This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains notices to the public of the proposed issuance of rules and regulations. The purpose of these notices is to give interested persons an opportunity to participate in the rule making prior to the adoption of the final rules.

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

5 CFR Part 532
RIN 3206–AN38

Prevailing Rate Systems; Redefinition of Certain Appropriated Fund Federal Wage System Wage Areas


ACTION: Proposed rule with request for comments.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is issuing a proposed rule that would redefine the geographic boundaries of several appropriated fund Federal Wage System (FWS) wage areas for pay-setting purposes. Based on recent reviews of Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) boundaries in a number of wage areas, OPM proposes redefinitions affecting the following wage areas: Salinas-Monterey, CA; San Francisco, CA; New London, CT; Central and Western Massachusetts; Cincinnati, OH; Dayton, OH; Southeastern Washington-Eastern Oregon; and Spokane, WA.

DATES: We must receive comments on or before July 25, 2016.


FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Madeline Gonzalez, by telephone at (202) 606–2838 or by email at pay-leave-policy@opm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: OPM is issuing a proposed rule to redefine the geographic boundaries of several appropriated fund FWS wage areas. These changes are based on recommendations of the Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee (FPRAC), the statutory national labor-management committee responsible for advising OPM on matters affecting the pay of FWS employees. From time to time, FPRAC reviews the boundaries of wage areas and provides OPM with recommendations for changes if the Committee finds that changes are warranted. OPM considers the following regulatory criteria under 5 CFR 532.211 when defining FWS wage area boundaries:

(i) Distance, transportation facilities, and geographic features;
(ii) Commuting patterns; and
(iii) Similarities in overall population, employment, and the kinds and sizes of private industrial establishments.

In addition, OPM regulations at 5 CFR 532.211 do not permit splitting MSAs for the purpose of defining a wage area, except in very unusual circumstances.

The U.S. Office of Management and Budget defines MSAs and maintains and updates the definitions of MSA boundaries following each decennial census. MSAs are composed of counties and are defined on the basis of a central urbanized area—a contiguous area of relatively high population density. Additional surrounding counties are included in MSAs if they have strong social and economic ties to central counties.

When the boundaries of wage areas were first established in the 1960s, there were fewer MSAs than there are today and the boundaries of the then existing MSAs were much smaller. Most MSAs were contained within the boundaries of a wage area. MSAs have expanded each decade and in some cases now extend beyond the boundaries of the wage area. FPRAC recently reviewed several wage areas where boundaries subdivide certain MSAs and has recommended by consensus that OPM implement the changes described in this proposed rule. These changes would be effective on the first day of the first applicable pay period beginning on or after 30 days following publication of the final regulations.

San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, CA MSA
San Benito and Santa Clara Counties, CA, comprise the San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, CA, MSA. The San Jose-
application so that the entire Cincinnati, OH-KY-IN MSA is in one wage area. There are currently no FWS employees stationed in Union County.

**Walla Walla, WA MSA**

Columbia and Walla Walla Counties, WA, comprise the Walla Walla, WA MSA. The Walla Walla MSA is split between the Southeastern Washington-Eastern Oregon wage area and the Spokane, WA wage area. Walla Walla County is part of the Southeastern Washington-Eastern Oregon survey area and Columbia County is part of the Spokane area of application.

OPM proposes to redefine Columbia County to the Southeastern Washington-Eastern Oregon area of application so that the entire Walla Walla, WA MSA is in one wage area. There are currently three FWS employees stationed in Columbia County.

**Regulatory Flexibility Act**

I certify that these regulations would not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities because they would affect only Federal agencies and employees.

**List of Subjects in 5 CFR Part 532**

Administrative practice and procedure, Freedom of information, Government employees, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Wages.


Beth F. Cobert, Acting Director.

Accordingly, OPM is proposing to amend 5 CFR part 532 as follows:

**PART 532—PREVAILING RATE SYSTEMS**

■ 1. The authority citation for part 532 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 5343, 5346; § 532.707 also issued under 5 U.S.C. 552.

