

is present that requires either free or unbounded water or soil moistures in excess of what is normally found in the area. Lands within this management area are suitable for timber harvest as long as soil, water, vegetation, fish, and dependent wildlife species are protected. These suitable lands must also be adjacent to other management areas suitable for timber management.

The Forest Service will consider a range of alternatives. One of these will be the "no action" alternative, in which none of the proposed activities would be implemented. Additional alternatives will examine varying levels and locations for the proposed activities in response to issues and other resource values.

The EIS will analyze the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental effects of the alternatives. Past, present, and projected activities on both private and National Forest lands will be considered, including the effects caused by recent and past harvesting and road construction on private lands. The EIS will disclose the analysis of site-specific mitigation measures and their effectiveness.

Public participation is an important part of the analysis, commencing with the initial scoping process (40 CFR 1501.7), which will occur during May 1998. In addition to this initial scoping, the public may visit Forest Service officials at any time during the analysis and prior to the decision. The Forest Service will be seeking information, comments, and assistance from Federal, State, and local agencies and other individuals or organizations who may be interested in or affected by the proposed action. No public meetings are scheduled at this time.

Comments from the public and other agencies will be used in preparation of the Draft EIS. The scoping process will be used to:

1. Identify potential issues.
2. Identify issues to be analyzed in depth.
3. Eliminate insignificant issues or those which have been covered by a relevant previous environmental analysis, such as the Gallatin Forest Plan EIS.
4. Identify alternatives to the proposed action.
5. Identify potential environmental effects of the proposed action and alternatives (i.e., direct, indirect, and cumulative effects).
6. Determine potential cooperating agencies and task assignments.

The following principle issues have been identified so far:

1. The potential effect of proposed timber harvest and associated road

development on grizzly bear habitat (primarily security and cover).

2. The potential of proposed timber harvest and associated road development activities to displace grizzly bears use within the sale area.

3. The potential for proposed harvest and associated road development to affect water quality and stream conditions.

Other issues commonly associated with timber harvesting and road construction include: effects on native fisheries, old growth habitat, big game species, sensitive wildlife and plant species, cultural resources, soils, and scenery in the area. This list will be verified, expanded, or modified based on public scoping for this proposal.

The Draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and available for public review in August of 1998. At that time, the EPA will publish a Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS in the **Federal Register**. The comment period on the Draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the EPA's notice of availability appears in the **Federal Register**. It is every important that those interested in management of the Taylor Fork project area participate at that time. The Final EIS is scheduled to be completed by mid-November, 1998.

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, 533 (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. *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F.2d 1016, 1022 (9th Cir. 1986) and *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 30-day scoping 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 developing issues and alternatives. To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues, comments should be as specific to this proposal as

possible. 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.

I am the responsible official for this environmental impact statement. My address is Gallatin National Forest, P.O. Box 130, Federal Building, Bozeman, MT 59771.

Dated: May 6, 1998.

David P. Garber,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 98-13287 Filed 5-18-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

DOC has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. chapter 35).

Agency: Bureau of the Census.

Title: Annual Retail Trade Report.

Form Number(s): B-151, B-151-A, B-151D, B-153, B-153D.

Agency Approval Number: 0607-0013.

Type of Request: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Burden: 9,817 hours.

Number of Respondents: 23,700.

Avg Hours Per Response: 25 minutes.

Needs and Uses: The Bureau of the Census conducts the Annual Retail Trade Survey to collect annual totals of sales, inventories, inventory valuation methods, purchases, and accounts receivable balances from a sample of retail establishments in the United States. The estimates compiled from this survey are critical to the accurate measurement of total economic activity and are used in computing such indicators of economic well-being as the Gross Domestic Product and the National Income and Product Accounts. Survey results also provide valuable information for economic policy decisions and actions by the government and are widely used by private businesses, trade organizations, professional associations, and others for market research and analysis.

This request for revision informs OMB of a recent change in sample design. This redesign has increased the number of respondents by about 3,000, while decreasing, on average, the number of data requests to each respondent.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit.

Frequency: Annually.

Respondent's Obligation: Mandatory.

Legal Authority: Title 13, Sections 182, 224, and 225.

