

address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

(1) *Mail*: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410; or (2) *Fax*: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or (3) *Email*: program.intake@usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Done at Washington, DC.

Denise Eblen,

Administrator.

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BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

Agency Information Collection Activities: Waiver and State Plans (WiSP)

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice invites the general public and other public agencies to comment on this proposed information collection. This collection is a: New collection.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before TBD February 28, 2025.

ADDRESSES: We invite you to submit written comments on this notice.

—*Preferred method*: Federal eRulemaking Portal. Go to <https://www.regulations.gov>, and follow the online instructions for submitting comments electronically.

—*Mail*: Amanda Vega, WIC Program Integrity and Monitory Branch, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1320 Braddock Place, Alexandria, Virginia 22314.

—*Email*: email comments to amanda.vega@usda.gov.

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 Andrea Whitley at andrea.whitley@usda.gov, 703-305-2465.

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: Waivers and State Plans (WiSP).

Form Number: Not Yet Determined.

OMB Number: Not Yet Assigned.

Expiration Date: Not Yet Determined.

Type of Request: New collection.

Abstract: The burden activities that are covered by this Information Collection Request include the transition from individual collections for Program waivers and State Plans to a new application supporting multiple USDA Programs. This application will allow State agencies to request Program waivers and submit State Plans to the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), FNS staff to manage data provided within the application, and covers the gathering and maintenance of all supporting data from each State agency. The Waivers and State Plans (WiSP) application will support the following USDA Programs and be available to all participating State agencies in each Program: Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Woman, Infants and Children (WIC), Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP), and Seniors Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP).

The purpose of WIC is to provide supplemental foods, nutrition education, and health care referrals to low income, nutritionally at-risk pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women, infants, and children up to age five. The WIC Program is authorized by the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, as amended. WIC currently operates through a Federal/State partnership in which the Department of Agriculture/Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) provides grants to State agencies in 50 U.S. States, 6 U.S. Territories, and 32 Indian Tribal Organizations (ITO's). The

WIC Program requirements are specified in Section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786(m)(8)), and WIC regulations at 7 CFR part 246.

FMNP is designed to provide fresh, unprepared, locally grown fruits and vegetables to WIC participants and expand the awareness, use of, and sales at farmers markets. FMNP currently operates through a Federal/State partnership in which FNS provides grants to State agencies in 42 U.S. States, 3 U.S. Territories, and 6 ITOs. FMNP Program requirements are specified in Section 17(m)(8) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786(m)(8)), and FMNP regulations at 7 CFR part 248.

SFMNP is designed to provide low-income seniors with access to locally grown fruits, vegetables, honey and herbs and aid in the development of new and additional farmers markets, roadside stands, and community support agricultural programs. SFMNP currently operates through a Federal/State partnership in which FNS provides grants in 44 U.S. States, 3 U.S. Territories, and 7 ITOs. SFMNP Program requirements are specified in the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, as amended, (Pub. L. 107-171) and SFMNP regulations at 7 CFR part 249.

The reporting and record-keeping burden activities that are covered by the information collection include requirements that involve the new application allowing State agencies to submit waiver requests and State Plan submissions to FNS. The WiSP application will provide a way for State agency staff to request pre-defined standard waivers, nationwide opt-in waivers, disaster related waivers, and to build custom ad hoc waiver requests. The application will support current and future legislation providing FNS with waiver authority for WIC, FMNP, and SFMNP program requirements. Depending on the legislation, this waiver authority may be temporary, as is the case for waivers granted under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA, Pub. L. 117-2), or permanent, as is the case for waivers granted under the Access to Baby Formula Act of 2022 (ABFA, Pub. L. 117-129). Application users will be able to respond to requests for more information, as needed, within the application. This will streamline the waiver request process and ensure that all waiver correspondence is kept associated to the waiver request. Waivers are requested on an as needed basis, and not all State agencies will request a waiver for a Program requirements. Waivers are authorized by specific legislation and may have a

scope that only applies to some of the Programs. State Plan Program operations are also supported in the WiSP application. Federal regulations require that State Plan Program-related information be collected and that full and complete records concerning Program operations are maintained. State Plans are the principal source of information about how each State agency operates WIC, FMNP and SFMNP. State agencies gather information to inform their initial and annual State Plan submissions throughout their work during an average year. This involves consolidating and summarizing the results of: local agency authorization and monitoring; participant certification of eligibility; authorized outlet selection, authorization, disqualification, monitoring visits, and monitoring reviews; face-to-face training results; Food instrument receipt, issuance, and disposition; complaint handling; policy establishment for sanctions; financial management system establishment and maintenance; management evaluation system establishment and maintenance; and corrective action plan establishment and maintenance all of which are associated to the reporting burden approved under OMB Control Numbers: 0584-0687 (WIC), 0584-0447 (FMNP) and 0584-0541 (SFMNP).

