

is necessary for the proper performance of FSIS's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of FSIS' estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions 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 through use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques, or other forms of information technology.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: August 26, 1997.

**Thomas J. Billy,**  
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 97-23249 Filed 9-2-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Combining a Currently Approved Information Collection With New Information Collections

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Forest Service announces its intent to extend one information collection and combine it with two new information collections. Authorization for information collection, FS-2400-8—Forest Products Free Use Permit (OMB Number 0596-0095) expires October 31, 1997. It is this information collection under which the Forest Service intends to combine two new information collections: FS-2400-1—Forest Products Removal Permit and Cash Receipt and FS-2400-4—Forest Products Sale Permit and Cash Receipt.

The collected information is necessary to ensure that applicants meet the requirements of the forest products removal program; that permittees obtaining free use of forest products qualify for the free-use program; that applicants purchasing permits non-competitively to harvest forest products do not exceed the authorized limit in a fiscal year; and that permittees can be identified in the field by Forest Service compliance personnel.

**DATES:** Comments must be received in writing on or before November 3, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** All comments should be addressed to: Director, Forest Management (MAIL STOP 1105), Forest Service, USDA, PO Box 96090, Washington, DC 20090-6090.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jim Naylor, Forest Management Staff, at (202) 205-0858.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

Under 16 U.S.C. 551, individuals and other Federal agencies planning to remove forest products from the National Forests must obtain a permit. To obtain a permit, applicants must meet the criteria at 36 CFR 223.1, 223.2, and 223.5 through 223.13 under which free use or sale of timber or forest products is authorized. Upon receiving a permit, the permittee must comply with the terms of the permit at 36 CFR 261.6 that designate the forest products that can be harvested and under what conditions, such as limiting harvest to a designated area or permitting harvest of only specifically designated material.

For over 20 years, Forest Service Regional offices have been issuing Forest Product Removal Permits, with each Region developing its own Forest Product Removal Permit form and policies. To ensure more consistent management of the forest products programs, the Forest Service has developed two new national permit forms to replace regional forms: FS-2400-1—Forest Products Removal Permit and Cash Receipt to sell timber products, such as fuelwood, or forest products, such as Christmas trees and pine cones, and FS-2400-4—Forest Products Sale Permit and Cash Receipt to sell timber products, such as sawtimber or fuelwood.

When applying for forest products removal permits, applicants, depending on what timber or forest products they intend to remove, must answer questions on one or more of the following forms:

Form FS-2400-1—Forest Products Removal Permit and Cash Receipt is new and will implement regulations at 36 CFR 223.1 and 223.2 governing the sale of forest products, such as Christmas trees or pinecones;

Form FS-2400-4—Forest Products Sale Permit and Cash Receipt is new and will be used to sell timber products, such as sawtimber, or forest products, such as fuelwood; and

Form FS-2400-8—Forest Products Free Use Permit is an existing form that will be extended. It is used to allow free use of timber or forest products (36 CFR 223.5 through 223.13).

Each form implements different regulations and has different provisions for compliance, but all three forms

collect similar information from the applicant for related purposes. Therefore, the Forest Service intends to combine the three information collections under one authorization number, OMB No. 0596-0095, which currently covers only FS-2400-8—Forest Products Free Use Permit. OMB authorization of FS-2400-8 expires October 31, 1997. The Forest Service is requesting an extension of this information collection.

The Forest Service will use the information collected on these three forms to ensure that permittees obtaining free use of timber or forest products qualify for the free-use program and do not receive product value in excess of the \$20 amount that District Rangers or \$100 amount that Forest Supervisors are authorized to approved in a fiscal year (36 CFR 223.8); to ensure that applicants purchasing permits non-competitively to harvest timber or forest products do not exceed the authorized \$10,000 limit in a fiscal year (16 U.S.C. 472(a)); and to ensure that permittees can be identified in the field by Forest Service compliance personnel.

An applicant is not restricted to one permit. An applicant may apply for as many product removal permits as they deem necessary to meet their needs. For example, an applicant may obtain free use of a timber product, such as firewood, using FS-2400-8—Forest Products Free Use Permit and still purchase a Christmas tree using FS-2400-1—Forest Product Removal Permit and Cash Receipt.

Data gathered in these information collections are not available from other sources.

#### Description of Information Collection

The following describes the information collection to be extended and combined with two new information collections: FS-2400-1—Forest Products Removal Permit and Cash Receipt and FS-2400-4—Forest Products Sale Permit and Cash Receipt. Descriptions of these information collections follow the description of FS-2400-8.

