

a wealth of empirical information on germplasm use in breeding and research. This includes information by specific crops (e.g., the use of landraces in corn breeding, the search for biotic tolerance in wheat); the quantity of germplasm by type and purpose; institutional needs for germplasm (both public and private); and requestors' anticipated future use. This information will also assess biological traits that are needed for adaptation to climate change. Agriculture is highly geography-specific, given that growing regions vary by rainfall and temperature conditions, pest and disease pressures, and soil types. Accordingly, plant breeders work to develop unique varieties for different geographic locations. As a result, each requestor of NPGS germplasm is likely to have one characteristic—geographic location—which is unique and important to that institution's use of this germplasm, particularly in the context of global climate change. Moreover, it would be difficult to get adequate representation of the matrix of crops, germplasm types, and locations for some smaller crops (e.g., squash) without conducting a census of all germplasm requestors to the NPGS for any of the ten crops.

A web-based instrument will be used for information collection. It will be kept as simple and respondent-friendly as possible. Responses are voluntary. The study instrument is based on a mailed paper-based instrument used in the 2000 study, "Demand for Genetic Resources from the National Plant Germplasm System." It was jointly developed by International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Auburn University's Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, the National Germplasm Resources Lab of the National Plant Germplasm System, and the Economic Research Service. The instrument used in the 2000 study was administered by IFPRI and Auburn University and had a response rate of 35%. Study design for currently proposed study is consistent with that of the 2000 study in order to make comparisons across time. The frame for this census comprises all germplasm requestors to the NPGS for any of the ten crops in the last five years. Although the NPGS provided germplasm to any requestor free of cost, it also informed potential requestors and received their consent, at the time of a request was made, that their information could be used for activities relating to the service that they had requested. Several measures will be taken to support the response rate for the proposed information collection:

- Information will be collected via the internet rather than by mail. This data collection mode is more convenient for intended respondents and will allow for rapid follow up with non-respondents.

- This information collection will be cosponsored by the National Germplasm Resources Laboratory of USDA, which is familiar to the recipients as it is the agency that provided the requested germplasm.

- A well planned recruitment protocol will include sending the instrument with a cover letter from a senior staff member of the National Germplasm Resources Laboratory, who will be an individual familiar to many of the recipients. It also includes up to three reminder emails to non-respondents.

Should the response rate fall below 80%, a non-response bias study will be conducted. The web-based instrument was pretested for ease of use by fewer than ten germplasm requestors contacted by USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and the average time spent completing the forms was 13 minutes.

Information from the Census of Users of the National Plant Germplasm System will be used for statistical purposes only and reported only in aggregate or statistical form. A public use data file will be created from this information collection. ERS does not intend to invoke CIPSEA or any other data protection statute for this collection, because it will not collect any sensitive or personal identifiable information.

*Estimate of Burden:* In order to answer our research question about the use of germplasm for adaptation to climate change, a census is needed to pinpoint geo-spatial demand for germplasm. Thus, all 6,009 requestors of germplasm will be asked to fill out a web instrument once during a one month data collection period; non-respondents will receive three reminder emails. 80% of requestors are assumed to provide a response to one of the four emailed instruments. The estimated time of response is 0.34 hour. This average includes time spent completing the questionnaire and reading reminder emails. 20% will be non-respondents and will incur less than 1 minute of time to read the material. Thus, response times are estimated by adding an additional minute for each reminder sent, for a total of four minutes for requestors who never respond. These estimates of respondent burden are based on pretesting by ARS scientists, conducted by the National Germplasm Resources Laboratory of the National Plant Germplasm System.

*Type of Respondents:* Respondents includes all individuals or institutions who requested germplasm for any of the aforesaid ten crops from the National Plant Germplasm System over the five year period as defined by this information collection.

*Estimated Total Number of Respondents:* 6,009.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 1,731.5 hours.

*Comments:* All written comments received will be available for public inspection in the Resource Center of the Economic Research Service during regular business hours (8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday) at 355 E St. SW., Room 04P33, Washington, DC 20024-4221. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (1) 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; (2) 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; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) 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.

Dated: March 29, 2016.

**Mary Bohman,**

*Administrator, Economic Research Service.*

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**BILLING CODE 3410-18-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Notice of Lincoln County Resource Advisory Committee Meeting

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the authorities in the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463) and under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106-393) the Kootenai National Forest's Lincoln County Resource Advisory Committee will meet on Tuesday, April 26, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. at the Forest Supervisor's Office in Libby, Montana

for a business meeting. The meeting is open to the public.