**Appendix C to Subpart B of Part 532—Appropriated Fund Wage and Survey Areas**

■ 2. Appendix C to subpart B is amended by revising the wage area listings for the Salinas-Monterey, CA; San Francisco, CA; New London, CT; Central and Western Massachusetts; Cincinnati, OH: Dayton, OH; Southeastern Washington-Eastern Oregon; and Spokane, WA, wage areas to read as follows:

* * * * *

**California**

**Salinas-Monterey Survey Area**

**Area of Application. Survey area.**

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San Francisco

**California**

Monterey

**Area of Application. Survey area.**

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CONNECTICUT

**New London Survey Area**

Connecticut:

**Area of Application. Survey area.**

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**Massachusetts**

**Central and Western Massachusetts Survey Area**

Massachusetts:

The following cities and towns in: Hampden County Agawam Chicopee East Longmeadow Feeding Hills Hampden Holyoke Longmeadow Ludlow Monson Palmer Southwick Springfield Three Rivers Westfield West Springfield Wilbraham Hampden County Easthampton Granby Hadley Northampton South Hadley Worcester County Warren West Warren

**Area of Application. Survey area plus:**

Connecticut:

Windham Massachusetts:

Berkshire Franklin Worcester (except Blackstone and Millville)


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**Ohio**

**Cincinnati Survey Area**

Indiana:

Dearborn
Kentucky:

Boone Campbell Kenton
Ohio:

Clermont Hamilton Warren

**Area of Application. Survey area plus:**

Indiana:

Franklin Ohio Ripley
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

9 CFR Parts 2 and 3

Petition To Amend Animal Welfare Act Regulations To Prohibit Public Contact With Big Cats, Bears, and Nonhuman Primates

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; reopening of comment period.

SUMMARY: We are reopening the comment period for a petition requesting amendments to the Animal Welfare Act regulations and standards pertaining to physical contact with dangerous animals. We are especially interested in receiving public comments on the additional questions included in this notice. We are providing information about upcoming virtual stakeholder listening sessions and other efforts intended to gather additional public comment. This action will allow interested persons additional time to prepare and submit comments and further inform our thinking on the handling of dangerous animals.

DATES: The comment period for the notice published on August 5, 2013 (78 FR 47215) and reopened on October 24, 2013 (78 FR 63408) is reopened. We will consider all comments that we receive on or before August 31, 2016. The virtual listening sessions described in this notice will be held on Wednesday, June 29, 2016, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. eastern time (ET); Wednesday, July 6, 2016, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. ET; and Thursday, August 4, 2016, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. ET. Registration is required to participate in the listening sessions. Links for registering to participate in the virtual listening sessions are included in the Web site in footnote 2 below.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by either of the following methods:


• Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery: Send your comment to Docket No. APHIS–2012–0107, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A–03.8, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737–1238.

Supporting documents and any comments we receive on this docket may be viewed at http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS–2012–0107 or in our reading room, which is located in room 1141 of the USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC. Normal reading room hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 799–7039 before coming.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Barbara Kohn, Senior Staff Veterinarian, Animal Care, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 84, Riverdale, MD 20737–1234; (301) 851–3751.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On August 5, 2013, we published in the Federal Register (78 FR 47215–47217, Docket No. APHIS–2012–0107) a notice 1 making available for comment a petition requesting amendments to the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) regulations and standards, including amendments to prohibit licensees from allowing individuals, with certain exceptions, from coming into direct or physical contact with big cats, bears, or nonhuman primates of any age, to define the term “sufficient distance,” and to prohibit the public handling of young or immature big cats, bears, and nonhuman primates.

Comments were required to be received on or before October 4, 2013. In a subsequent notice published October 24, 2013 (78 FR 63408), we reopened the comment period for an additional 45 days to November 18, 2013. We received 15,379 comments.

We are again reopening the comment period and will accept all comments we receive on or before August 31, 2016.

1 To view the notice, petition, and the comments we received, go to http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS–2012–0107.