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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

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket No. ST-01-04]

Notice of Request for Extension and Revision of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), this notice announces the Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) intention to request an extension for and revision to a currently approved information collection for Recordkeeping Requirements for Certified Applicators of Federally Restricted Use Pesticides (7 CFR part 110).

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by January 22, 2002.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Contact Bonnie Poli, Chief, Pesticide Records Branch, Science and Technology, AMS, 8609 Sudley Road, Suite 203, Manassas, VA 20110-4582, Telephone (703) 330-7826, Fax (703) 330-6110.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Recordkeeping Requirements for Certified Applicators of Federally Restricted Use Pesticides.

OMB Number: 0581-0164.

Expiration Date of Approval: June 30, 2002.

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

Abstract: The regulations, "Recordkeeping Requirements for Certified Applicators of Federally Restricted Use Pesticides" require certified pesticide applicators to maintain records of federally restricted use pesticide applications for a period

of two years. The regulations also provide for access to pesticide records or record information by Federal or State officials, or by licensed health care professionals when needed to treat an individual who may have been exposed to restricted use pesticides, and penalties for enforcement of the recordkeeping and access provisions.

The Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990, (Pub. L. 101-624; 7 U.S.C. 136i-1), referred to as the FACT Act, directs and authorizes the Department to develop regulations which establish requirements for recordkeeping by all certified applicators of federally restricted use pesticides. A certified applicator is an individual who is certified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or a State under cooperative agreement with EPA to use or supervise the use of restricted use pesticides.

Section 1491 of the FACT Act directs and authorizes the Department of Agriculture to ensure compliance with regulations as the Department may prescribe, including levying penalties, for failure to comply with such regulations.

Because this is a regulatory program with enforcement responsibility, USDA must ensure that certified applicators are maintaining restricted use pesticide application records for the two year period required by the FACT Act. To accomplish this, USDA must collect information through personal inspections of certified applicator's restricted use pesticide application records.

The information collected is used only by authorized representatives of the USDA (AMS, Science and Technology national staff, other designated Federal employees, and designated State supervisors and their staffs), which are designated access to the record information through section 1491, subsection (b) of the FACT Act. The information is used to administer the Federal Pesticide Recordkeeping Program. The Agency is the primary user of the information, and the secondary user is each designated State agency which has a cooperative agreement with AMS.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated as follows:

(a) Approximately 602,661 certified private applicators (recordkeepers)

apply restricted use pesticides. It is estimated that on average certified private applicators have a total annual burden of .415 hours per recordkeeper. Of the 602,661 certified private applicators, approximately 4,600 are selected annually for recordkeeping inspections. It is estimated that a private applicator that is subject to a pesticide record inspection has an annual burden of .85 hours, which contributes to a total annual burden of 3910 hours.

(b) There are approximately 308,443 certified commercial applicators nationally who are required to provide copies of restricted use pesticide application records to their clients. It is estimated that certified commercial applicators have a total annual burden of 1,520,007 hours.

(c) It is estimated that State agency personnel who work through cooperative agreements with AMS to inspect certified private applicator's records have a total annual burden of 11,020 hours.

Respondents: Certified private and commercial applicators, State governments or employees, and Federal agencies or employees.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 915,780—The total number of respondents includes approximately 308,443 certified commercial applicators, 602,661 certified private applicators (recordkeepers) and designated State agency personnel utilized to inspect certified private applicator's records.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: The estimated number of responses per respondent is as follows:

(a) It is estimated that certified private applicators (recordkeepers), record on an average 5 restricted use pesticide application records annually.

(b) It is estimated that certified commercial applicators provide 616 copies of restricted use pesticide records to their clients annually.

(c) State agency personnel, who work under cooperative agreements with AMS to conduct restricted use pesticide records inspections, have approximately 5,700 responses annually.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 1,785,041; This revision in the Total Annual Burden on Respondents decreases the current burden by 43,411 hours.

Comments are invited on: (1) 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; (2) 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; (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 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 Bonnie Poli, Chief, Pesticide Records Branch, Science and Technology, AMS, 8609 Sudley Road, Suite 203, Manassas, VA 20110. All comments received will be available for public inspection during regular business hours at the same address.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Dated: November 16, 2001.

