

pertaining to grant and cooperative agreement awards and authorizations, obligations, un-obligated balances, assets, liabilities, outlays, and income.

(b) Effective control over and accountability for all funds, property, and other assets. Cooperator shall adequately safeguard all such assets and shall ensure that they are used solely for authorized purposes.

(c) Accounting records supported by source documentation.

7. To retain financial records, supporting documents, statistical records, and all other records pertinent to the Cooperative Agreement for a period of at least 3 years after the closeout, except that the records shall be retained beyond the 3-year period if audit findings have not been resolved or if requested by FSA. Microfilm, photocopies or similar methods may be substituted in lieu of original records. FSA and the Comptroller General of the United States, or any of their duly authorized representatives, shall have access to any books, documents, papers, and records of the Cooperator that are pertinent to this Cooperative Agreement for the purpose of making audits, examinations, excerpts, and transcripts.

8. Not encumber, transfer, or dispose of the equipment or any part thereof, acquired wholly or in part with FSA funds provided under this Cooperative Agreement without the written consent of FSA.

9. Not duplicate other program purposes for which monies have been received, are committed, or are applied to from other sources, public or private.

FSA agrees to make available to Cooperator for the purpose of this Agreement funds in an amount not to exceed the cooperative agreement funds. The funds will be reimbursed or advanced based on submission of Standard Form 270.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Cooperator has this day authorized and caused this Agreement to be executed by

Attest

By \_\_\_\_\_

(Title) \_\_\_\_\_

(Cooperator)

United States of America, Farm Service Agency

By \_\_\_\_\_

(Title) \_\_\_\_\_

(Grantor)

[FR Doc. 05-22821 Filed 11-17-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-M

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Information Collection; Request for Comment; Valuation of Private Forest Ecosystem Services in North Carolina

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice; request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the

Forest Service is seeking comments from all interested individuals and organizations on a new research study to evaluate the value of the ecosystem benefits provided by private forests in North Carolina to residents of that State.

**DATES:** Comments must be received in writing on or before January 17, 2006 to be assured of consideration. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments concerning this notice should be addressed to Thomas P. Holmes, Forestry Sciences Lab, Southern Research Station, USDA Forest Service, P.O. Box 12254, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27709.

Comments also may be submitted via facsimile to (919) 549-4047 or by e-mail to: [tholmes@fs.fed.us](mailto:tholmes@fs.fed.us).

The public may inspect comments received at Forestry Sciences Lab, 3041 Cornwallis Road, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, 27709 main building reception area during normal business hours. Visitors are encouraged to call ahead to (919) 549-4000 to facilitate entry to the building.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Thomas P. Holmes, Southern Research Station, (919) 549-4031. Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf may call the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339, 24 hours a day, every day of the year, including holidays.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* Valuation of Private Forest Ecosystem Services in North Carolina.

*OMB Number:* 0596-New.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* N/A.

*Type of Request:* New.

*Abstract:* Private forests provide many benefits to the owners of forest land. Trees can be sold to mills that produce lumber or paper products; fuelwood can be sold or used by landowners; and the forest landscape may provide opportunities for landowners to hunt, fish, go walking, observe wildlife, or simply enjoy their privacy. In addition to private benefits, private forests provide ecosystem services to the general public. The public ecosystem services provided by private forests include supplying clean water, protecting wildlife habitat, maintaining populations of a variety of plants, and providing scenic views. Although private forest owners supply ecosystem services that benefit the public, members of the public usually do not have to pay for these services. Because ecosystem services provided by private forests are usually not bought or sold, forest landowners do not have an incentive to produce the amount of

ecosystem services that the public demands.

Forest Service and university researchers will collect information from residents of North Carolina about the value of the ecosystem services provided by private forest landowners in the State. The data and analyses will provide information to natural resource managers on the value of ecosystem services provided by private forests and the level of public support for alternative forestry programs that would enhance the supply of forest ecosystem services in the State.

To gather the information, a random sample of people living in North Carolina will be contacted by mail and invited to participate in the study. The mailing will include a cover letter describing the purpose of the study, an information booklet describing current forest conditions and forest management practices in North Carolina, and a questionnaire to determine what the recipient thinks about forestry issues and alternative forestry programs in the State.

The information will be collected by a university survey research center using scientific data collection methods. The information will be analyzed both by university and Forest Service researchers. The data and analyses will be provided to State and federal forest land managers and decision-makers to assist their development and implementation of programs that benefit forest landowners and the general public.

*Estimate of Annual Burden:* The average annual burden estimated per respondent is 30 minutes.

*Type of Respondents:* Respondents will be a random sample of heads of households in North Carolina.

*Estimated Annual Number of Respondents:* The total number of respondents per year is 1,500.

*Estimated Annual Number of Responses per Respondent:* Only one response per respondent will be requested.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* The total annual burden for this information collection, computed as the number of minutes per respondent times the number of respondents, is 750 hours.

Comment is invited on: (1) Whether this collection of information is necessary for the stated purposes and the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical or scientific utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and

assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) 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.

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

Dated: November 3, 2005.

