

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

Commission on 21st Century Production Agriculture; Meeting

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, DOA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has established the Commission on 21st Century Production Agriculture. In accordance with Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), notice is hereby given of the fifth meeting of the Commission on 21st Century Production Agriculture. The purpose of this meeting is to prepare for the Commission's final report on the effects of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996, plan for public listening sessions to be held in 1999, and any other necessary business. This meeting will be open to the public.

PLACE, DATE, AND TIME OF MEETING: The meeting will be at the Kansas City Airport Marriott Hotel, 775 Brasilia, Kansas City, Missouri, 64153, from 9:00–5:00 CST on May 10, 1999, from 8:30–5:00 CST on May 11, 1999, and from 8:30–2:00 CST on May 12, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tim Peters (202–720–4860), Assistant Director, Commission on 21st Century Production Agriculture, c/o Office of the Chief Economist, or Keith J. Collins (202–720–5955), Chief Economist, Room 112–A Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250–3810.

Dated: April 23, 1999.

Keith J. Collins,

Chief Economist.

[FR Doc. 99–10864 Filed 4–29–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Commodity Credit Corporation

Notice of Request for Extension and Revision of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Commodity Credit Corporation's (CCC) intention to request an extension for and revision to a currently approved information collection in support of the CCC/ Export Credit Guarantee Program (GSM–102) and the CCC/ Intermediate Export Credit Guarantee Program (GSM–103) based on re-estimates.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by June 29, 1999 to be assured of consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Contact L. T. McElvain, Director, Commodity Credit Corporation Operations Division, Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, AgBox 1035, Washington, DC 20250–1035, telephone (202) 720–6211.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: CCC/Export Credit Guarantee Program (GSM–102) and CCC/ Intermediate Export Credit Guarantee Program (GSM–103).

OMB Number: 0551–0004.

Expiration Date of Approval: September 30, 1999.

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

Abstract: The primary objective of the GSM–102 and GSM–103 programs is to expand U.S. agricultural exports by making available export credit guarantees to encourage U.S. private sector financing of foreign purchases of U.S. agricultural commodities on credit terms. These CCC programs are currently available with respect to exporters to more than 25 countries and 12 country regions with more than 1,500 exporters currently eligible to participate. Under 7 CFR Part 1493, exporters are required to submit the following: (1) Information required for program participation as outlined in section 1493.30, (2) export sales

information in connection with applying for a payment guarantee under section 1493.40, (3) evidence of export in section 1493.80, (4) notice of default and claims for loss under section 1493.110, and (5) miscellaneous provisions, including assignment of the proceeds and review of the regulations found in section 1493.140. In addition, each exporter and exporter's assignee (U.S. financial institution) must maintain records on all information submitted to CCC and in connection with sales made under the GSM–102 and GSM–103 programs as set forth in section 1493.140. The information collected is used by CCC to manage, plan, evaluate and account for Government resources. The reports and records are required to ensure the proper and judicious use of public funds.

Estimate of Burden: The public reporting burden for these collections is estimated to average 2.62 hours per response.

Respondents: U.S. Exporters of U.S. agricultural commodities, U.S. banks or other financial institutions, producer associations, U.S. export trade associations, and U.S. Government agencies.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 227 per annum.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 117 per annum.

Estimated Total Annual Burden of Respondents: 5,440.48 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Kimberly Chisley, the Agency Information Collection Coordinator, at (202) 720–2568.

Requests for comments: Comments are requested regarding: (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 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 those who are to respond, including through the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments may be sent to L.T. McElvain, Director, Commodity Credit Corporation Operations Division, Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, AgBox 1035, Washington, DC 20250-1035.

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.

Signed at Washington, DC April 21, 1999.

Timothy J. Galvin,

Acting Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service and Acting Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.

[FR Doc. 99-10812 Filed 4-29-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-10-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

White Pine Creek Project; Kootenai National Forest, Sanders County, MT

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: The USDA- Forest Service will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the White Pine Creek Project to disclose the effects of timber harvest, prescribed fire, road management including construction, reconstruction and obliteration, fish habitat improvement, stream channel reconstruction, trailhead parking area improvement, and aspen restoration, in the White Pine and Little Trout Creek drainages located approximately 5 air miles south of Trout Creek, Montana. The purpose and need for action is to: (1) Enhance and maintain vegetative communities within the project area that promote overall forest health. Focus management activities on stands which have high levels of mortality due to root disease and white pine blister rust. Focus on stands that need management activities in order to perpetuate old growth ponderosa pine ecosystems. Create forage openings for big game animals and other wildlife; (2) Maintain habitat for big game, specifically wildlife security; (3) Maintain, enhance and restore hydrologic function and fisheries habitat, within the White Pine Project Area; (4) Maintain or enhance visual resources as seen from critical viewpoints within the Trout Creek community; and (5) Provide a transportation system that maintains road and trail access to meet recreational and other public needs.