**Title:** FS-2400-8—Forest Products Free Use Permit.

**OMB Number:** 0596-0095.

**Expiration Date of Approval:** October 31, 1997.

**Type of Request:** Extend this information collection and combine with FS-2400-1 and FS-2400-4.

**Abstract:** The agency uses the collected data to ensure that applicants meet the criteria for free use of timber

or forest products authorized by regulations at 36 CFR 223.5 through 223.13 and that permittees comply with the regulations and terms of the permit.

Individuals usually request permits in person at the Forest Service office issuing the permit. Forest Service personnel ask applicants to respond to questions that include their name, address, and identification number. The identification number can be a tax identification number, social security number, drivers license number, or other unique number identifying the applicant. Forest Service personnel enter the information onto the computerized permit database for easy retrieval for subsequent requests for permits by the same individual. The information also is entered onto a hard copy of a permit. The applicant signs and dates the permit. Forest Service personnel issuing the permit discuss the terms and conditions of the permit with the applicant. Permittees may be required to maintain a product removal record on the permit form.

Data gathered in this information collection are not available from other sources.

*Estimate of Burden:* 8 minutes.

*Type of Respondents:* Individuals.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 24,000.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 1.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 1,195 hours.

#### **Description of Information Collection**

The following describes a new information collection that will be combined with FS-2400-8—Forest Products Free Use Permit (OMB Number 0596-0095):

*Title:* FS-2400-4—Forest Products Sale Permit and Cash Receipt.

*OMB Number:* New.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* New.

*Type of Request:* The following describes a new collection requirement and has not received approval by the Office of Management and Budget.

*Abstract:* The agency will use the collected data to ensure that applicants, seeking to remove timber or forest products from National Forest System lands, meet the criteria under which sale of timber or forest products is authorized by the regulations at 36 CFR 223.88 and to ensure that permittees comply with regulations and terms of the permit at 36 CFR 261.6.

Individuals and persons representing small businesses usually request permits in person in the Forest Service office issuing the permit. Forest Service personnel will ask applicants to respond to questions that include their name,

address, and tax identification number. Forest Service personnel will enter the information onto the computerized permit database, where the information will be maintained for easy retrieval for subsequent requests for permits by the same individual. The information also will be entered onto a hard copy of a permit. The applicant will sign and date the permit. Forest Service personnel issuing the permit will discuss the terms and conditions of the permit with the applicant.

Data gathered in this information collection are not available from other sources.

*Estimate of Burden:* 8 minutes.

*Type of Respondents:* Individuals and small businesses.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 2500.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 1.5.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 190 hours.

#### **Description of Information Collection**

The following describes a new information collection that will be combined with FS-2400-8—Forest Products Free Use Permit (OMB Number 0596-0095):

*Title:* FS-2400-1—Forest Products Removal Permit and Cash Receipt.

*OMB Number:* New.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* New.

*Type of Request:* The following describes a new collection and has not received approval from the Office of Management and Budget.

*Abstract:* The agency will use the collected data to ensure that applicants meet the criteria under which the sale of timber or forest products is authorized by the regulations at 36 CFR 223.88 and to ensure that permittees comply with regulations and terms of the permit at 36 CFR 261.6.

Individuals and persons representing small businesses usually request permits in person in the Forest Service office issuing the permit. The information collected includes the applicant's name, address, and identification number. The identification number can be a tax identification number, social security number, drivers license number, or other unique number identifying the applicant. Forest Service personnel will enter the information onto the computerized permit database, where the information will be maintained for easy retrieval for subsequent permits issued to the same individual. The information also will be entered onto a hard copy of a permit. The applicant will sign and date the permit. Forest Service personnel issuing the permit

will discuss the terms and conditions of the permit with the applicant. Permittees may be required to maintain a product removal record on the permit form.

Data gathered in this information collection is not available from other sources.

*Estimate of Burden:* 8 minutes.

*Type of Respondents:* Individuals.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 846,000.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 1.5.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 39,940 hours.

#### **Comments Are Invited**

The agency invites comments on the following: (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 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 respondents, including the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

#### **Use of Comments**

All comments received in response to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments, including name and address when provided, will become a matter of public record.

Dated: August 15, 1997.

**Ronald E. Stewart,**

*Acting Associate Chief.*

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## **COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS**

### **Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the Kentucky Advisory Committee**

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, that a meeting of the Kentucky Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene at 12:00 p.m. and adjourn at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 17, 1997, at the Louisville and Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District, 700 West Liberty Street (at 7th Street), Louisville, Kentucky