Barry L. Carpenter,

Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 01-29181 Filed 11-21-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Slide Ridge Timber Sale Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: The Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on a proposal to harvest timber in the Slide Ridge Timber Sale project area, Ketchikan-Misty Fiords Ranger District, Tongass National Forest. The proposed action includes a sale plan to harvest 4-5 million board feet (MMBF) or approximately 40% of the standing timber from 300 acres of National Forest System lands in the Whipple Creek drainage. No new roads would be built and approximately 6 miles of existing road would be reconstructed to facilitate helicopter yarding. The purpose and need of the timber sale is to contribute to the production of a sustained yield of timber and mix of other resource activities from the Tongass National Forest, consistent with Forest Plan

Standards and Guidelines. A range of alternatives responsive to key issues will be developed. The range of alternatives will include the no-action alternative and an alternative that proposes up to 3 miles of new road construction to facilitate both helicopter and conventional yarding. The Tongass Forest Supervisor will decide on whether or not to harvest timber from this area, and if so, how this timber would be harvested. The decision will be based on the information disclosed in the EIS and the goals, objectives and desired future conditions as stated in the Forest Plan.

DATES: Opportunities for comment are available throughout the process. Individuals interested in receiving a scoping package should contact us within 30 days of the publication of this NOI. Additional opportunities for comment will be provided following development of a specific agency proposed action, during alternative development, and after release of the Draft EIS.

ADDRESSES: Please send written comments to District Ranger, Ketchikan-Misty Fiords Ranger District, 3031 Tongass Avenue, Ketchikan, AK 99901.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jerry Ingersoll, District Ranger, (907) 228-4100 or Eric Trimble, Project Leader, (907) 228-4127.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed timber sale is located within Tongass Forest Plan Value Comparison Units 7490 and 8642, Revillagigedo Island, Alaska. Approximately 80% of proposed sale units are located within the North Revilla Inventoried Roadless Area. The Forest Service is reevaluating its Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) and is currently enjoined from implementing all aspects of the Roadless Rule by the U.S. District Court, District of Idaho. The Ketchikan-Misty Fiords Ranger District is preparing the Slide Ridge EIS to be consistent with the Forest Service Transportation; Final Administrative Policy (Roads Rule). Among other direction, the Roads Rule requires that an area-specific roads analysis to be completed and a determination of need for amendment or revision of the Forest Plan be made if any roads are to be constructed or reconstructed in inventoried roadless or contiguous unroaded areas, until a forest-wide roads analysis has been completed (FSM 7712.16(c)). This analysis and determination will be made for the Slide Ridge Timber Sale project. In *Sierra Club v. Lyons* (J00-0009 (CV)), the U.S. District Court, District of Alaska enjoined the Tongass National Forest

from taking any action to change the wilderness character of any eligible roadless area until a supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) has been completed. The SEIS is currently being prepared. Planning for the Slide Ridge Timber Sale Project will continue simultaneously and in coordination with the SEIS. The repercussions of delaying the project planning process regarding road building and timber harvest, even for a relatively short period, can have a significant effect on the amount of timber available for sale in the next year. The Slide Ridge Timber Sale Project is consistent with the 1977 Tongass Land Management Plan.

Public participation has been and will continue to be an integral component of the analysis process. The Forest Service will be seeking additional information, comments, and assistance from Federal, State, local and tribal agencies, individuals and organizations that may be interested in, or affected by, proposed activities. The scoping process includes: (1) Identification of potential issues; (2) Identification of issues to be analyzed in depth; and (3) Suggestions for possible alternatives. Both written and verbal comments will be accepted during this process. A series of public meetings will be scheduled and a scoping package sent to interested individuals and/or organizations. Scoping began in January 2001 with a notice in the Ketchikan Daily News followed by a public mailing. At that time, we had anticipated preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this project. As a result of the initial scoping we have decided to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that resulted in the publication of this NOI. Scoping will continue following this publication and through the preparation of the Draft EIS. Based on the results of scoping and the resource conditions within the project area, alternatives including a "no action" alternative will be developed for the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS is scheduled to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in June 2002. The Final EIS is anticipated by January 2003. The comment period on the Draft EIS will be a minimum of 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) publishes the notice of availability (NOA) in the **Federal Register**.

The Forest Service believes that it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of Draft EIS must structure their participation in the environmental review of the