Lacey Act makes it unlawful to import, export, transport, sell, receive, acquire, or purchase in interstate or foreign commerce any plant, with some limited exceptions, taken in violation of the laws of a U.S. State or any foreign law that protects plants. The Lacey Act also makes it unlawful to make or submit any false record, account, or label for, or any false identification of, any plant.

In addition, Section 3 of the Lacey Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 3372), makes it unlawful to import certain plants and plant products without an import declaration. The declaration must contain, among other things, the scientific name of the plant, value of the importation, quantity of the plant, and name of the country from which the plant was harvested. For paper and paperboard products containing recycled content, the declaration also must include the average percent of recycled content without regard for species or country of harvest. Currently, enforcement of the declaration requirement is being phased in, as described in three notices we published in the Federal Register, 1 the first on February 3, 2009 (74 FR 5911, Docket No. APHIS–2008–0119), the second on September 2, 2009 (74 FR 45415, Docket No. APHIS–2008–0119), and the third on February 6, 2015 (80 FR 6681, Docket No. APHIS–2008–0019).

In our February 2009 notice, we stated that we would be enforcing the declaration requirement only as to formal consumption entries (i.e., most commercial shipments). We also stated that we did not intend to enforce the declaration requirement for informal entries (i.e., most personal shipments), personal importations, mail (unless subject to formal entry), transportation and exportation entries, in-transit movements, carnet importations (i.e., merchandise or equipment that will be re-exported within a year), and U.S. Foreign Trade Zones (FTZ) and bonded warehouse entries.

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has become aware of certain instances where a Plant and Plant Product Declaration has not been filed for plant or plant products entered into the United States from FTZ and bonded warehouses. This practice is not in conformity with the purpose and intent of the Lacey Act, as amended. We are publishing this notice to make clear that such a declaration is required for all formal consumption entries of plant and plant products imported into the United States, including those entries from FTZ and bonded warehouses. However, such declarations are not required for admission into such FTZ or bonded warehouses, which is what we were referring to in the February 2009 notice when we stated that we did not intend to enforce the declaration requirement for FTZ and warehouse entries.

APHIS will continue to provide the latest information regarding the Lacey Act on our Web site, http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/lacey_act/. The Web site currently contains the Lacey Act, as amended; a slideshow covering background and context, requirements, commodities and products covered, information on prohibitions, and the current status of implementation of the declaration requirement of the Lacey Act; frequently asked questions; the phase-in implementation plan; a link to the Lacey Act Web Governance System (LAWGS); and the paper declaration form. The Web site will be updated as new materials become available.

We encourage persons interested in receiving timely updates on APHIS’ Lacey Act efforts to register for our stakeholder registry at https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAAPHIS/subscriber/new/ and select “Lacey Act Declaration” as a topic of interest.

Done in Washington, DC, this 10th day of June 2016.

Kevin Shea, Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

Summary of Collection:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

June 13, 2016.

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 (1) 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; (2) the accuracy of the agency’s estimate of burden 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 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 July 18, 2016 will be considered. Written comments should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), New Executive Office Building, 725 17th Street NW., Washington, DC 20502. Commenters are encouraged to submit their comments to OMB via email to: OIRA_Submission@OMB.EOP.GOV or fax (202) 395–5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, DC 20250–7602. 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: Importation of Sand Pears from China.

OMB Control Number: 0579–0390.

Summary of Collection: Under the Plant Protection Act (PPA) (7 U.S.C. 7701—et seq.), the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to carry out operations or measures to detect, eradicate, suppress, control, prevent, or retard the spread of plant pests new to the United States or not known to be widely distributed throughout the United States. The regulations in “Subpart—Fruits and Vegetables” (Title 7, CFR 319.56) prohibit or restrict the importation of fruits and vegetables into the U.S. from certain parts of the world. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is responsible for carrying out these duties. APHIS has amended the fruits and vegetables regulations to allow the importation of Chinese sand pears from China into the United States.

Need and Use of the Information: APHIS uses the following information collection activities to allow for the importation of sand pears from China into the United States while continuing to provide protection against the
introduction of quarantine pests: Operational Workplan; Production Site Registration; Packinghouse Registration; Test and Certification of Propagative Material; Inspection of Registered Production Site; Investigation for Recertification of Production Site; Tracking System for Packinghouses; Inspection of Packinghouse; Handling Procedure; Labeling of Cartons; Phytosanitary Certificate with Additional Declaration; Trapping System; Recordkeeping for Trap Location; Packinghouse Notification of Pest Detection; Mitigation Measures for Production Site Detection; Mitigation Measures for Packinghouse Detection; Certification of Cold Treatment Facilities; Cold Treatment Facility Numbered Seal; Cold Treatment Review of Treatment Records; Cold Treatment Facility Audits; and Cold Treatment Monitoring. Failing to collect this information would cripple APHIS ability to ensure that sand pears from China are not carrying plant pests and would cause millions of dollars in damage to U.S. agriculture.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit; Federal Government.

Number of Respondents: 29.

Frequency of Responses: Recordkeeping: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 420.

Ruth Brown, 
Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

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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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Jennifer Helwig, Committee Coordinator, by phone at 202–205–0892, or by email at jahelwig@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of this meeting is to provide: 1. Continued deliberations on formulating advice for the Secretary. 2. Discussion of Committee work group findings. 3. Hearing public comments, and 4. Administrative tasks.

This meeting is open to the public. The agenda will include time for people to make oral comments of three minutes or less. Individuals wishing to make an oral comment should submit a request in writing by July 5, 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’s staff before or after the meeting. Written comments and time requests for oral comments must be sent to Jennifer Helwig, USDA Forest Service, Ecosystem Management Coordination, 201 14th Street SW., Mail Stop 1104, Washington, DC 20250–1104; or by email at jahelwig@fs.fed.us. The agenda and summary of the meeting will be posted on the Committee’s Web site within 21 days of the meeting.

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: June 9, 2016.

Leslie A.C. Weldon, 
Deputy Chief, National Forest System.