**Ann M. Bartuska,**

*Deputy Chief for Research & Development.*

[FR Doc. 05-22900 Filed 11-17-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Revision of Land Management Plan for the Uwharrie National Forest

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of initiation to revise the Uwharrie National Forest Land Management Plan.

**SUMMARY:** The Forest Service is revising the Land and Resource Management Plan (hereafter referred to as Forest Plan) for the Uwharrie National Forest (UNF). This notice provides:

1. A summary of the need to change the Forest Plan;
2. Information on how the public can comment on the need to change, when those comments are due, and how comments can be submitted;
3. A list of documents available for review and how to get them;
4. How the public can participate in the planning process;
5. Who to contact for more information.

**DATES:** Revision formally begins with publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**. Many public comments regarding Forest Plan revision have already been received at public meetings and through e-mail. Additional comments on the need to change the Forest Plan should be submitted within 30 days of the date this notice is published in the **Federal Register**.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written comments to: Uwharrie Plan Revision, National Forests in North Carolina, P.O. Box 2750, Asheville, NC 28802. Electronic

mail should include "Uwharrie Plan Revision" in the subject line and be sent to: [comments-southern-north-carolina@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-southern-north-carolina@fs.fed.us). More information on the UNF and Forest Plan revision process is available at: [http://www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc/uwharrie\\_plan/](http://www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc/uwharrie_plan/).

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ruth Berner, National Forests in North Carolina, Planning Team Leader, (828) 257-4862.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Uwharrie National Forest is managed as part of the National Forests in North Carolina. The original Forest Plan for the UNF was completed in 1986.

#### Documents Available for Review

Several reports and draft documents written over the past few years help identify how the existing Forest Plan might need to change to be more useful in the future. These documents include:

1. Uwharrie National Forest Recreation Realignment Report (August 2001), hardcopy available by sending a request to [comments-southern-north-carolina@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-southern-north-carolina@fs.fed.us).
2. Roads Analysis Process Report Uwharrie National Forest (December 2003), available online at [http://www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc/roads/uwharrie\\_rap.pdf](http://www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc/roads/uwharrie_rap.pdf).
3. Uwharrie National Forest Watershed Analysis Draft Report (September 2004), hardcopy available by sending a request to [comments-southern-north-carolina@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-southern-north-carolina@fs.fed.us).
4. Uwharrie National Forest—A Strategic View (July 2005, Initial Draft Comprehensive Evaluation Report), available online at [http://www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc/uwharrie\\_plan/](http://www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc/uwharrie_plan/), or by requesting a copy.

#### Need for Change

*Growing as a Tourist Destination:* As population in the area grows, local public lands are increasingly being seen as a place of relaxation; a quiet, peaceful retreat. The UNF is the top tourist destination in Montgomery County, and one of several popular tourist destinations in Randolph County. There may be tourism-related opportunities to provide more economic benefits to local communities.

*Nature Hikes Becoming More Popular:* Most visitors to the UNF seek a place to walk, view nature, and perhaps picnic, swim, or fish. The UNF, with its lake and river frontage, rolling topography, and existing road and trail system, is currently providing a variety of these opportunities. There may be ways to make visits more enjoyable, especially along the Uwharrie Trail and the Uwharrie River.

*Game Lands Heavily Hunted:* Hunting definitely has a place on the UNF; the Forest has the highest hunting use per acre of any North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) game land. There may be opportunities to better provide the types of wildlife habitat that are in short supply on nearby private land.

*Providing Wood Products:* Timber harvested from the UNF helps to meet increasing American consumer demand for wood products while at the same time providing a cost-effective way to create and maintain wildlife habitat. Wood products also provide economic benefits to local communities. There may be opportunities to change the amount or type of timber products offered to the local forest products industry.

*Opportunities To Improve the Transportation System:* There may be opportunities to improve the existing UNF road and trail system, to enhance public access while minimizing visitor conflicts and resource damage.

*Opportunity for Off-Highway Vehicles:* Off-highway vehicles (OHV) currently have access to a sixteen-mile trail system. There are few other known opportunities in the Piedmont for this type of experience, and demand is increasing. OHV use on NFS lands is controversial due to potential resource impacts and incidents when OHV users have strayed from the trail system. There may be opportunities to better manage the OHV trail system to provide the desired experience while lessening impacts to the forest resources.

*Interpreting History:* Archeological and historical resources on the UNF provide a unique opportunity for current forest visitors to learn about those who lived here in the past, and at the same time provide an outdoor recreation experience. Careful, innovative planning may ensure that historically important sites are protected yet still accessible.

*Restoring Native Ecosystems:* Existing UNF ecosystems include native pine and hardwood communities, but also include loblolly pine communities on sites that once supported longleaf pine. Vegetation management could restore longleaf pine and other historic plant communities on appropriate sites.

*Using Fire as a Tool:* Restoring the natural role of fire is important in sustaining some ecosystems such as longleaf pine and the open woodland conditions used by a number of rare plants. Increasing use of prescribed fire may better maintain these native plant communities.

*Controlling Non-native Invasive Plants:* Controlling non-native invasive