Current and new State agencies are required to submit State Plans annually per the guidelines of the respective Programs, as an application or prerequisite to the receipt of federal funds from FNS.

Each Program has one or more designated checklists that cover different Program requirements. FMNP and SFMNP optionally allow for some Programs to be combined into a single, consolidated State Plan checklist. The new application will support each Program's individual checklists, and allowable, consolidated checklists.

WIC State agencies are required to submit their full Program planning data in 10 distinct checklist documents. Each fiscal year, only a portion of the total

checklists are required to be submitted. The required checklists are published prior to the due date of WIC State Plans and apply equally to all State agencies. It is estimated that each State agencies will be required to annually submit 4 checklists per FY from each WIC State agency. State agencies may choose provide updates to the other 6 checklists on file but are not required to submit updates for these.

FMNP and SFMNP Programs require that each of their State agencies submit 1 (one) of the of the 3 different versions of State Plan checklists available: FMNP only, SFMNP only, and S/FMNP Consolidated. The Consolidated checklist is for State agencies who administer both Programs.

The burden table information collection items are grouped by Waivers and then State Plan items, then by the collection items. The lines in the collection grouping identify the State agency category group for the respondents. For each collection item, we have identified the estimated burden by State agency category.

Reporting Burden

Affected Public: Respondent groups identified include State agency officials from the 50 geographic States, 6 US Territories, and 32 Indian Tribal Organizations. Not all identified State agencies participate with all Programs or with all application features. Program Waivers are issued based upon regulations these non-mandatory requests are available for the State agencies at their option. WIC, FMNP and SFMNP Programs require that each of their State agencies file a Program specific State Plan each year.

Estimated Number of Respondents: The total estimated number of respondents is 2,656 (1176 Waiver respondents + 1480 State Plan respondents including one time effort activities), which represents the estimated sum of all State agencies for all applicable FNS Programs, across all collection items for both Waivers and State Plans.

Estimated Number of Responses per Year: The State agencies will be able to use the WiSP application to submit Program Waivers, and State Plans. The estimated total number of responses per year is 2,652.28 (380.28 Waiver responses + 2272.00 State Plan responses including one time effort activities), which represents the estimated sum of all requests estimated from State agencies for all applicable FNS Programs, across all collection items for both Waivers and State Plans. The distinct number of responses is broken down below for Waivers and then State Plans.

Estimated Time per Response: The estimated time of response for both Waivers and State Plans varies from 0.89 to 11.77 hours depending on respondent group and instrument, as shown in the table below, with an average estimated time of 10.21 hours for all participants.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: The estimated total annual burden on respondents for both Waivers and State Plan items is 27,074.66 hours. See the table below for estimated total annual burden for each type of respondent.

Record-Keeping Burden

Affected Public: Record-keeping groups identified include State agency officials from the 50 geographic States, 6 US Territories, and 32 Indian Tribal Organizations.

Estimated Number of Record-Keepers: The total estimated number of record-keepers is 196.00 which represents the estimated sum of all State agencies for all applicable FNS Programs, across all collection items for State Plans.

Estimated Number of Records per Year: The estimated total number of annual records is 196.00 for State Plans.

Estimated Time per Record Keeper: The estimated time per record-keeper for State Plans is 1.00 hours.

Estimated Total Record-Keeping Burden Hours: The estimated total annual burden on record-keepers State Plans is 196.00 hours.

