

# Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 63, No. 156

Thursday, August 13, 1998

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

### Forest Service

#### Deschutes Provincial Interagency Executive Committee (PIEC), Advisory Committee

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Deschutes PIEC Advisory Committee will meet for a 2-day meeting on September 8 and 9, 1998 at the Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District, 1230 NE Third, Suite A-262 and Rock Springs Guest Ranch, 64201 Tyler Road, Bend, OR 97701. The first day will include a field trip which will begin at the Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District, 1230 NE Third, Suite A-262, Bend, OR 97701 at 9:00 AM. The second day will be a business meeting at Rock Springs Guest Ranch, 64201 Tyler Road, Bend, OR 97701 from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM with a public forum from 3:00 to 3:30 PM. Business meeting agenda will include Rechartering the PAC, Awards Banquet, Recreation Fee Demo 1998, FERC Relicensing, Report on PAC Monitoring, Working Group Update. All Deschutes Province Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mollie Chaudet, Province Liaison, USDA, Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District, 1230 N.E. 3rd, Bend, Oregon 97701, 541-383-4769.

Dated: August 4, 1998.

**Sally Collins,**

*Deschutes National Forest Supervisor.*

[FR Doc. 98-21774 Filed 8-12-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Natural Resources Conservation Service

#### Notice of Intent To Request a Revision of a Currently Approved Information Collection

**AGENCY:** Natural Resources Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture.

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

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR Part 1320 (60 FR 44978, August 29, 1995), this notice announces the Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) intention to request a revision to a currently approved information collection, Long-Term Contracting (7 CFR 630) Conservation Programs.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by October 13, 1998.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS:** Contact Marcella Graham, Agency OMB Clearance Officer, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, P.O. Box 2890, Washington, DC 20013-2890, (202) 720-5699.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* Long-Term Contracting Conservation Programs.

*OMB Number:* 0578-0013.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* November 30, 1998.

*Type of Request:* To continue, with change, a currently approved collection for which approval will expire.

*Abstract:* The primary objective of the Natural Resources Conservation Service is to work in partnership with the American people to conserve and sustain our natural resources. The purpose of Long-Term Contracting information collection is to provide for programs to extend cost sharing and technical assistance through Long-Term Contracts to landowners and others for making land use changes and to install measures to conserve, develop, and utilize the soil, water, and related natural resources on their lands. Federal financial and technical assistance is based on a conservation plan which is made a part of an agreement or contract

for a period of time of no less than 5 years, nor anymore than 15 years. Under the terms of the agreement, the participant agrees to apply, or arrange to apply, the conservation treatment specified in the conservation plan. In return for this agreement, Federal cost-share payments are made to the land user, or third party, upon successful application of the conservation treatment.

Information collected is used by the NRCS to ensure the proper utilization of program funds. The *NRCS-LTP-001* or the *CCC-1250* is the initial documents used by USDA program participants to indicate their desire to participate in one of the programs (7 CFR 622.20, 7 CFR 624.9, 7 CFR 636.5, 7 CFR 752.5, and 7 CFR 1467.5). The *NRCS-LTP-002* or the *CCC-1251* is used by USDA participants to acknowledge their agreement to comply with the terms and conditions of the conservation plan for which they will receive cost-share assistance (7 CFR 622.3, 7 CFR 624.10, 7 CFR 636.8, 7 CFR 752.8, and 7 CFR 1467.7(c)). The *NRCS-LTP-011* or *CCC-1252*, *NRCS-LTP-11A* or *CCC-1252A*, *NRCS-LTP-11B* or *CCC-1252B*, *NRCS-LTP-11BE*, *NRCS-LTP-11E*, *NRCS-LTP-12* or *CCC-1253*, and the *NRCS-LTP-12E* are used to record conservation treatment decisions made between eligible participants and USDA for a specified period of time, including practice/system operation and maintenance requirements for the applicable conservation program (7 CFR 622.3(c), 7 CFR 624.3(b), 7 CFR 631.10, 7 CFR 632.21, 7 CFR 634.23, 7 CFR 636.7, 7 CFR 701.16, 7 CFR 701.40, 7 CFR 702.7, 7 CFR 752.7, 7 CFR 1410.22, and 7 CFR 1467.11). The *NRCS-LTP-13* is used to record progress in applying the conservation plan, as well as needs for revision or modification of the conservation plan, and any need for follow-up assistance (7 CFR 622.3(c), 7 CFR 624.4, 7 CFR 631.22, 7 CFR 632.23, 7 CFR 634.27(i), 7 CFR 636.2(c), 7 CFR 701.24, 7 CFR 701.43, 7 CFR 702.21, 7 CFR 752.13, 7 CFR 1410.55, and 7 CFR 1467.14). The *NRCS-LTP-20* or *CCC-1255*, the Warranty Easement Deed, is the basic document used by a landowner to grant and convey to NRCS an easement with appurtenant rights of access to the easement area (7 CFR 1467.10). The *NRCS-LTP-20A* or the *CCC-1255A*, the Option to Purchase is the equivalent of a real estate option

