

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

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. This information collection is used in support of loan deficiency payments authorized by the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (the 1996 Act), for rice, upland cotton, feed grains, wheat, and oilseeds.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received on or before March 1, 1999 to be assured consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Contact Margaret Wright, Agricultural Program Specialist, Price Support Division, USDA, FSA, STOP 0512, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-0512; telephone (202) 720-8481; e-mail: margaret_wright@wdc.fsa.usda.gov; or facsimile (202) 690-3307.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Loan Deficiency Payments.

OMB Control Number: 0560-0129.

Expiration Date of Approval: March 31, 1999.

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

Abstract: The 1996 Act provides for loan deficiency payments to eligible producers with respect to eligible commodities. Forms required for requesting these payments are used by producers requesting a loan deficiency

payment in lieu of a marketing assistance loan with respect to eligible production. The information collected is needed to determine loan deficiency payment quantities and payment amounts, verify producer and commodity eligibility, and to ensure that only eligible producers receive loan deficiency payments.

Producers requesting loan deficiency payments must provide specific data relative to the loan deficiency payment request. Forms included in this information collection package require various types of information including the farm number, type of commodity, quantity of commodity, storage location, and percent share of the commodity to determine eligibility. Producers must also agree to the terms and conditions contained in the loan deficiency payment application. The completed application is used by CCC when issuing a loan deficiency payment. Without this collection of information, CCC could not carry out the statutory loan deficiency payment provisions.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .38 hours per response.

Respondents: Producers.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 450,000.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 5.15.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 1,142,250 hours.

Proposed topics for comments include: (a) whether the 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 including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; or (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 must be sent to the Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503 and to Margaret Wright, Agricultural Program Specialist,

USDA, FSA, PSD, STOP 0512, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-0512; telephone (202) 720-8481; e-mail: margaret_wright@wdc.fsa.usda.gov; or facsimile (202) 690-3307. Copies of the information collection may be obtained from Margaret Wright at the above address.

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 December 22, 1998.

Keith Kelly,

Executive Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.

[FR Doc. 98-34522 Filed 12-29-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Morrison Creek, Medicine Bow/Routt National Forest, Routt County, Colorado

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; intent to prepare Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Medicine Bow/Routt National Forest, Yampa Ranger District will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to assess and disclose the environmental effects on a proposal to prepare and sell timber within the Morrison Creek Geographic area on the Yampa Ranger District. Estimated date for filing of the draft EIS is June 1999, followed by the final decision in September 1999. The proposal area is approximately 20 miles south of Steamboat Springs, Colorado, in sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 of T.2N. R.84 W.; sections 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28 and 29 of T.2N. R.83W., and sections 28, 33 and 34 of T.3N. R.84W, Routt County, Colorado.

National Forest System (NFS) lands within the analysis area are allocated for multiple uses in the Revised Forest Land Management and Resource Plan (forest plan) for the Routt National Forest, approved in 1998. Lands affected by the proposed project are allocated as 5.11, 5.13 and 7.1 Management Areas. Forested lands within these

management areas are designated as suitable for timber production by the forest plan. Following is a summary of the themes for these management areas:

Management Area 5.11—General Forest and Rangelands—Forest Vegetation Emphasis: Areas are managed to provide wildlife habitat along with forest products, livestock forage, and recreation.

Management Area 5.13—Forest Products: Areas are managed to produce commercial wood products.

Management Area 7.1—Residential/Forest Interface: Area characterized by an interface between private lands and National Forest System lands in cooperative relationship landowners and other governments with jurisdiction.

Other management areas exist within the analysis area boundary (1.12, 1.32, 2.2, 5.41), but no forest management activities are proposed in these areas.