OMB Desk Officer: Nancy Kirkendall, (202) 395-7313.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Linda Engelmeier, DOC Forms Clearance Officer, (202) 482-3272, Department of Commerce, room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent on or before June 18, 1998 to Nancy Kirkendall, OMB Desk Officer, room 10201, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

Dated: May 13, 1998.

Linda Engelmeier,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.

[FR Doc. 98-13172 Filed 5-18-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-07-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of the Census

Field Representative Exit Questionnaire

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before July 20, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Geraldine Burt, Census/Field Division, Room 1684/FOB 3, Washington, DC 20233-4400, and 301-457-1935.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

Retention of trained field interviewing staff is a major concern for the Census Bureau because of both the monetary costs associated with employee turnover, as well as the potential impact on data quality. The Field Representative Exit Survey is used to collect data from a sample of our former current survey interviewers (field representatives) and Nonresponse Follow-up (NRFU) and Quality Check (QC) interviewers (enumerators) employed during census operations. The purpose of the survey is to determine the reasons for interviewer turnover and what the Bureau might have done or do to influence interviewing staff not to leave.

In addition to using form BC-1294 to collect data from field representatives who have left the Bureau, we will use Form BC-1294(D) to collect data from dress rehearsal and census enumerators on the factors that affected their decision as to whether to stay with an operation until it was completed. Since the nature of census enumerator work differs from current surveys interviewing (short term, intensive and concentrated work rather than continuing and diverse) we could not use the existing questionnaire, "as-is." The questions and response choices on the BC-1294(D) have been tailored to census operations and are more in-depth, although they cover largely the same topics as the BC-1294.

Additionally, questions about a supplemental pay plan are included on the BC-1294(D). The 1998 Dress Rehearsal is the Bureau's final opportunity to test its planned operations and procedures in a simulated census environment in preparation for the 2000 Census. Interviewer turnover is of heightened concern during a decennial census because of the short time periods for data collection operations. Because of this heightened concern, Form BC-1294(D) was recently added to this clearance.

The information collected via the survey will help the Census Bureau develop plans to reduce turnover in its current survey and decennial interviewing staff. This in turn should allow for better informed management decisions regarding the field work force and the implementation of more effective pay plans and interviewer training for both current and decennial interviewers. Prior research has suggested a need for a more flexible pay plan for the decennial interviewing staff in order to recruit sufficient number of

interviewers and reduce turnover. As part of the 1998 Dress Rehearsal, the Census Bureau will be testing a supplemental pay plan in which pay rates are tied to the local labor market and based partially on interviewer performance and whether interviewers stay to complete their assignments. Questions on the experimental decennial pay plans asked of dress rehearsal enumerators will be used to determine the impact of the variable and supplemental pay rates on enumerator turnover as well as the impact and effectiveness of decennial enumerator training.

II. Method of Collection

The data will be collected by telephone. Interviews with former field representatives should take no more than five (5) minutes. Because of the in-depth nature of some of the questions on the BC-1294(D) and the additional questions on the experimental decennial pay plans, interviews with former NRFU and QC enumerators should take no more than fifteen (15) minutes. We estimate that interviews will be conducted with a total of 160 field representatives and about 2,500 enumerators on a yearly basis.

For former field representatives: Approximately every month, a sample of one-half of all interviewers who voluntarily resigned within the period will be contacted by telephone to complete a questionnaire.

For 1998 Dress Rehearsal enumerators: Beginning approximately two weeks after the start of NRFU and QC operations, all enumerators who have continuously been in a non-pay status for a period of two weeks will be contacted by telephone to complete a questionnaire.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0607-0404.

Form Number: BC-1294, BC-1294(D).

Type of Review: Regular Submission.

Affected Public: Former Bureau Interviewers (Field Representatives and Enumerators).

Estimated Number of Respondents: 160 Former Current Survey Interviewers; 2,500 Former Dress Rehearsal Enumerators.

Estimated Time Per Response: 5 minutes for former current survey interviewers; 15 minutes for dress rehearsal enumerators.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 13 hours for former current survey interviewers; 625 hours for dress rehearsal enumerators; Total is 638 hours.