contract for purchasing land (7 CFR 1467.8). The *NRCS-LTP-21* or *CCC-1256*, the Subordination Agreement and Limited Lien Waiver is used to subordinate mortgages and obtain limited lien waivers, when applicable, to the United States with respect to any and all interests of the subordinating party in, or related to, the easement area (7 CFR 1467.10(c)). The *NRCS-LTP-24* or *CCC-1257*, the Notification of Intent to Continue, is used by program applicants who have been notified of funding approval to indicate his/her intent to continue in the program (7 CFR 1467.7(b)). NRCS will ask for 3-year OMB approval within 60 days of submitting the request.

**Estimate of Burden:** Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.19 hours per response.

**Respondents:** Farms, individuals, or households, or State, local, or Tribal governments.

**Estimated Number of Respondents:** 893,770.

**Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:** 170,109.

Copies of this information collection and related instructions can be obtained without charge from Marcella Graham, the Agency OMB Clearance Officer, at (202) 720-5699.

**Comments:** 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 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, such as through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technologic collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to: Marcella Graham, Agency OMB Clearance Officer, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, P.O. Box 2890, Washington, DC 20013-2890.

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 on August 6, 1998.

**Gary R. Nordstrom,**

*Acting Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service.*

[FR Doc. 98-21665 Filed 8-12-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-16-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Natural Resources Conservation Service

#### Buena Vista Watershed, City of Buena Vista and Rockbridge County, Virginia

**AGENCY:** U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

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

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969; the Council on Environmental Quality Guidelines (40 CFR Part 1500); and the Natural Resources Conservation Service Guidelines (7 CFR Part 650); the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), U.S. Department of Agriculture, gives notice that an environmental impact statement (EIS) is being prepared for the Buena Vista Watershed, City of Buena Vista and Rockbridge County, Virginia.

A draft EIS will be prepared and circulated for review by agencies and the public. The NRCS invites participation and consultation of agencies and individuals that have special expertise, legal jurisdiction, or interest in the preparation of the draft EIS.

**DATES:** A scoping meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. on September 3, 1998 in the Library located at 138 South Main Street in Lexington, Virginia to determine the scope of the evaluation of the proposed action. Interested individuals, organizations and agencies are invited to attend.

Written comment on the scope of the EIS and requests for copies of the draft or final EIS should be directed to Ms. M. Denise Doetzer at the address below. Written comments should be postmarked by September 18, 1998 to ensure consideration. Comments received after this date will be considered to the extent practicable.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. M. Denise Doetzer, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 1606 Santa Rosa Road, Suite 209, Richmond, VA 23229-5014, telephone number: (804) 287-1691.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The environmental assessment for this

federally assisted action was distributed for interagency and public comment on April 1, 1998. The comment deadline was May 18, 1998. Comments have been incorporated into the document. Based on the environmental assessment and the comments received during the review of the draft plan, the environmental impacts of the proposed project will not cause significant local, regional, or national impacts on the environment. However, the cost of the proposed solutions exceeds \$5 million and therefore, must be approved by the appropriate Congressional Committees. NRCS regulations require an EIS for "projects requiring Congressional action" according to 7 CFR Part 650.7(a)(2). Therefore, an EIS is required for this project. As a result of this statute, Ms. M. Denise Doetzer, State Conservationist, has determined that the preparation and review of an EIS is needed for this project.

The project concerns a plan to reduce flood damages caused by four streams (Chalk Mine Run, Indian Gap Run, Noel's Run and Pedlar Gap Run) that run through the City of Buena Vista. Alternatives under consideration to reach this objective include both structural and nonstructural measures from a variety of funding sources.

The nonstructural measures to be implemented within Buena Vista are a part of a Federal Emergency Management Agency effort to acquire, relocate or elevate some structures located in the floodplain. Some channel improvement measures are planned by the City using Community Block Grant Funding. These efforts are not part of the recommended actions in the watershed plan being evaluated by NRCS.

The EIS will evaluate the environmental impacts associated with the measures needed to further reduce flood damages within the watershed. The flood mitigation measures being considered include debris basins, replace/remove/enlarge culverts and bridges, construct floodwalls and earthen berms, increase the stream channel capacity, and replace railroad bridges.

The City of Buena Vista and the Natural Bridge Soil and Water Conservation District submitted an Application for Federal Assistance to the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board in May 1993. The application was given a priority 1 rating and was approved in July 1993. The application was then referred to NRCS for response. This study is being performed under the authorization provided in the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of the 83rd Congress (Public Law 83-566, as