The Forest Service invites comments and suggestions on the scope of the analysis to be included in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). In addition, the Forest Service gives notice that it is beginning a full environmental analysis of this proposal and that interested or affected people may participate and contribute to the final decision. A public "scoping" meeting will be scheduled for early February, 1999 at the Yampa Ranger District office, 300 Roselawn, Yampa, Colorado. Contact the District Office for exact date and time for the meeting (970)-638-4516. The purpose of this meeting is to describe and discuss the proposed action and provide an opportunity for the public and agencies to raise issues that should be considered in the environmental analysis. Issues raised will help establish the scope of the environmental analysis and develop the range of alternatives to be considered. The Forest Service welcomes any public or agency comments on this proposal.

DATES: Written comments and suggestions on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement should be received on or before the 45 day period from the date of publication in the **Federal Register**.

The Forest Service believes it is important to give reviewers notice at this early stage 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 that 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 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.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on this 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 statement. 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.) Please note that comments you make on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be regarded as public information.

ADDRESSES: The Responsible Official will be Jerry E. Schmidt, Forest Supervisor, Medicine Bow/Routt National Forest, 2468 Jackson Street, Laramie, Wyoming, 82070. Send written comments to Norman Wagoner, District Ranger, Yampa Ranger District, P.O. Box 7, Yampa, Colorado, 80483. Oral comments will be considered as well and can be made by calling (970) 638-4516.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered, however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR Parts 215 and 217. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a

submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such a confidentiality should be aware that, under the FOIA, confidentiality may be granted only in very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requestor of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requestor that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within 10 days.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kent Foster, Project Coordinator, Yampa Ranger District, Phone: (970) 638-4516.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Proposed Action—The proposal is to manage approximately 1150 areas of mature sawtimber stands within the analysis area. The proposal includes the following activities: treatment of approximately 1150 acres by commercial timber sale including the following: 223 acres of clearcutting or overstory removal lodgepole pine; 609 acres of shelterwood and group selection treatments in lodgepole pine and spruce/fir stands; 128 acres of sanitation/salvage cutting in lodgepole pine and spruce fir; 190 areas of selection cuts in spruce/fir. Construction of approximately 14 miles of specified road, and approximately 2.0 miles of road reconstruction will be needed to access stands for treatments. In addition, treatment of approximately 50 areas to reduce fuel loading in areas close to private property of varied fuel types is proposed. These treatments may or may not be accomplished via commercial timber sale.

The timber sale(s) are intended to promote healthy stands of timber by reducing the risk of widespread mountain pine beetle outbreak, salvage dead and dying trees, maintain the aspen forest component, reduce risk of spruce bark beetle outbreak in the area, provide commercial wood products to industry, increase vegetative diversity in the area and will benefit wildlife species that use forested stands in an early successional stage. Clearcutting and/or overstory removal in lodgepole pine stands may create openings of larger than 40 acres in size. If this occurs, approval by the Regional Forester will be necessary after a 60-day public review.

Other Opportunities: Reduce sediment production on FDR 227.1 at the crossing of Morrison Creek; reduce fuel loading in areas near private lands and improvements; cooperatively

reduce infestations of noxious and undesirable weeds; prescribed burning to reduce fuel loading, regenerate aspen stands to maintain tree species diversity, and overall vegetative diversity.

Decisions to be Made: The Medicine Bow-Routt Supervisor will need to make an informed decision about the selection of one alternative among several. The issues and alternatives developed by the Forest Service interdisciplinary team members and public commentors must be analyzed and displayed clearly. From the project record alone, the Forest Supervisor and others who review the decision, must be able to fully understand the consequences of implementing the selected alternative.

Preliminary Issues: Roads constructed in support of the proposed timber sale(s) will reduce the current roadless character by approximately 2,600 acres within the Morrison Creek Geographic Area. The Morrison Creek Roadless Area (8,314 acres) will be reduced by approximately 700 acres to 7,614 acres. The Bushy Creek Roadless Area (11,443 acres) will be reduced by approximately 1,900 acres to 9,543 acres.

Options to road construction in these roadless areas include aerial skidding through the use of cable logging systems, helicopters and/or ground based forwarders. Acres treated using either of these methods could change based on the feasibility of each method.

