

feeding period. Form CCC-648, Area Designation and Feed Loss Assessment, it will be necessary for a tribal government to provide the name, address, and phone number of their tribal government for identification purposes, in addition to the name of the tribal contact person who could assist FSA if any questions should arise. Form CCC-453, American Indian Livestock Feed Program Contract to Participant, tribal governments will define the region where the natural disaster has taken place in order to determine if the region meets the requirements of the regulations.

**Need and Use of the Information:** FSA will collect information to determine if the tribal government recommended disaster region meets the criteria set forth and to determine if the conditions, such as eligible payees, meet the criteria and also determine the amount of benefits the applicant may be entitled to receive.

**Description of Respondents:** Individuals or households; State, Local or Tribal Government.

**Number of Respondents:** 45,000.

**Frequency of Responses:** Reporting: On occasion; Other (when losses occur)

**Total Burden Hours:** 22,563

**Emergency approval for this information collection has been requested by July 31, 1998.**

#### **Farm Service Agency**

**Title:** Tree Assistance Program 7 CFR 783.

**OMB Control Number:** 0560-NEW.

**Summary of Collection:** Pub. L. 105-174, the 1998 Supplemental Appropriation and Reversions Act of 1998 (the Act), authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to implement a Tree Assistance Program (TAP) for losses of eligible trees and vines that were lost due to natural disasters during fiscal year 1998. Owners of eligible trees or vines applying for the TAP Program must meet the program requirements as set forth in 7 CFR part 783. Owners will be reimbursed for practice costs which may not exceed 100 percent of the eligible replanting or rehabilitation costs and may be based on average costs or the actual costs for the eligible replanting or rehabilitation practices, as determined by the Farm Service Agency (FSA). The intended effect of this action is to provide assistance to eligible owners to replace or rehabilitate eligible trees and vines damaged by natural disasters occurring in fiscal year 1998. To qualify for this program, owners must certify that each "person", as defined by FSA, who is an owner or co-owner of eligible trees or vines had an annual qualifying gross revenue of less

than \$2.5 million in the 1997 tax year. FSA will use forms CCC-434 and CCC-435 to collect information from the owners.

**Need And Use of The Information:** FSA uses form CCC-434 to collect information on the total number of trees or vines in the individual stand, total number of trees or vines lost or damaged, acres in need of site preparation, and extent of losses requested for payment. Form CCC-435 is used by FSA to collect information on the lost or damaged trees or vines for which replanting or rehabilitation assistance is requested, including species, location, average number planted per acre, total acres in an individual stand, and cause and percentage of mortality.

**Description of Respondents:** Farms; Business or other for-profit; Individuals or households.

**Number of Respondents:** 1,000.

**Frequency of Responses:**

Recordkeeping; Reporting: Other (Once).

**Total Burden Hours:** 291.

Emergency approval for this information collection has been requested by July 20, 1998.

#### **Farm Service Agency**

**Title:** Report of Acreage.

**OMB Control Number:** 0560-0004.

**Summary of Collection:** Land and crop information is the basic foundation upon which many of Farm Service Agency (FSA) programs operate. The report of acreage is conducted on an annual basis and is used by FSA's county offices to determine eligibility for benefits that are available to producers on the farm. The actual number of producers who must supply information varies depending on 1) the type of farming operations, and 2) the mix of crops planted (which has a direct relationship to the type of program the producer is eligible to participate in). In order to establish eligibility annually for these programs a minimal amount of land and crop data about a producer's farming operation is required. The information is subsequently used to ensure compliance with program provisions, to determine actual production histories, and when disaster occurs, to verify crop loss. Producers must provide the information each year because variables such as previous year experiences, weather projections, market demand, new farming techniques and personal preferences affect the amount of land being farmed, the mix of crops planted, and the projected harvest. FSA will collect information verbally from the producers during visit to the county offices and also through the use of postcards.

**Need and Use of the Information:** FSA will collect information on crop planted, planting date, crop's intended use (e.g. fresh or processing), type or variety (e.g. sweet cherries or tart cherries), practice (irrigated or nonirrigated), acres, location of the crop (tract and field), and the producer's percent share in the crop along with the names of other producers having an interest in the crop. Once the information is collected and eligibility established, the information is used throughout the crop year to ensure the producer remains compliant with program provisions. Without a certain level of information provided each crop year by the producer, a significant misuse of public funds occurs.

**Description of Respondents:** Farms.

**Number of Respondents:** 639,008.

**Frequency of Responses:** Annually.

**Total Burden Hours:** 479,255.

**Ruth Brown,**

*Acting Departmental Information Clearance Officer.*

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## **DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

### **Forest Service**

#### **Lake Tahoe Basin Advisory Committee**

**AGENCY:** Office of the Secretary, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice, establishment, and request for nominations.

**SUMMARY:** The Secretary of Agriculture is establishing an advisory committee, chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, to provide advice to the Secretary of Agriculture on implementing the terms of the Federal Interagency Partnership on the Lake Tahoe Region. Nominations of persons to serve on the Committee are invited.

**DATES:** Nominations for membership on the Committee must be received in writing by August 10, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Send nominations with telephone numbers for membership on the Committee to: FACA Nomination, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, 870 Emerald Bay Road, South Lake Tahoe, California 96150.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Juan Palma, Forest Supervisor, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, telephone (530) 573-2641.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.), notice is hereby given that the Secretary of Agriculture intends to establish a Lake Tahoe Basin Federal Advisory Committee. The purpose of the Committee is to provide advice to

the Secretary of Agriculture on implementing the terms of the Federal Interagency Partnership on the Lake Tahoe Basin and other matters raised by the Secretary.

