

Central, Southern, and Intermountain Experiment Stations of the Forest Service will collect information from a sampling of residential and logging contractors located within the geographical areas of the Stations. The collected information includes the quantities and types of trees cut for fuelwood and fence posts in a given year. To collect the information, the agency will conduct a survey using telephone interview techniques and the standardized questionnaire, Residential Fuelwood and Post Assessment, Any State, Year, OMB No. 0596-0009.

Data gathered in this information collection is not available from other sources.

*Estimate of Burden:* .07 hours.

*Type of Respondents:* Residential households and logging contractors.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 2,940.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 1.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 206 hours.

The agency invites comments on the following: (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 respondents, including the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

#### Use of Comments

All comments received in response 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: November 7, 1996.

Mark A. Reimers,  
*Acting Chief.*

[FR Doc. 96-29210 Filed 11-13-96; 8:45 am]

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#### Land and Resource Management Planning

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of adoption of internal directives; request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** After nearly 20 years experience in forest planning under the National Forest Management Act, many of the Forest Service's planning and analytical needs have changed. Some of the planning direction issued in the Forest Service Manual and Forest Service Handbook to guide agency employees has become out-of-date, overly prescriptive, and/or burdensome. Therefore, the Forest Service has found it necessary to issue certain amendments to Forest Service Manual Chapter 1900, Land and Resource Management Planning; chapter 3 of Forest Service Handbook 1909.12, Land and Resource Management Planning; and chapter 40 of Forest Service Handbook 2409.13, Timber Resource Planning Handbook. There was an immediate need to issue these amendments because numerous national forests have begun or will soon begin revising their initial forest plans and because there is a need to have consistent interpretation and application of the direction by Regional and Forest-level personnel. The Forest Service welcomes public comment on these amendments and will take comments under advisement to determine if any further revisions are needed.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Amendment Numbers 1900-96-2 and 1909.12-96-2 were issued and became effective on August 14, 1996, and amendment 2409.13-96-2 was issued and became effective on August 15, 1996.

**ADDRESSES:** Single copies of these amendments are available without charge by writing to the Director, Land Management Planning, Forest Service, USDA, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, D.C. 20090-6090.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jonathan Stephens, Land Management Planning Staff, (202) 205-0948.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Forest Service Manual (FSM) Chapter 1920 and Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.12 contain Forest Service policy, practice, and procedures to guide agency personnel in complying with the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976 and the implementing regulations found at 36 CFR part 219. Forest Service Manual Chapter 1920 provides broad planning direction for line and primary staff officers and establishes specific responsibility for preparing forest plans and implementing, monitoring, and changing forest plans. Forest Service Handbook 1909.12 provides detailed procedural direction and technical guidance for carrying out the law,

regulations, and the broad direction found in the FSM.

The major changes that have been made in FSM 1920 and FSH 1909.12 relate to the implementation of benchmark analysis. The subject amendment to FSM 1920 revised only section 1922 as adopted March 11, 1991. This section addresses how to implement benchmark analysis as called for under 36 CFR 219.12 of the Land and Resource Management Planning regulations. Amendment 1900-96-2 removed requirements that have become obsolete—such as mandating the use of FORPLAN, now an outdated computer model. The amendment also removed prescriptive internal agency direction on what benchmarks to analyze in forest plans. The agency will continue to follow 36 CFR 219.12 in preparing benchmark analysis for forest planning. In addition, the amendment to FSM 1920 removed the requirement for timber sale projections for the year 2030. The year 2030 was the fifth decade following the initial forest plan approvals; now that the agency is revising those forest plans, the text has been revised to no longer refer to a fixed year.

The amendment to FSH 2409.13, Timber Resource Planning Handbook, removed prescriptive language in Chapter 40 that relates to development of the timber sale schedule. This direction is superfluous since 36 CFR 219.16 requires a timber sale schedule for each planning alternative.

While these amendments are not in the agency's baseline for reducing internal directives by 50 percent as directed by Executive Order 12861, these amendments are very much consistent with the purposes of that order in that they remove obsolete or burdensome requirements.

The Forest Service welcomes any comment that interested persons or groups wish to make and will consider whether any additional changes are necessary based on comments received.

#### Environmental Impact

Section 31.1b of Forest Service Handbook 1909.15 (57 FR 43180; September 18, 1992) excludes from documentation in an environmental assessment or impact statement "rules, regulations, or policies to establish Service-wide administrative procedures, program processes or instructions." Based on consideration of the nature and scope of this policy, the Forest Service has determined that this policy falls within this category of actions and that no extraordinary circumstances exist which would require preparation

of an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

#### Controlling Paperwork Burdens on the Public

This internal directive does not establish or revise any recordkeeping or reporting requirements or other information collection requirements as defined in 5 CFR part 1320 and, therefore, imposes no paperwork burden on the public. Accordingly, the review provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) and implementing regulations at 5 CFR 1320 do not apply.

