

# 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

### Food and Consumer Service

#### Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request: National Survey of WIC Participants and Their Local Agencies (NSWP)

**AGENCY:** Food and Consumer Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice invites the general public and other public agencies to comment on proposed information collection of the National Survey of WIC Participants and Their Local Agencies (NSWP).

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by April 28, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** 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 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 appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to: Michael E. Fishman, Acting Director, Office of Analysis and Evaluation, Food and Consumer Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302.

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.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information should be directed to Michael E. Fishman, (703) 305-2117.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* National Survey of WIC Participants and Their Local Agencies (NSWP).

*OMB Number:* Not yet assigned.

*Expiration Date:* N/A.

*Type of Request:* New collection of information.

*Abstract:* This study will survey a nationally representative sample of WIC participants through personal interviews at the time of WIC certification in order to better respond to congressional inquiries and strengthen FCS data used for budgetary and legislative estimates as well as monitoring and planning for the WIC Program. It will also provide a nationally representative estimate of case error and dollar error in current WIC certification processes through in-home income verification interviews.

The study's data collection component is comprised of:

1. Collecting income and other demographic information through in-person interviews at the time of WIC certification, with a nationally representative sample of 3,000 WIC participants consisting of approximately 600 individuals in each WIC certification category. These categories are pregnant women, breastfeeding women, postpartum women, infants up to the age of twelve months, and children under five years of age. Parents and caretakers of infants and children will be interviewed.

2. In-home interviews to verify income information obtained during the WIC certification process and other selected topics identified as of interest during the earlier in-person interviews, for example immunization documentation if not available at the time of WIC certification. Verification interviews will be conducted with 1,000 WIC participants.

3. Follow-up telephone interviews with approximately 600 WIC participants with whom in-home income verification interviews were conducted. These interviews will gather data on changes in employment and income during the first four months following WIC certification as well as inquiring about the participants' experiences as part of the WIC Program.

Special arrangements will be made to contact persons who do not have telephones in their homes.

4. A survey of 100 local WIC agencies serving the study sample will obtain information on local operating procedures.

*Affected Public:* WIC participants and WIC local agency administrators serving them.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 3,000 WIC participants and 100 local WIC administrators. For infants and children, parents or caretakers will serve as the interview respondent.

*Estimated Time per Response:* For 2,000 WIC participants, one 30 minute response; for 400 WIC participants, one 30 minute response and one 45 minute response; for 600 WIC participants one 30 minute, one 45 minute and one 15 minute response; and for 100 local WIC administrators, one 30 minute response.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden:* 2,450 hours.

Dated: February 14, 1997.

William E. Ludwig,

Administrator, Food and Consumer Service.

[FR Doc. 97-4583 Filed 2-24-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-30-U

### Forest Service

#### Birch Creek/Worm Creek Proposed Timber Sale; Cache National Forest (Administered by the Caribou National Forest), Franklin County, ID

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare Environmental Impact Statement.

**SUMMARY:** The USDA, Forest Service will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement to document the analysis and disclose the environmental impacts of proposed actions to harvest timber, build roads, and regenerate new stands of trees in the Birch Creek/Worm Creek area of the Cache National Forest. The project is located in Franklin County, ID in the Birch Creek, Worm Creek and South Canyon drainages, administered by the Montpelier Ranger District of the Caribou National Forest. The need for the proposal is to treat stands of timber to enhance sustainable productivity as outlined in the Caribou National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. Treatment would be designed to address

silvicultural condition of the affected timber stands.