The Secretary has determined that the work of the Committee is in the public interest and relevant to the duties of the Department of Agriculture.

The Committee will meet on a quarterly basis, conducting public meetings to discuss management strategies, gather information and review federal agency accomplishments, and prepare a progress report every six months for submission to regional federal executives.

The Committee will consist of no more than 20 members representing a broad array of interests in the Lake Tahoe Region. Representatives will be selected from the following sectors: (1) gaming; (2) environmental; (3) national environmental organizations; (4) ski resorts; (5) North Shore economic and recreation interests; (6) South Shore economic and recreation interests; (7) resort associations; (8) education; (9) property rights advocates; (10) member-at-large; (11) member-at-large; (12) science and research; (13) local government; (14) Washoe Tribe; (15) State of California; (16) State of Nevada; (17) Tahoe Regional Planning Agency; (18) union/labor interests, and (19) transportation. Nominations to the Committee should describe and document the proposed member's qualifications for membership on the Lake Tahoe Basin Advisory Committee. The Committee Chair will be recommended by the Committee and approved by the Secretary. Vacancies on the Committee will be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made.

Appointments to the Committee will be made by the Secretary of Agriculture. Equal opportunity practices, in line with USDA policies, will be followed in all appointments to the Committee. To ensure that the recommendations of the Committee have taken into account the needs of the diverse groups served by the Department, membership should include to the extent practicable individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, persons with disabilities, and senior citizens.

Dated: July 21, 1998.

**G. Lynn Sprague,**

*Regional Forester, Pacific Southwest Region.*  
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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### **Salmon River Canyon Project; Nez Perce National Forest, Payette National Forest, Bitterroot National Forest, Salmon/Challis National Forest, Idaho County, ID**

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice; intent to prepare environmental impact statement.

**SUMMARY:** The Forest Service will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to analyze and disclose the environmental effects of fuels reduction within the Salmon River Canyon. The area is located between Cottonwood, ID and North Fork, ID. Some activities are proposed within the Gospel Hump and Frank Church—River of No Return Wildernesses. This EIS will tier to the Nez Perce National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, the Bitterroot National Forest Forest Plan, the Land and Resource Management Plan for the Salmon National Forest, and the Payette National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan which provide overall guidance for achieving the desired forest condition of the area. The purpose of the proposed action is to reduce fuels that have accumulated as a result of fire suppression in areas of historic high frequency, low intensity fires.

**DATES:** Written comments and suggestions should be received by August 24, 1998 to receive timely consideration in the preparation of the Draft EIS.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments and suggestions on the proposed action or requests for a map of the proposed action or to be placed on the project mailing list to Coy Jemmett, Forest Supervisor, Nez Perce National Forest, Route 2 Box 475, Grangeville, ID 83530.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Bill Shields, Planner, Nez Perce National Forest, Route 2 Box 475, Grangeville, ID, 83530, Phone (208) 983-1950.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Activities are proposed on the following Ranger Districts: Salmon River and Red River Districts, Nez Perce NF; New Meadows, McCall, and Krassell, Payette NF; West Fork, Bitterroot NF; and North Fork, Salmon NF. Activities are also proposed on the Cottonwood Resource Area of the Bureau of Land Management. The proposed activity is ignition of approximately 210,000 acres through the use of helicopter and hand ignition over a ten-year period. This treatment is expected to reduce fuels in the Salmon

River Canyon area. The following goals will be achieved:

1. Reintroduce fire as a primary ecological disturbance process in ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir types, to initiate the restoration of vegetation densities toward historic levels.
2. Increase the opportunities to allow lightning fires to play, as nearly as possible, their natural ecological role within wilderness in accordance with Wilderness Fire Management Plans.
3. Reduce the risk from wildland fire to private land and structures within and adjacent to the Salmon River Canyon.

The Forest Service will consider a range of alternatives to the proposed action. One of these will be the "no action" alternative, in which none of the proposed actions will be implemented. Additional alternatives will examine varying levels and locations for the proposed activities, including entry into wilderness areas, to achieve the proposal's purposes, as well as to respond to the issues and other resource values.

Public participation is an important part of the project, commencing with the initial scoping process (40 CFR 1501.7), which starts with publication of this notice and continues for the next 30 days. In addition, the public is encouraged to visit with Forest Service officials at any time during the analysis and prior to the decision. The Forest Service will be seeking information, comments, and assistance from Federal, State, and local agencies, the Nez Perce Tribe, and other individuals or organizations who may be interested in or affected by the proposed action.

Comments from the public and other agencies will be used in preparation of the Draft EIS. The scoping process will be used to:

1. Identify potential issues.
2. Identify major issues to be analyzed in depth.
3. Eliminate minor issues or those which have been covered by a relevant previous environmental analysis, such as the Nez Perce National Forest Plan EIS.

4. Identify alternatives to the proposed action.

5. Identify potential environmental effects of the proposed action and alternatives (i.e., direct, indirect, and cumulative effects).

While public participation in this analysis is welcome at any time, comments received within 30 days of the publication of this notice will be especially useful in the preparation of the draft EIS, which is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency and available for public review