

product it certifies as organic meets the standards it has established. The specific certification documentation that must be submitted to FSIS includes: (1) The name of the certified meat or poultry product and/or certified ingredient used in the meat or poultry product; (2) the certifying entity's name and address; (3) the name and signature of the responsible official of the certifying entity; (4) the date of certification, and (5) documentation from the certifying entity that (a) its criteria, i.e., standards, for what constitutes an organic product have been met by the product or ingredient for which labeling approval is being sought and (b) that the certifying entity employs a system for evaluating ongoing compliance with the criteria, i.e., standards, it has established.

As also indicated in FSIS's guidance document regarding this policy, the statement "certified organic by (a certifying entity)" must be followed by the name of the certifying entity on the labeling of a meat or poultry product. Upon approval, the claim "certified organic by (a certifying entity)" may appear anywhere on the labeling of a meat or poultry product in regard to the meat or poultry product portion certified and in regard to any nonmeat ingredients so certified. All words in the claim are to be contiguous and of the same size, style, and type. Further, as indicated in FSIS's guidance document, FSIS will also continue to permit the use of approved animal production claims and an approved claim of "natural" on the labeling of meat and poultry products.

In allowing the claim "certified organic by (a certifying entity)" to appear on the labeling of a meat or poultry product, FSIS is not defining the term "organic." AMS, supported by the National Organic Standards Board, is responsible for carrying out the Department's program under the Organic Foods Protection Act to define the term "organic" and to establish the circumstances in which it can be applied to agricultural products, including meat and poultry products.

Applications for approval of labeling bearing the claim "certified organic by (a certifying entity)" should be sent to the Labeling and Additives Policy Division, Office of Policy, Program Development and Evaluation, Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA, Room 602, Cotton Annex, Washington, DC 20250-3700. Inquiries regarding labeling claims, including the labeling claim "certified organic by (a certifying entity)" or animal production claims, may be directed to Dr. Robert Post, Director, Labeling and Additives Policy

Division. Staff of the Labeling and Additives Policy Division may be reached by telephone, at (202) 205-0279, for consultation.

Paperwork Requirements

Abstract: FSIS has reviewed the paperwork and recordkeeping requirements in this notice in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act. FSIS has submitted a request for an emergency clearance of these paperwork and recordkeeping requirements to OMB.

This notice, in conjunction with existing requirements, means that meat and poultry producers who want to market meat and poultry products that bear the labeling claim "certified organic by (a certifying entity)" will have to submit the labeling to FSIS for approval, along with the specified certification documentation that has been provided to the meat or poultry producer by the certifying entity. The certifying entity must have standards that list the criteria a meat or poultry product must meet to be certified organic and must have a system for ensuring that the product it certifies as organic meets those standards.

Estimate of Burden: FSIS estimates that it will take meat and poultry producers 2 hours to design and develop modified product labels. FSIS estimates that it will take certifying entities 40 hours to develop their organic standards and prepare their certification documentation.

Respondents: Meat and poultry producers, and certifying entities.

Estimated number of Respondents: 200 meat and poultry producers, and 44 certifying entities.

Estimated number of Responses per Respondent: FSIS estimates that each producer would modify approximately 4 product labels. Certifying entities would give their certification documentation to each meat and poultry producer once.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 3,360 hours. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Agency's estimate of the burden of the 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 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. Comments may be sent to Lee Puricelli, Paperwork Specialist, see address above, and Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20253.

Done at Washington, DC on: April 5, 1999.

Thomas J. Billy,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. 99-9006 Filed 4-9-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Information Collection; Request for Comments; Special Use Administration

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Forest Service announces its intent to request an extension of a currently approved information collection for the administration of special uses on National Forest System lands. The information helps the Forest Service ensure that the authorized use of Federal land is in the public interest and compatible with the mission of the agency. Respondents will include individuals, groups, organizations, businesses, corporations, and Federal, State, and local governments.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing on or before June 11, 1999.