The Montpelier Ranger District of the Caribou National Forest proposes to harvest an estimated 3300 MBF (thousand board feet) of commercial timber in 28 timber stands on approximately 658 acres. One 15-acre stand would be clearcut and planted. The remaining stands would be partially cut using either a sanitation/salvage cut or a shelterwood method. Thirteen stands would be logged by tractor and fifteen stands would be logged by helicopter. Approximately 5.5 miles of new road would be built, and 3.8 miles of road would be relocated to access the stands for logging. All new roads and 3.4 miles of relocated roads would be closed to vehicle travel after logging. The timber would be offered for sale in 1999. For a map of the proposed project area, please contact the Montpelier Ranger District, 431 Clay Street, Montpelier, ID 83254, (208) 847-0375. **DATE:** Written comments concerning the scope of the analysis described in this Notice should be received on or before March 27, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments to Caribou National Forest, Montpelier Ranger District, 431 Clay Street, Montpelier, ID 83254.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Questions concerning the proposed action and EIS should be directed to T.W. Smith, Forester, Caribou National Forest, Montpelier Ranger District (Telephone: (208) 847-0375.)

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This EIS will tier to the final EIS for the Caribou National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). The Caribou Forest Plan provides the overall guidance (Goals, Objectives, Standards, and Management Area direction) to achieve the Desired Future Condition for the area being analyzed and contains specific management area prescriptions for the entire Forest. The specific objective of this proposal is to contribute to the sustained yield of timber assigned the Caribou National Forest in the Forest's Land and Resource Management Plan.

Possible alternatives to the proposal are to cut no timber or to cut only some of the stands at this time.

Public scoping letters have been sent to individuals, and news articles regarding the project have appeared in local newspapers. Initial scoping comments indicated concerns about the project's environmental impacts on water quality, fish habitat, and roadless area characteristics. The Caribou National Forest determined impacts could be significant and will complete

an Environmental Impact Statement to address these concerns. At this time, no public scoping meetings have been planned.

#### Issues/Concerns

Tentative issues and concerns identified to date are:

1. Birch Creek is a section 303(d) Water Quality Limited stream. Beneficial uses, which include beneficial uses for fisheries, must be protected and regulatory water quality standards met.
2. Steep slopes limit tractor logging in some stands and helicopter logging is proposed in these instances. Cable systems may be considered as another means of logging steep slopes, because they are less expensive to operate and would make the sale available to more timber operators; however, they require more roads than helicopters.
3. Stands in the Worm Creek drainage are accessible by approximately 3.4 miles of road that would require relocation. Road relocation would be expensive, raise logging costs, and make the area more accessible while the road was open.
4. Regeneration would be difficult in many stands that have an understory of shrubs. Tractor logging reduces shrubs and exposes mineral soil allowing tree seedlings to germinate and grow. Helicopter logging does not disturb the ground, and therefore, tree regeneration would be difficult to establish in helicopter units.
5. The Birch Creek Road is rocky, making maintenance difficult. Lack of maintenance causes ruts and increases erosion. The Birch Creek Road would be used to haul logs from the sale area. The proposal creates an opportunity to improve the road and reduce surface runoff into Birch Creek.
6. Birch Creek is a tributary of Mink Creek. Mink Creek contains Bonneville Cutthroat Trout. The proposal could adversely affect fish habitat in both streams.
7. Birch Creek Road is groomed for snowmobile use in the winter and provides access to winter play areas. Winter logging would require plowing the road. The narrow canyon would not allow snowmobiling off the plowed road. Snowmobile use on the plowed road would create a public safety hazard.
8. The proposed project is located in the Station Creek Roadless Area, #04178. The environmental analysis will need to determine how the proposed action would affect existing roadless characteristics.
9. The proposed project area contains wildlife habitat used by deer and elk.

Harvest activities and road-building could make these animals more vulnerable to hunters.

10. Permitted cattle grazing occurs in Birch Creek and Worm Creek. Tree regeneration, occurring as a result of this proposal, would require protection from damage by cattle.

11. Douglas-fir and subalpine fir trees in the project area have been attacked and killed by bark beetles over the past ten years. Since the trees are of an age and density that invite continued attacks, mortality can be expected to continue. The project offers an opportunity to harvest recently killed trees for timber products.

A Biological assessment of threatened, endangered and sensitive species will be completed as part of the environmental analysis.

