

preliminary analysis was completed during the summer and fall of 1997. The developed alternative consisted of: (A) low management intensity; retention of more than the prescribed amount of standing green trees and down logs (20–30% retention), (B) conventional management intensity; retention of prescribed amounts of standing green trees and down logs (15% retention), (C) No old-growth harvest, and (D) No Action. All action alternatives were developed to avoid forest fragmentation and system road construction. Results of the above analysis indicated a potential for significant effects to the human environment, hence the need for documentation with the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Forest Service will be seeking additional information, comment and assistance from Federal, State, local agencies, tribes, and other individuals or organizations who may be interested or affected by the proposed project. Additional input will be used to help verify the existing analysis and determine if additional issues and alternatives should be developed. This input will be used in preparation of the draft EIS.

The scoping process will include the following:

- Identification of potential additional issues;
- Identification of issues to be analyzed in depth;
- Elimination of insignificant issues or those which have been covered by a relevant previous environmental process;
- Exploration of potential additional alternatives based on the issues identified during the scoping process; and
- Verification of and potential addition to environmental effects of the proposed action and alternatives (i.e. direct, indirect, and cumulative effects and connected actions).

The draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and to be available for public review by February 28, 1998. The comment period on the draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the EPA publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

The Forest Service believes it is important to give reviewers notice at this early stage of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, a reviewer of a draft EIS 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 EIS stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final EIS 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 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 EIS.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the draft EIS 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 EIS 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.)

The final EIS is scheduled to be completed in June, 1998. In the final EIS, the Forest Service is required to respond to comments and responses received during the comment period that pertain to the environmental consequences discussed in the draft EIS and applicable laws, regulations, and policies considered in making the decision regarding this proposal. Rick Scott, District Ranger, is the responsible official and as responsible official, he will document the Christy Basin Timber Sales and restoration project decision and rationale in a Record of Decision. That decision will be subject to Forest Service Appeal Regulations (36 CFR Part 215).

Dated: January 5, 1998.

Rick Scott,

District Ranger.

[FR Doc. 98–1198 Filed 1–16–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–11–M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce (DOC) has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for

clearance the following proposal for collection of information under provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Agency: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Title: Capital Construction Fund Agreement and Certificate.

Agency Form Number: NOAA 88–14.

OMB Approval Number: 0648–0090.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Burden: 2,250 hours.

Number of Respondents: 1,000.

Avg. Hours Per Response: 2.25 hours.

Needs and Uses: The Merchant

Marine Act provides for the administration of the Capital Construction Fund (CCF) by NOAA. This program enables fishermen to construct, reconstruct, or (under limited circumstances) acquire fishing vessels with before-tax, rather than after-tax, dollars. NOAA collects information from fishermen to determine their eligibility to participate in the program and to certify completion of the agreement objectives.

Affected Public: Businesses or other for-profit organizations.

Frequency: On occasion.

Respondent's Obligation: Required to obtain or retain benefits.

OMB Desk Officer: David Rostker, (202) 395–3897.

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, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20230.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to David Rostker, OMB Desk Officer, Room 10202, New Executive Office Building, 725 17th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20503.

Dated: January 2, 1998.

Linda Engelmeier,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.

[FR Doc. 98–1264 Filed 1–16–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of the Census

Census 2000 Special Place Facility 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, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506 (c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before March 23, 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 and instructions should be directed to Charles Moore, Bureau of the Census, SFC2, MS-5700, Room 1304, 4301 Suitland Road, Suitland, Maryland 20746, phone number (301) 457-2050.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The Census Bureau must provide everyone in the United States and Outlying Areas the opportunity to be counted in the Census 2000, including persons living in group quarters (GQs), (ex. student dormitories and shelters) and housing units (HUs) at and/or associated with SPs.

To that end, the Census Bureau is currently developing final plans for implementing the Census 2000 Special Place Facility Questionnaire Operation. This operation replaces the Special Place Prelist field operation conducted in previous censuses. During that operation, census enumerators visited each special place (SP) and conducted personal interviews to identify and classify the types of GQs and HUs for each SP. One of the major requirements for enumeration of persons at SP facilities is to identify the GQs and any associated HUs at each SP.

We obtain an updated SP/GQ master file from the Census 2000 Dress Rehearsal which contains the names, addresses and phone numbers of each special place. Phone numbers for these SPs were obtained through the use of telephone books, directory assistance and contractors.

We will then mail advance letters to each SP informing them about the upcoming Census 2000 and letting them know that a Census Bureau representative will be phoning in the next few weeks to update the list of places where people stay and to collect other administrative information.

By phoning each SP and conducting interviews, we will identify and collect updated information about the GQs and HUs at each SP using Form D-351, Special Place Facility Questionnaire. The types of information collected during the interviews consists of collecting administrative information, updating existing information, identifying GQs/HUs at each SP, determining facility type and expected population count.

Throughout the Facility Questionnaire Operation, the SP/GQ master file is continually updated. Once the Facility Questionnaire Operation is completed, files will be created based on the requirements for each of the upcoming SP operations, i.e., Local Knowledge Update, Transient Night, Group Quarters Enumeration and Service-Based Enumeration.

II. Method of Collection

Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) will be used for the majority of cases using a computerized questionnaire. Nonrespondents (including SPs that request personal visit follow-up) and adds from other field operations will require a personal visit or telephone interview (non-CATI) by regional office or local census office staff using a paper D-351 questionnaire.

To collect the GQ information for military installations, a census representative will visit each of the military installations to interview military personnel on Form D-351 (MIL), Military Installation Group Quarters Address List. Information to be collected consists of the installation name, state, county, military contact, group quarters location, type of GQ and expected population count.

Once completed, the D-351s and the D-351 (MIL)s will be sent to the Data Capture Center (DCC) in Jeffersonville, Indiana for processing.

III. Data

OMB Number: Not available.

Form Number: D-351, D-351 (MIL).

Type of review: Regular Submission.

Affected Public: Individuals, businesses or other for-profit organizations, non-profit institutions and small businesses or organizations.

Estimated number of Respondents: 450,000 Special Places in Census 2000.

Estimated Time Per Response: Each interview should take about 15 minutes (0.25 hours).

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 112,500 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Cost: There is no cost to respondents for providing information on this operation, except for a few minutes of their time.

Respondent's Obligation: Mandatory.

Legal Authority: Title 13, United States Code, Sections 141 and 193.

IV. Request for Comments

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 (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (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 through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: January 13, 1998.

Linda Engelmeier,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.

[FR Doc. 98-1209 Filed 1-16-98 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of the Census

Master Address File (MAF) and Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing (TIGER) Update Activities

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, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before March 23, 1998.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or