ADDRESSES: All comments should be addressed to: Director, Lands Staff (mail stop 1124), Forest Service, USDA, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, D.C. 20090-6090 or email mscheibe/wo@fs.fed.us.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mark Scheibel, Lands Staff, at (202) 205-1264.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The forms described in this request for extension of an information collection are used by the agency to issue and administer special use permits to use or occupy National Forest System lands. The data collected will be evaluated by the Forest Service to ensure that the authorized use of Federal land is in the public interest and is compatible with the mission of the agency. The data will help identify environmental and social impacts of special uses and will ascertain whether the agency is receiving a fair market

rental fee for the use of National Forest System lands. The data will be collected through application forms and stipulations in operating plans and special-use authorizations. There are four general categories of information requests: (1) initial and amended application process; (2) annual financial information; (3) preparing and updating operation and maintenance plans; and (4) compliance reports and information updates.

Application Process

Description of Information Collection

The following describes the information collection to be extended:

Title: SF-299, Application for Transportation and Utility Systems and Facilities on Federal Lands.

OMB Number: 0596-0082.

Expiration Date of Approval: June 30, 1998.

Type of Request: Extension of previously approved information collection.

Abstract: The information provided on this form is used by the authorized Forest Service officer to evaluate the applicant's technical capability and financial resources, the applicant's proposed operations, and the anticipated environmental impacts. This form is used by applicants requesting use of National Forest System lands for nonrecreational use.

Estimate of Burden: 8 hours.

Type of respondents: Individuals, businesses, corporations, and Federal, State, and local governments.

Estimated number of respondents: 1,500.

Estimated number of responses per respondent: 1.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 12,000 hours.

Description of Information Collection

The following describes the information collection to be extended:

Title: FS-2700-3a, Request for Termination of and Application for Special Use Permit.

OMB Number: 0596-0082.

Expiration Date of Approval: June 30, 1998.

Type of Request: Extension of previously approved information collection.

Abstract: The information provided on this form is used by the authorized Forest Service officer to facilitate issuance of a new authorization when private improvements authorized on National Forest System lands change ownership.

Estimate of Burden: 0.5 hours.

Type of respondents: Individuals, businesses, and corporations.

Estimated number of respondents: 1,000.

Estimated number of responses per respondent: 1.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 500 hours.

Description of Information Collection

The following describes the information collection to be extended:

Title: FS-2700-3b, Special Use Application and Permit for Noncommercial Group Use.

OMB Number: 0596-0082.

Expiration Date of Approval: June 30, 1998.

Type of Request: Extension of previously approved information collection.

Abstract: The information provided on this form is used by the authorized Forest Service officer to evaluate requests, such as group gatherings from noncommercial groups, to use National Forest System lands. These requests usually involve First Amendment rights that require a short, specific time frame (48 hours) for the agency to approve or deny the request.

Estimate of Burden: 1 hour.

Type of respondents: Individuals, groups, organizations.

Estimated number of respondents: 2,400.

Estimated number of responses per respondent: 1.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 2,400 hours.

Description of Information Collection

The following describes the information collection to be extended:

Title: FS-2700-3c, Special Use Application and Permit for Recreation Events.

OMB Number: 0596-0082.

Expiration Date of Approval: June 30, 1998.

Type of Request: Extension of previously approved information collection.

Abstract: The information provided on this form is used by the authorized Forest Service officer to evaluate requests for National Forest System lands for recreational events.

Estimate of Burden: 1 hour.

Type of respondents: Individuals, groups, organizations.

Estimated number of respondents: 2,000.

Estimated number of responses per respondent: 1.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 2,000 hours.

Annual Financial Information

Title V of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, the

Independent Offices Appropriation Act of 1952, and the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-25 require the Forest Service to collect rental fees that reflect fair market value for the use of National Forest System lands. Special use authorizations may contain specific terms and conditions requiring the holder to provide the authorized officer with the information necessary to calculate fair market value rental fees. Procedures for how the information is provided and when it is required are contained in the authorization terms and conditions. Information requests for financial information are provided to the authorized officer in a variety of ways. Several examples include gross revenues, value of capital improvements, number of trips or customers served, or a listing of occupants in a communications site building.

Description of Information Collection

The following describes the information collection to be extended:

Title: FS-2700-7, Reconciliation of Sales for Fee Calculation.

OMB Number: 0596-0082.

Expiration Date of Approval: June 30, 1998.

Type of Request: Extension of previously approved information collection.

Abstract: The information provided on this form is used by the authorized Forest Service officer to determine the annual rental fee due the Federal government for use of National Forest System lands.