A Cultural Resource Survey of the area will be completed as part of the environmental analysis, and any cultural resources found would be protected.

No permits or licenses are required to implement the proposed action.

The tentative date for filing the Draft EIS is June 1997. The tentative date for filing the final EIS is September 1997. The comment period on the draft environmental impact statement will be open for 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability 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 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, 553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft environmental impact statement stage but 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 of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement 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 Environmental Impact Statement. Agency representatives and other interested people are invited to visit with Forest Service officials at any time during the EIS process.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement should be as specific as possible, it is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the Draft. Comments may also address the adequacy of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement 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 USDA, Forest Service is the lead agency in preparing the Environmental Impact Statement for this proposal. The responsible official is Paul R. Nordwall, Supervisor, Caribou National Forest, 250 South Fourth Avenue, Pocatello, ID 83254.

Dated: February 12, 1997.  
Paul R. Nordwall,  
*Forest Supervisor, Caribou National Forest.*  
[FR Doc. 97-4631 Filed 2-24-97; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

### **Klamath Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC); Meeting**

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Klamath Provincial Advisory Committee will meet on March 10, 1997 at the Miner's Inn Conference Room, 122 East Miner, Yreka, California. The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. and adjourn at 5 p.m. Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Klamath Province storm damage overview; (2) a strategy plan for the next two years of PAC Charter with recommendations; (3) socio-economic subcommittee discussion on possible proposal; (4) Province Interagency Executive Committee Report; and (5) public comment periods. All PAC meetings are open to the public. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Connie Hendryx, USDA, Klamath National Forest, at 1312 Fairlane Road, Yreka, California 96097; telephone 916-842-6131, (FTS) 700-467-1309.

Dated: February 18, 1997.  
K. Mike Ford,  
*Acting Forest Supervisor.*  
[FR Doc. 97-4551 Filed 2-24-97; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

### **Rural Utilities Service**

#### **Information Collection Activity; Comment Request**

**AGENCY:** Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Action of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended), the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) invites comments on this information collection for which RUS intends to request approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by April 28, 1997.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Jonathan Claffey, Acting Deputy Director, Advanced Telecommunications Services Staff, Rural Utilities Service, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., STOP 1701, Room 2919 South Building, Washington, DC 20250-1701. Telephone: (202) 720-0530. FAX: (202) 720-2734.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Preloan Procedures and Requirements for Telecommunications Program.

*OMB Control Number:* 0572-0079.

*Type of Request:* Reinstatement of a previously approved information collection, without change.

*Abstract:* This program is necessary in order for the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) to determine an applicant's eligibility to borrow from RUS under the terms of the RE Act. This information is also used by RUS to determine that the Government's security for loans made by RUS is reasonably adequate and that the loans will be repaid within the time agreed.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 9 hours per response.

*Respondents:* Small business or organizations.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 95.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 8.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 7,177.

Copies of this information collection, and related form and instructions, can

be obtained from Dawn Wolfgang, Program Support and Regulatory Analysis Group, at (202) 720-0812.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether this 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 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 through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to: F. Lamont Heppe, Jr., Director, Program Support and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 1522, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-1522. FAX: (202) 720-4120.

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.

Dated: February 18, 1997.  
Wally Beyer,  
*Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.*  
[FR Doc. 97-4641 Filed 2-24-97; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 3410-15-P

### **ARCHITECTURAL AND TRANSPORTATION BARRIERS COMPLIANCE BOARD**

#### **Meeting**

**AGENCY:** Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board) has scheduled its regular business meetings to take place in Washington, D.C. on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, March 10-12, 1997 at the times and location noted below.

**DATES:** The schedule of events is as follows:

*Monday, March 10, 1997*

8:30 am-10:00 am—Ad Hoc Committee on Bylaws and Statutory Review

10:00 am-11:00 am—Long-Range Planning Group

11:00 am-12:30 pm—Briefing on Proposed Rule for Access to Telecommunications Equipment (Closed Meeting)