#### Regulatory Impact

This notice has been reviewed under USDA procedures pursuant to Executive Order 12866 on Regulatory Planning and Review, and it has been determined that this notice is not significant as defined by the Executive Order.

These directive revisions remove burdensome, unnecessary, and obsolete guidance to Forest Service employees on conducting benchmark analysis in the forest plan revision process. The result is a savings in time and money with no diminution in the quality and usefulness of planning data. Benchmark analysis still must be performed. However, planning teams will now rely directly on the requirements of the planning rule. The net result is to provide planning teams more flexibility to tailor analysis to address issues associated with forest plan revisions in the most cost effective and relevant manner. These revisions to agency planning direction will not have an annual effect on the economy of \$100 million nor adversely affect productivity, competition, jobs, the environment, public health or safety, nor State or local governments. This internal agency guidance will not interfere with an action taken or planned by another agency nor raise new legal or policy issues. Finally, this action will not alter the budgetary impact of entitlement, grants, user fees, or loan programs or the rights and obligations of recipients of such programs.

Moreover, this policy has been considered in light of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*), and it is hereby certified that this action will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities as defined by that Act. The effect of this directive is to remove out-of-date and burdensome analytical requirements in land and resource management planning. It has no effect on small entities or their ability to

obtain, understand, or respond to planning data.

#### No Takings Implications

This notice concerns planning activities engaged in by the Forest Service involving National Forest lands and is thus exempt from consideration for takings implications under Section 2(c)(4) of Executive Order 12630 and Section II(B)(4) of the Attorney General's Guidelines for the Evaluation of Risk and Avoidance of Unanticipated Takings.

#### Unfunded Mandates Reform

Pursuant to Title II of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995, which the President signed into law on March 22, 1995, the Department has assessed the effect of this rule on State, local, and tribal governments and the private sector. This policy does not compel the expenditure of \$100 million or more by any State, local, or tribal governments or anyone in the private sector. Therefore, a statement under section 202 of the Act is not required.

Dated: October 1, 1996.

Mark A. Reimers,

*Acting Chief.*

[FR Doc. 96-29211 Filed 11-13-96; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Membership of the Departmental Performance Review Board

**AGENCY:** Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of membership of Departmental Performance Review Board.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with 5 U.S.C., 4313(c)(4), DOC announces the appointment of persons to serve as members of the Departmental Performance Review Board (DPRB). The DPRB is responsible for reviewing performance appraisals and ratings of Senior Executive Service (SES) members and serves as the higher level review for executives who report to an appointing authority. Such reviews are conducted only at the executive's request. The appointment of these members to the DPRB will be for periods of 24 months.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** The effective date of service of appointees to the Departmental Performance Review Board is October 1, 1996.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Deborah Jefferson, Executive Resources Program Manager, Office of Human Resources Management, Office of the Director, 14th and Constitution,

Washington, D.C. 20230, (202) 482-8075.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The names, position titles, and type of appointment of the members of the DPRB are set forth below by organization:

#### General Counsel

Paul L. Joffe, Deputy General Counsel (NC)

Barbara S. Fredericks, Assistant General Counsel for Administration (C)

#### Economics and Statistics Administration

Paul London, Deputy Under Secretary for Economic Affairs (NC)

James K. White, Executive Director, ESA, (C)

Bryant Benton, Deputy Director, Bureau of the Census (C)

Arnold A. Jackson, Associate Director for Information Technology, Bureau of the Census (C)

Nancy Potok, Comptroller, Bureau of the Census (C)

Betty Barker, Deputy Director, Bureau of Economic Analysis (C)

#### Technology Administration

James Albus, Chief, Intelligent Systems Division, Manufacturing Engineering Laboratory, NIST (C)

Karl Bell, Deputy Director for Administration, NIST (C)

William Ott, Deputy Director, Physics Laboratory, NIST (C)

Rosalie Ruegg, Director, Economic Assessment Office, Advanced Technology Program, NIST (C)

Henry C. Waters, Director of Strategic Planning and Marketing, NTIS (C)

#### National Telecommunications and Information Administration

Shirl G. Kinney, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration (C)

#### Economic Development Administration

Awilda R. Marquez, General Counsel (NC)

Charles R. Sawyer, Midwestern Regional Director (C)

#### International Trade Administration

Barbara Stafford, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Antidumping and Countervailing Enforcement Group I, Import Administration (NC)

Henry Misco, Director, Office of Automotive Affairs, Trade Development (C)

J. Hayden Boyd, Director, Office of Consumer Goods, Trade Development (C)

Charles M. Ludolph, Director, Office of European Union and Regional Affairs, Market Access and Compliance (C)