The DEIS is expected to be filed with the EPA and available for public review by September, 1999.

DATES: Written comments and suggestions should be received on or before June 1, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and suggestions concerning the scope of the analysis should be sent to James I. Mershon, District Ranger, Cabinet Ranger District, 2693 Hwy 200, Trout Creek, Montana, 59874.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Contact Dave Clay, Interdisciplinary Team Leader, Cabinet Ranger District, Phone: (406) 827-3533.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The decision area contains approximately 40,000 acres within the Kootenai National Forest in Sanders County, Montana. All of the proposed projects are located in the White Pine and Little Trout Creek drainages, which are tributaries to the Clark Fork River, near Trout Creek, Montana. The legal location of the National Forest lands within the decision area are as follows: all or portions of Section 4-5, T22N, R32W; Sections 3-11, 14-24, 27-30, T23N, R31W; Section 1-3, 10-17, 20-29, 31-34, T23N, R32W; Sections 31-33, T24N, R31W; Section 24-26, 35-36, T24N, R32W, Principal Montana Meridian.

The Forest Service proposes to harvest approximately 33,000 hundred cubic feet (equivalent to 15 million board feet, MMBF) of timber through the application of a variety of harvest methods on approximately 2,300 acres of forest land. Approximately 1,200 acres would be logged with a helicopter, 700 acres with a skyline yarder, and 400 acres by a tractor. Silviculture systems include 1,200 acres of regeneration harvest and 1,100 of commercial thinning. Vegetation management also includes approximately 5 acres of aspen regeneration. An estimated 5 miles of new permanent road, 12 miles of new temporary roads and 33 miles of road reconstruction would be needed to access timber harvest areas. All temporary roads would be obliterated following completion of sale activities. The proposal also includes prescribed burning on approximately 1,000 acres to reduce natural fuels and enhance wildlife habitat. An estimated 19 miles of road would be obliterated by the timber purchaser and another 31 miles of road would be obliterated with watershed funding by rehabilitation of stream crossings, recontouring, scarification and seeding. The Forest Service also proposes to improve fish habitat through the placement of instream structures and large woody debris on 4 miles of White Pine Creek, stabilize stream channels in 6.7 miles by placing large woody debris and large

rock structures in damaged sections to protect the stream channel and provide fish habitat. Reconstruct the stream channel in 2.7 miles of White Pine Creek and plant riparian vegetation along streamcourses. The watershed and fisheries work would be based on site specific conditions and is contingent on the availability of funding.

Improvement in trailhead parking along the White Pine Creek Road #215 is proposed for both the Reader Gulch trail #749 and the Grays Gulch trail #756. Trailhead work would include providing suitable parking and signing.

Lynx habitat would also be created by small regeneration units in high elevation lodgepole pine stands on approximately 10 acres.

The Kootenai Forest Plan provides guidance for management activities within the potentially affected area through its goals, objectives, standards and guidelines, and management area direction. The proposed projects includes activities in several management areas (MAs): 5, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, and 19. A portion of the Trout Creek Inventoried Roadless Area #664, is included within the project area. No activities are proposed within this roadless area. This proposal includes 4 openings greater than 40 acres (size range is 60 to 150 acres), to treat and regenerate areas experiencing heavy root disease induced mortality (Regional Forester approval for exceeding the forty acre regeneration harvest would be required prior to signing the Record of Decision); and three Forest Plan project specific amendments for: (1) open road density in MA 12 (big game summer range); (2) removal of snag habitat in MA 10 (big game winter range); and (3) timber harvest in MA 13 (old growth). Forest Plan amendments are allowed when it is determined during project design that the best way to meet the goals of the Forest Plan conflicts with a Forest plan standard (Forest Plan Volume II-20).

White Pine Creek has been designated by the State of Montana as a Water Quality Limited Segment (WQLS), because of stream alterations due to agricultural uses.

Range of Alternatives

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 will be implemented. Additional alternatives will examine varying levels and locations for the proposed activities to achieve the proposal's purposes, as well as to respond to the issues and other resource values.