This project is exempt from the proposed interim rule for roadless areas of the USDA Forest Service draft Forest Road Policy. The draft Forest Road Policy states "where forest plan revisions are complete but not yet through the appeals process, the issue of roadless area management will be addressed through the forest planning and appeals process." The Record of Decision for the Routt National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan was signed on February 17, 1998.

Other Issues: Effects of timber harvest on wildlife habitat; effects of mountain pine beetle (MPB) on lodgepole pine stands moderately to highly susceptible to infestation; effects of drastic increase in lodgepole pine mortality as a result of MPB attack; public safety and health as a result of increased fuel loading due to MPB caused mortality of lodgepole pine; effects of increased mortality of englemann spruce due to increased spruce bark beetle activity in stands of moderate to high risk to attack; conversion of the aspen cover type to mixed conifer forests due to succession and lack of natural disturbances such as fire; effects of timber harvest and road construction on watershed condition,

including water quality and soil productivity.

Scope of the Analysis: This environmental analysis shall consider the environmental consequences of the proposed action, as well as alternatives reasonably implemented, while meeting the purpose and need for the action.

Date: November 9, 1998.

Jerry E. Schmidt,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 98-34459 Filed 12-29-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[A-122-833, A-201-824]

Initiation of Antidumping Duty Investigations: Live Cattle from Canada and Mexico

AGENCY: Import Administration, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 30, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Brinkmann, at (202) 482-5288, or Gabriel Adler, at (202) 482-1442; Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20230.

Initiation of Investigations

The Applicable Statute and Regulations

Unless otherwise indicated, all citations to the statute are references to the provisions effective January 1, 1995, the effective date of the amendments made to the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act) by the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (URAA). In addition, unless otherwise indicated, all citations to Department of Commerce (Department) regulations refer to the regulations codified at 19 CFR Part 351 (April 1998).

The Petitions

On November 12, 1998, the Department received petitions filed in proper form by the Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Foundation (R-Calf, referred to hereafter as "the petitioner").

The petitioner had filed similar petitions on October 1, 1998 (hereafter referred to as the "original petitions"), but withdrew them on November 10, 1998. In refiling the petitions on November 12, 1998, the petitioner requested that the Department incorporate into the record all submissions made in connection with the original petitions. In addition to the

original petitions, the documents incorporated by reference include the following: (1) a letter of October 2, 1998, clarifying the scope of the petitions; (2) letters dated October 15, 16, and 21, 1998, responding to the Department's requests for clarification of calculation methodologies in the petitions; and (3) letters dated October 14 and 22, and November 2, 6, 9, and 10, 1998, providing additional information with respect to industry support. The Department also incorporated into the record all submissions made by other interested parties in connection with the original petitions.¹

After refiling the petitions, the petitioner made several additional filings with respect to industry support. The Department also received additional submissions on the issue of industry support from other interested parties.

The petitioner alleges that imports of live cattle from Canada and Mexico are being, or are likely to be, sold in the United States at less than fair value within the meaning of section 731 of the Act, and that such imports are materially injuring, or threatening material injury to, a U.S. industry.

The Department finds that the petitioner has standing to file the petitions because it is an interested party as defined in section 771(9)(E) of the Act. Further, the Department's efforts with respect to its determination of industry support indicate that the petitions in fact have sufficient industry support (see discussion below).

Scope of Investigations

For purposes of these investigations, the product covered is all live cattle except imports of dairy cows for the production of milk for human consumption and purebred cattle specially imported for breeding purposes and other cattle specially imported for breeding purposes.

The merchandise subject to these investigations is classifiable as statistical reporting numbers under 0102.90.40 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS), with the exception of 0102.90.40.72 and 0102.90.40.74. Although the HTSUS subheadings are provided for

¹ The Government of Mexico, the Government of Canada and the Government of Quebec raised issue with the refiling of these petitions. We note, however, that there is no statutory bar to refiling a petition which has been withdrawn. While the Department possesses the inherent authority to prevent a party from improperly manipulating its procedures, we have no reason to exercise that discretion in this case, particularly given the highly fragmented nature of the live cattle industry and the resulting complexity for this industry in expressing views on these petitions.