Estimate of Burden: 1 hour.

Type of respondents: Individuals, businesses, corporations, groups, and organizations.

Estimated number of respondents: 275.

Estimated number of responses per respondent: 1.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 275 hours.

Description of Information Collection

The following describes the information collection to be extended:

Title: FS-2700-8, Reconciliation of Gross Fixed Assets (GFA) to Booked Amounts.

OMB Number: 0596-0082.

Expiration Date of Approval: June 30, 1998.

Type of Request: Extension of previously approved information collection.

Abstract: The information provided on this form is used by the authorized Forest Service officer to determine the annual rental fee due the Federal Government for use of National Forest

System lands based on the gross fixed assets of the entity holding the permit.

Estimate of Burden: 1 hour.

Type of respondents: Individuals, businesses, corporations, groups, and organizations.

Estimated number of respondents: 275.

Estimated number of responses per respondent: 1.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 275 hours.

Description of Information Collection

The following describes the information collection to be extended:

Title: FS-2700-19, Fee Calculation for Concession Permits.

OMB Number: 0596-0082.

Expiration Date of Approval: June 30, 1998.

Type of Request: Extension of previously approved information collection.

Abstract: The information provided on this form is used by the authorized Forest Service officer to determine the annual rental fee due the Federal Government for concession permits.

Estimate of Burden: 1 hour.

Type of respondents: Individuals, businesses, corporations, groups, and organizations.

Estimated number of respondents: 275.

Estimated number of responses per respondent: 1.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 275 hours.

Description of Information Collection

The following describes the information collection to be extended:

Title: FS-2700-19a, USDA Forest Service Fee Calculation For Ski Area Permits.

OMB Number: 0596-0082.

Expiration Date of Approval: June 30, 1998.

Type of Request: Extension of previously approved information collection.

Abstract: The information provided on this form is used by the authorized Forest Service officer to determine the annual rental fee due the Federal Government for ski area permits.

Estimate of Burden: 1 hour.

Type of respondents: Individuals, businesses, corporations, groups, and organizations.

Estimated number of respondents: 100.

Estimated number of responses per respondent: 1.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 100 hours.

Description of Information Collection

The following describes the information collection to be extended:

Title: Business Practices (No specific agency form).

OMB Number: 0596-0082.

Expiration Date of Approval: June 30, 1998.

Type of Request: Extension of previously approved information collection.

Abstract: The information is provided to the Forest Service by the holder of the authorization when requested by the authorized Forest Service officer or as a term and condition of the authorization. There is no specific form involved. The information that is collected is usually maintained in a form that is customary for the type of business.

Estimate of Burden: 1 hour.

Type of respondents: Individuals, businesses, corporations, groups, and organizations.

Estimated number of respondents: 1,675.

Estimated number of responses per respondent: 1.5.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 2,513 hours.

Description of Information Collection

The following describes the information collection to be extended:

Title: Preparing and Updating Operation and Maintenance Plans (No specific agency form).

OMB Number: 0596-0082.

Expiration Date of Approval: June 30, 1998.

Type of Request: Extension of previously approved information collection.

Abstract: Special use authorizations may contain a clause requiring the holder of the special-use authorization to prepare or update an operation and maintenance plan, when the authorized Forest Service officer determines that the day-to-day operations of the authorized use needs to be specified. This information is useful to the holder of the special-use authorization and to the Forest Service, because it outlines procedures and policies used while the holder conducts operations or business on National Forest System lands. Typically, operation and maintenance plans include daily operating guidelines, fire abatement and control procedures, monitoring guidelines, maintenance standards, safety and emergency plans, and inspection standards and frequencies. Operation and maintenance plans are not required for all special use authorizations, but are usually necessary for complex operations, commercial uses, and situations involving sensitive environmental areas.

Estimate of Burden: 1 hour.

Type of respondents: Individuals, businesses, corporations, groups, and

organizations, Federal, State, and local governments.

Estimated number of respondents: 35,000.

Estimated number of responses per respondent: 1.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 35,000 hours.

Description of Information Collection

The following describes the information collection to be extended:

Title: Compliance Reports and Information Updates (No specific agency form).

OMB Number: 0596-0082.

Expiration Date of Approval: June 30, 1998.

Type of Request: Extension of previously approved information collection.

