

Notices

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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

July 19, 1996.

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 these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of this notification. Comments should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Washington, DC 20503 and to Department Clearance Officer, USDA, PACC-IRM, Ag Box 7630, Washington, DC 20250-7630. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720-6204 or (202) 720-6746.

Farm Service Agency

Title: Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (1996 Act)—Delinquent Account Servicing and Inventory Property Management (7 CFR parts 1955 and 1956).

Summary: The Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act eliminates the leaseback/buyback program. Information is collected for debt settlement and debt forgiveness.

Need and Use of the Information: The information is used for program decisions regarding delinquent Farm Credit borrowers.

Description of Respondents: Farms; Individuals or households.

Number of Respondents: 5,368.

Frequency of Responses: Recordkeeping; Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 2,835.

Emergency processing of this submission has been requested by July 23, 1996.

Donald E. Hulcher,

Deputy Departmental Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 96-18995 Filed 7-25-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-01-M

Forest Service

Clarke Mountain E.I.S.; Clearwater National Forest, Clearwater County, ID

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; intent to prepare environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to disclose the environmental effects of a proposed timber harvest in the Clarke Mountain area. There will be some newly constructed roads to access some of the timber stands. The proposal also includes fishery and wildlife improvement projects such as reconstructing several roads, abandoning and/or obliterating several miles of roads, restricting access on other roads, as well as improving recreation facilities. An Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) loop trail system will also be proposed that is approximately 33 miles long, utilizing several existing roads and trails.

The area is located on the Pierce District of the Clearwater National Forest, Townships 37 and 38 North, Range 7 East, Boise Meridian.

The purpose of the proposal and subsequent effects analysis is to meet the intent of the Clearwater Forest Plan, using an ecosystem management approach for management areas included in the 12,700 acre treatment area. There are five management areas (MA) within the analysis area. MA-E1 emphasizes growth and yield of timber, MA-M2 emphasizes protection of riparian resources, MA-C4 emphasizes big-game winter range along with timber production, MA-C3 emphasizes management of big-game winter range in areas unsuitable for timber production, and MA-US are unsuitable areas for timber or big game habitat.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis should be received in writing September 9, 1996 to receive timely consideration in the preparation of the draft EIS. The draft EIS will be

filed with the Environmental Protection Agency in November 1996. The final EIS and Record of Decision is expected to be issued in February 1997.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Douglas Gober, District Ranger, Pierce Ranger District, Route 2, Box 191, Kamiah, ID 83536.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brian Palmer, EIS Project Team Leader, (208) 935-2513.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: The responsible official for decisions regarding this analysis is James L. Caswell, Clearwater National Forest Supervisor. He will select the preferred alternative based upon the analysis. His address is 12730 Highway 12, Orofino, ID 83544.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposal includes timber harvest of varying intensities from precommercial thinnings to clear cuts with reserve trees. Harvest would amount to about 19 million board feet of timber from about 1200 acres, and approximately 5 miles of road would be built and about 15 miles reconstructed. Site-specific riparian buffers will be developed for each cutting unit and will meet intent of the Inland Fish Strategy (INFISH).

Because instream conditions are not meeting desired conditions for cobble embeddedness, erosion sources in the watershed would be corrected, including stabilizing and/or closing roads that are no longer needed and reconstructing roads needed for a long term transportation plan. Live stream crossings would be minimized on any new road construction.

Approximately 6500 of the 12,700 acre treatment area was acquired by the Forest Service between 1987 and 1992 in land exchanges with a private company. The majority of this acquired land had been heavily roaded and harvested before the Forest Service acquired it.

Functioning old growth areas will be analyzed and designated and future old growth areas would be planned for and will be on landtypes and in areas that historically had the best chance of maintaining old growth on them. Three of these future areas within the Clarke Mountain treatment area were identified in the Fuzzy Bighorn Environmental Assessment, but all these areas are several decades away from functioning as old growth. Presently, the Forest Service would manage biological corridors, and designate five percent or

more old growth habitat per 10,000 acre compartment.

Because use is increasing in dispersed camping areas, the Forest Service would install dispersed camping signs in the analysis area.

Because there are dying stands of white pine, lodgepole pine stands over 80 years old, several pathogens at work in many stands, a high fuel buildup in several stands, and other silvicultural treatment needs in the analysis area, the Forest Service would rehabilitate dying white pine plantations, salvage dead and dying timber, improve the species mix through commercial and precommercial thinning, and harvest stands that have reached maturity while maintaining the old growth component.

Because OHV (Off-Highway Vehicle) use is increasing, and it is generally hard to find designated areas with semi-primitive type quality and viewsheds, the Forest Service would create an OHV loop trail system that would utilize an old jeep road along Elk Mountain Ridge and improve a route to Clark Mountain Lookout. The trailhead would be at Cottonwood Flats along Orogrande Creek.

Scoping began internally with an Integrated Resource Analysis, the findings of which will be incorporated into the Clarke Mtn. EIS. Scoping will continue with the public with the announcement of this new proposal and these comments will help:

1. Identify potential issues.
2. Identify major issues to be analyzed in depth.
3. Identify alternatives to the proposed action.
4. Identify potential environmental effects of each alternative.
5. Determine potential cooperating agencies and task assignments.

Some public comments have already been received to date. Internally identified issues coupled with public concerns, points out the following issues driving alternatives:

1. The effect of building roads in a "roadless area".
2. Regeneration harvest units over 40 acres in size.
3. The economics of planning a viable sale because of the expense of helicopter logging.

The lead agency for this project is the U.S. Forest Service. The Forest Service will cooperate with other Country, State, Federal Agencies and tribes who display an interest in the project, and who require assessment and concurrence.

The Draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and available for public review in November 1996. The

comment period on the draft environmental impact statement will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability in the Federal Register.

The Forest Service believes, at this early stage, it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of draft environmental impact statements must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewer's position and contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft environmental impact statement stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final environmental impact statement may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). Because of these court rulings, it is very important that those interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the 45-day comment period so that substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider them and respond to them in the final environmental impact statement.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the draft environmental impact statement should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft statement. Comments may also address the adequacy of the draft environmental impact statement or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the statement. Reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

Dated: July 8, 1996.
James L. Caswell,
Forest Supervisor.
[FR Doc. 96-18989 Filed 7-25-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

Rural Housing Service

Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: The Rural Housing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed collection; comments request.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Rural Housing Service's (RHS) intention to request an extension for a currently approved information collection in support of the program for Prepayment and Displacement Prevention of Multiple Family Housing Loans.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by September 24, 1996 to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Booker T. Reaves, Senior Loan Officer, Multi-Family Housing Portfolio Management Division, RHS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Stop 0782, Washington, D.C. 20250, Telephone (202) 720-1617.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Prepayment and Displacement Prevention of Multiple Family Housing Loans

OMB Number: 0575-0155.

Expiration Date of Approval: September 1996.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The Rural Housing Service (RHS) is authorized under sections 514, 515, 516, and 521 of Title V of the Housing Act of 1949, as amended, to provide loans and grants to eligible recipients for the development of rural rental housing. Such multiple family housing projects are intended to meet the housing needs of persons or families having low- to moderate-incomes, senior citizens, the handicapped, and domestic farm laborers.

RHS has the responsibility of assuring the public that the housing projects financed are owned and operated as mandated by Congress. FmHA Instruction 1965-E regulation was issued to insure proper servicing actions are accomplished for projects financed with multiple family housing loan and grant funds. Minimal requirements have been established as deemed necessary to assure that applicable laws and authorities are carried out as intended and to improve the Agency's ability to assure the continued availability of the facilities financed under RHS multiple housing programs to eligible users.