensuring the usefulness of the project products for entity-scale estimation and reporting?

4. Expected outcomes and products. The project is expected to yield the following products.

4.1 A review of techniques currently in use for estimating carbon stocks and fluxes and GHG emissions from agricultural and forestry activities;

4.2 A technical guidelines document outlining the approach or approaches to conducting a farm-, ranch-, or forest-scale GHG estimation;

4.3 Specific methods for each source/sink category that are designed

to be reliable and consistent with national inventory efforts;

4.4 A quantification where possible of uncertainties in estimation at the entity scale; and

4.5 A user-friendly tool that integrates multiple sources of entity-scale data to facilitate farm-, ranch-, and forest-scale quantification of greenhouse gas emissions and sequestration in a manner consistent with the methods and technical guidelines.

Timeline. The project is planned for completion over the next three years. Implementation of the project will include development of the draft guidelines and methods, technical and peer review, development of estimation and reporting tools and associated documentation, beta testing, solicitation of public comment, and publication of the final guidelines document as well as the estimation and reporting tools.

USDA prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, sexual orientation, or disability. Additionally, discrimination on the basis of political beliefs and marital or family status is also prohibited by statutes enforced by USDA (not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternate means for communication of program information (braille, large print, audio tape, *etc.*) should contact the USDA's Target Center at (202) 720-2000 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Joseph Glauber,
Chief Economist.

[FR Doc. 2011-3731 Filed 2-17-11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-38-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS-2010-0125]

Secretary's Advisory Committee on Animal Health; Meetings

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: This is a notice to inform the public of three upcoming meetings of the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Animal Health. The meetings are being organized by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to discuss matters of animal health, including the pending proposed rule implementing USDA's traceability framework and establishing an aquaculture subcommittee.

DATES: The meetings will be held March 4, 2011, May 13, 2011, and July 15, 2011 from noon to 5 p.m. (eastern time) each day.

ADDRESSES: Each meeting will be conducted as a teleconference. Opportunities for public participation are described in the Supplementary Information section of this notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Michael R. Doerrer, Chief Operating Officer, Veterinary Services, APHIS, USDA, 4700 River Road, Unit 37, Riverdale, MD 20737; e-mail: SACAH.Management@aphis.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Secretary's Advisory Committee on Animal Health (the Committee) advises the Secretary of Agriculture on means to prevent, conduct surveillance on, monitor, control, or eradicate animal diseases of national importance. In doing so, the Committee will consider public health, conservation of natural resources, and the stability of livestock economies. Among the key animal health issues the Committee will help the Secretary evaluate will be animal disease traceability.

Animal disease traceability will be the primary discussion topic at the meeting on March 4, 2011. APHIS has spent much of the past year developing a framework for animal disease traceability in the United States. Through the framework, APHIS will implement a flexible yet coordinated approach to animal disease traceability that embraces the strengths and expertise of States, Tribes, and producers and empowers them to find and use the traceability approaches that work best for them.

APHIS has conducted extensive outreach on the traceability framework and continues to seek input by using the Committee. We are developing the proposed rule and the traceability performance standards collaboratively and transparently. This helps us ensure that practical animal disease traceability options evolve.

Additional details regarding each meeting, including the preliminary and final agendas, will be posted on the Committee's Web site at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/acaah/ in advance of each meeting. Copies of agendas may also be obtained from the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** at the beginning of this notice.

Public Participation

All meetings will be open to the public, although public participants will be joined to the call in "observation" or "listen only" mode. Members of the

public who wish to participate in a teleconference must notify the Committee by sending an e-mail through an access portal on the Committee's Web site or by e-mailing the Committee directly at SACAH.Management@aphis.usda.gov. In your e-mail, please provide your name and organizational affiliation (if any) and identify the meeting(s) you wish to join. The Committee will reply with a telephone number and participant pass code that will allow you to join the meeting.

Questions and written statements for the first meeting on March 4, 2011, may be submitted by or before March 1, 2011, for the Committee's consideration. For the meetings to be held in May and July, questions and written statements may be submitted up to 5 days before those meetings. Questions and written statements may be sent via e-mail to SACAH.Management@aphis.usda.gov or mailed to the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** at the beginning of this notice. Statements may also be filed with the Committee after the meeting by sending them to SACAH.Management@aphis.usda.gov.

This notice of meeting is given pursuant to section 10 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. 2).

Done in Washington, DC this 15th day of February 2011.

Gregory Parham,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 2011-3728 Filed 2-17-11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Sequoia National Forest; California; Piute Mountains Travel Management Plan

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: The Sequoia National Forest proposes to develop a travel management plan for the Piute Mountains, located in northeast Kern County, California. The Piute Mountains, with a mixed conifer and pine forest, are included in the eastside Sierra Nevada ecosystem. The project area for this analysis includes 77,679 acres of National Forest System land in the Piute Mountains part of the Sequoia National Forest. There are an additional 7,170 acres of private land within the Piute Mountains. The Piute fire burned