Abstract: Special use authorizations may contain specific terms and conditions requiring the holder to provide the authorized Forest Service officer with compliance reports, information reports, and other information required by Federal law or required to properly manage National Forest System lands to ensure adequate protection of forest resources and public health and safety. Examples of compliance and information requests include dam maintenance inspection reports and logs required by the Reclamation Safety of Dams Act of 1978, the Federal Dam Safety Inspection Act of 1979, and the Dam Safety Act of 1983; documentation that authorized facilities passed safety inspections; documentation showing that the United States is covered in an insurance policy; notifications involving changes in corporation or partnership status; and documentation of compliance with nondiscrimination in Federally assisted programs as required by Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Estimate of Burden: 1 hour.

Type of respondents: Individuals, businesses, corporations, groups, and organizations, Federal, State, and local governments.

Estimated number of respondents: 13,500.

Estimated number of responses per respondent: 1.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 13,500 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 will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of this agency's estimate of the burden 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 the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Use of Comments

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

Dated: April 5, 1999.

Robert Lewis, Jr.,

Acting Associate Chief.

[FR Doc. 99-9044 Filed 4-9-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Oil and Gas Leasing; Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, White Pine and Nye Counties, Nevada

AGENCY: USDA Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the purposes of leasing National Forest System lands in the White Pine, Grant and Quinn Mountain Ranges (White Pine and Nye Counties, Nevada) for hydrocarbon exploration, development and production. This EIS will be prepared by the Forest Service in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management, the Nevada Division of Minerals, and Nevada Division of Wildlife.

DATES: Written comments concerning the scope of the analysis should be received by May 10, 1999 to ensure timely consideration.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to: Monica J. Schwalbach, Assistant Forest Supervisor, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, P.O. Box 539, Ely, NV 89301.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Direct questions about the project and the preparation of the EIS to Jim Winfrey, Project Team Leader, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, P.O. Box 539, Ely, NV 89301. Telephone 775-3031.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Several proponents have requested portions of

the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest be made available under the Bureau of Land Management's Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale. The Forest Service must complete an environmental analysis to determine if the lands are suitable for leasing and to identify the necessary conditions of approval prior to authorizing the BLM to offer these lands.

The proposal would affect approximately 553,135 acres of National Forest System lands. Preliminary internal scoping had identified several issues which will be addressed in the analysis process. The following list of issues is not intended to be all inclusive. Issues identified by the members of the interdisciplinary team are: (1) Threatened, endangered and sensitive species and other species of concern including Bonneville cutthroat trout, mountain plover, sage grouse, bats, bighorn sheep, elk, and mule deer; (2) grazing; (3) surface and groundwater and cumulative effects to watershed; (4) heritage resources; (5) grazing; (6) noxious weeds; (7) roadless areas; (8) recreation opportunities; (9) visual, noise and air quality; (10) economic and social impacts; and (11) safety. These issues, and others identified during the scoping process will be used to develop alternatives to the proposed action. In addition, the No Action alternative will be considered in the analysis.

Public participation is important during the EIS scoping process. As part of the scoping process, the Forest Service is seeking information and comments from Federal, State, County and local agencies and other individuals or organizations who may be interested in or affected by the proposed actions. This input will be used in preparation of the draft EIS and final EIS.

Several government agencies will be invited to participate in this project as cooperating or participating agencies. These agencies include, but are not limited to, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, Nevada Division of Wildlife, and Nevada Division of Minerals.

The Forest Service is the lead agency for this project and Monica J. Schwalbach, Assistant Forest Supervisor is the responsible official. She will make the decision to determine which lands are suitable for leasing and any stipulations which should be included in a lease agreement. Applicable laws, Forest Service regulations and the Humboldt National Forest Land and Resource Management

Plan (1986) will be taken into account throughout the analysis.

The Draft EIS is expected to be filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and be available for review in October, 1999. At that time, EPA will publish a Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS in the **Federal Register**. The comment period on the Draft EIS will be at least 45 days from the date the EPA's Notice of Availability appears 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 the 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 environmental impact 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 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 EIS. Comments may also address the adequacy of the draft EIS or the merits of the alternatives formulated or 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.

Monica J. Schwalbach,

Assistant Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc 99-8960 Filed 4-9-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M