Information collected	Estimated number of respondents	Estimated annual frequency of response per respondent	Total annual responses	Hours per response	Total annual burden (hours)
Gathering data for waiver request	196.00	0.48	94.90	1.00	94.90
Waiver request form	588.00	0.34	202.47	2.67	162.29
Supplemental Data waiver requests	196.00	0.16	31.89	1.00	31.89
Waiver Sub Total	1,176.00	0.32	380.28	0.89	340.10
Import of all existing State Plans	196.00	5.04	988.00	2.00	1,976.00
Application data entry training	500.00	1.00	500.00	2.00	1,000.00

Information collected	Estimated number of respondents	Estimated annual frequency of response per respondent	Total annual responses	Hours per response	Total annual burden (hours)
State Plan One Time Effort Sub Total	696.00	2.14	1,488.00	2.00	2,976.00
State Plan of Operations	588.00	1.00	588.00	40.07	23,562.56
State Plan Record Maintenance	196.00	1.00	196.00	1.00	196.00
State Plan Annual Effort Sub Total	784.00	1.00	784.00	30.30	23,758.56
State Plan Sub Total	1,480.00	1.54	2,272.00	11.77	26,734.56
Grand Totals	2,656.00	1.00	2,652.28	10.21	27,074.66

Tameka Owens,
Acting Administrator and Assistant Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service.
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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Information Collection; Non-Timber Forest Products

AGENCY: Forest Service, Agriculture (USDA).

ACTION: Notice; request for comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Forest Service (Forest Service or Agency) is requesting public comment on the reapproval and proposed revisions of an approved information collection (ICR), 0596-0243, Non-Timber Forest Products.

DATES: Comments on reapproval and the proposed revisions of the ICR must be received in writing by February 28, 2025.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be sent to Forest Service Research and Development, 201 14th Street SW, Washington, DC 20250-1124. Comments also may be submitted by email to: *julie.minde@usda.gov*.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be available to the public through relevant websites and upon request. Therefore, do not include confidential information, such as sensitive personal information or proprietary information. An email address associated with a comment will be included with the comment when it is made publicly available online.

The public may inspect the draft supporting statements for the ICR and comments received at 201 14th Street SW, Washington, DC 20250, on business days between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Visitors are encouraged to call ahead at 703-559-2972 to facilitate entry to the

building. The public may request an electronic copy of the supporting statements and comments via return email. Requests should be emailed to *julie.minde@usda.gov*.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Julie Minde, Social Science Analyst, at *julie.minde@usda.gov* or 703-559-2972. Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf and hard of hearing may call 711 to reach the Telecommunications Relay Service, 24 hours a day, every day of the year, including holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:
Title: Non-Timber Forest Products.
OMB Number: 0596-0243.
Expiration Date of Approval: February 28, 2025.

Type of Request: Reapproval and proposed revisions of an approved ICR.
Abstract:

Non-timber forest products are plants, mushrooms, and plant- or tree-derived goods like nuts, boughs, sap, and leaves that are harvested for use as food, medicine, cultural, artisan, and other purposes. Some gathering is planned and systematic, while much of it is informal, unplanned, opportunistic, or incidental to other outdoor recreation activities. For some people, harvested wild plants and mushrooms make up a substantial or nutritionally important part of their diet. In other cases, non-timber forest products are locally or regionally important products for businesses.

Many opportunities exist to manage forests and other natural areas to enhance the supply of non-timber forest products. This increases the benefits they provide to society, individuals, and cultures and helps maintain populations of important non-timber forest products in the face of changes like invasive species and climate impacts. Potential public benefits include improved public health outcomes from outdoor activity and access to socially, culturally, and economically significant products. Harvesting and consuming non-timber

forest products also may help supplement food sources for people with limited access to fresh, affordable food.

Many laws and policies direct the Forest Service to consider and manage for non-timber forest products for the benefit of the public and to meet trust responsibilities to American Indians and Alaskan Natives on federal and Tribal lands, e.g., Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act (RPA) of 1974, Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act of 1978. Managing forests and other natural areas to provide non-timber forest products in a sustainable way requires detailed, science-based information. Gaining new information can help us understand how uses of non-timber forest products have changed over time in response to management, socio-cultural circumstances, the economic conditions of Tribes, and environmental forces of change.

The Forest Service seeks to obtain OMB approval for extension with revision to a currently approved information collection to collect information from who manage, make policies for, or otherwise have a stake in the management of lands where non-timber forest products may be harvested.

Estimated Annual Burden per Response: 25 minutes for survey; 60 minutes for interview; 90 minutes for focus group.

Types of Respondents: Individuals and households, businesses and non-profit organizations, and state, local or Tribal Government.

Estimated Annual Number of Respondents: 1,300.

Estimated Annual Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 276 hours.

Comment is invited on: (1) whether this collection of information is necessary for the stated purposes and