**DATES:** April 26, 2016.

**ADDRESSES:** Forest Supervisor's Office, 31374 US Hwy 2, Libby, Montana.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** JeriAnn Chapel, Committee Coordinator, Kootenai National Forest at (406) 283-7643, or email [jchapel@fs.fed.us](mailto:jchapel@fs.fed.us).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Agenda will include membership discussion—replacement/new, establishing committee rules, procedures and revisit project priorities, and review the status of prior projects list. If the meeting date or location is changed, notice will be posted in the local newspapers, including the Missoulian, based in Missoula, Montana.

Dated: March 28, 2016.

**Christopher Savage,**

*Forest Supervisor.*

[FR Doc. 2016-08011 Filed 4-6-16; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3411-15-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Wenatchee-Okanogan Resource Advisory Committee

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The Wenatchee-Okanogan Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will meet in Wenatchee, Washington. The committee is authorized under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (Pub. L. 110-343) (the Act) and operates in compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The purpose of the committee is to improve collaborative relationships and to provide advice and recommendations to the Forest Service concerning projects and funding consistent with Title II of the Act. The purpose of the meeting is to review projects proposed for RAC consideration under Title II of the Act. RAC information can be found at the following Web site: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/okawen/workingtogether/advisorycommittees>.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on May 3, 2016.

All RAC meetings are subject to cancellation. For status of meetings prior to attendance, please contact the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Sunnyslope Fire Station, 206 Easy Street, Wenatchee, Washington.

Written comments may be submitted as described under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**. All comments, including names and addresses when provided, are placed in the record and are available for public inspection and copying. The public may inspect comments received at the Okanogan-Wenatchee NF Headquarters Office. Please call ahead to facilitate entry into the building.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** RAC Coordinator Robin DeMario by phone at 509-664-9292 or via email at [rdemario@fs.fed.us](mailto:rdemario@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 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The purpose of the meetings is to:

1. Provide status updates regarding Secure Rural Schools Program and Title II funding; and
2. Review and recommend projects for Title II funding for Kittitas and Yakima Counties.

These meetings are open to the public. The agenda will include time for people to make oral statements of three minutes or less. Individuals wishing to make an oral statement should request in writing by April 11, 2016, to be scheduled on the agenda. Anyone who would like to bring related matters to the attention of the committee may file written statements with the committee staff before or after the meeting. Written comments and requests for time for oral comments must be sent to Robin DeMario, RAC Coordinator, 215 Melody Lane, Wenatchee, Washington 98801; by email to [rdemario@fs.fed.us](mailto:rdemario@fs.fed.us) or via facsimile to 509-664-9286.

**Meeting Accommodations:** If you are a person requiring reasonable accommodation, please make requests in advance for sign language interpreting, assistive listening devices, or other reasonable accommodation. For access to the facility or proceedings, please contact the person listed in the section titled **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. All reasonable accommodation requests are managed on a case by case basis.

Dated: March 31, 2016.

**Jason Kuiken,**

*Deputy Forest Supervisor, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest.*

[FR Doc. 2016-08012 Filed 4-6-16; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3411-15-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

[Docket No.: 15122999-5999-01]

### Office of Administration; Commerce Alternative Personnel System

**AGENCY:** Office of Administration, Office of Human Resources Management, Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the expansion of employee coverage under the Commerce Alternative Personnel System, formerly the Department of Commerce Personnel Management Demonstration Project, published in the **Federal Register** on December 24, 1997. This coverage is extended to include employees located in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), employed under the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO).

**DATES:** This notice expanding and modifying the Commerce Alternative Personnel System is effective April 7, 2016.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Department of Commerce—Sandra Thompson, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW., Room 51020, Washington, DC 20230, (202) 482-0056 or Valerie Smith at (202) 482-0272.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### 1. Background

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) approved the Department of Commerce (DoC) demonstration project for an alternative personnel management system, and published the final plan in the **Federal Register** on Wednesday, December 24, 1997 (62 FR 67434). The demonstration project was designed to simplify current classification systems for greater flexibility in classifying work and paying employees; establish a performance management and rewards system for improving individual and organizational performance; and improve recruiting and examining to attract highly-qualified candidates. The purpose of the project was to strengthen the contribution of human resources management and test whether the same innovations conducted under the National Institute of Standards and Technology alternative personnel management system would produce similarly successful results in other DoC environments. The project was implemented on March 29, 1998. The project plan has been modified eight times to clarify certain DoC Demonstration Project authorities, and