

timber to help meet the national demand for wood products and to support the local economy.

The analysis area consists of approximately 24,400 acres of National Forest lands included in T35N., T36N. and T37N. in R.45E., T35N. and T36N., R.46E., Willamette Meridian, Washington; and T.60N., and T61.N. in R.4W., and T.60N and T.61N., R.5W., Boise Meridian, Idaho.

The decision to be made is how much, if any, timber harvest should occur; how many acres, if any, of reforestation and site preparation should be accomplished; how many acres, if any, prescribed burning should be performed; and the timing of such activities. The decision would also include the type and level of access, if any.

The Forest Plan provides guidance for management activities within the analysis area through goals, objectives, standards, guidelines, and management area directions. The proposed activities would take place in designated Management Areas (MAs) 1, 4, 9 and 16. Goals for each of these MAs include protecting soil productivity, meeting or exceeding state water quality standards, providing opportunities for dispersed recreation, and meeting visual quality objectives. Below is a brief description of other management direction for these areas.

Management Area 1: Manage for long-term growth and production of commercially valuable wood products and to provide wildlife habitat.

Management Area 4: Manage big game winter range to provide forage for wildlife needs through timber harvest and permanent forage areas.

Management Area 9: Manage lands to maintain and protect existing improvements and resource productive potential.

Management Area 16: Riparian area dependent resources will be featured, while producing other resource outputs at levels compatible with objectives for riparian resources.

The Forest Service will consider a range of alternatives, including the "no action" alternative in which none of the proposed activities would be implemented. Additional alternatives will examine varying levels and locations for the proposed activities as well as responding to issues and other resource values.

The EIS will analyze the direct, indirect and cumulative environmental effects of the alternatives. Past, present, and reasonably foreseeable activities in the analysis area will be considered. Analysis of site-specific mitigation

measures and their effectiveness will be disclosed.

Public participation is an important part of the analysis process, commencing with the initial scoping process (40 CFR 1501.7) which will begin with the publication of this notice. The public is encouraged to take part in the process and 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 and other individuals or organizations who may be interested in, or affected by, the proposed action. This input will be used in preparation of the draft and final EIS. The scoping process will include:

- Identifying potential issues.
- Identifying major issues to be analyzed in depth.
- Identifying alternatives to the proposed action.
- Exploring additional alternatives which will be derived from issues recognized during scoping activities.
- Identifying potential environmental effects of this project and alternatives (i.e. direct, indirect and cumulative effects and connected actions).

The following issues have been identified: Grizzly bear security habitat, water and sediment yield and fisheries habitat, roadless area character, soils, and big game winter range. This list may be changed based on continuing public participation.

The Draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and to be available for public review by September, 1997. At that time EPA will publish a notice of availability in the **Federal Register**. The comment period on the Draft EIS will close 45 days from the date the notice of availability appears in the **Federal Register**. It is very important that those interested in the management of this area participate at that time. While public participation in this analysis is welcome at any time, comments received within 45 days of the publication of this notice will be especially useful in the preparation of the Draft EIS. The Final EIS is scheduled to be completed by December, 1997.

The Forest Service believes, at this early stage, it is important to give reviewers notice 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 scoping period so that substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider and respond to them in the final EIS.

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.

To be most helpful, comments should be as specific as possible. 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 1503.0 in addressing these points.

I am the responsible official for this environmental impact statement.

Dated: May 28, 1997.

Kent Dunstan,
District Ranger.

[FR Doc. 97-14635 Filed 6-4-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Notice of Intent To Request an Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. No. 104-13) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR part 1320 (60 FR 44978, August 29, 1995), this notice announces the National Agricultural Statistics Service's (NASS) intention to request an extension of a currently approved information collection, the Supplemental Qualifications Statement that expires September 30, 1997.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by August 11, 1997 to be assured of consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Contact Rich Allen, Associate Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Room 4117 South Building, Washington, DC 20250-2000, (202) 720-4333.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Supplemental Qualifications Statement.

OMB Number: 0535-0209.

Expiration Date of Approval: September 30, 1997.

Type of Request: To extend a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: Under Interagency Agreement Number DOA-1, between the Department of Agriculture and Office of Personnel Management, the Administrative and Financial Management Staff examines, rates, and certifies applicants for Agricultural Statistician positions, GS-1530 and Mathematical Statistician (Agricultural) GS-1529 positions within the National Agricultural Statistics Service. The Interagency Agreement was made under provisions of 5 U.S.C. Section 1104, as amended by Pub. L. No. 104-52 (1995).

Resumes, curriculum vitae, and the "Optional Application for Federal Employment", (OF-612) are general purpose forms used to evaluate applicants for positions in the Federal service. While these forms request specific information about an applicant, they do not always obtain detailed references to those knowledges, skills and abilities (KSA's) that are critical to the job. The Supplemental Qualifications Statement for agricultural statistician and mathematical statistician positions (agricultural) allows applicants the opportunity to describe their achievements or accomplishments as they relate to the required KSA's.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 3 hours per response.

Respondents: Individual Job Applicants.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 200.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 600 hours.

Copies of this information collection and related instructions can be obtained without charge from Larry Gambrell, the Agency OMB Clearance Officer, at (202) 720-5778.

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 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 those who are to respond, such as through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to:

Larry Gambrell, Agency OMB Clearance Officer, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Room 4162 South Building, Washington, DC 20250-2000.

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, D.C., April 29, 1997.

Donald M. Bay,

Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service.

[FR Doc. 97-14727 Filed 6-4-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-20-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Palmers Crossing and Irene Chapel Resource Conservation and Development Flood Control Plan Forrest County, MS

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service, Agriculture.

ACTION: Notice of a finding of no significant impact.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969; the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR part 1500); and the Natural Resources Conservation Service Regulations (7 CFR part 650); the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, gives notice that an environmental impact statement is not being prepared for Palmers Crossing and Irene Chapel Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Flood Control Plan, Forrest County, Mississippi.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Homer L. Wilkes, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Suite 1321, A.H. McCoy Federal Building, 100 West Capitol Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39269, telephone 601-965-5205.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The environmental assessment of this federally assisted action indicates that the project will not cause significant local, regional, or national impacts on the environment. As a result of these findings, Homer L. Wilkes, State Conservationist, has determined that the preparation and review of an environmental impact statement are not needed for this project.

The project concerns an RC&D flood control plan for the purpose of reducing flood damages to residences and businesses belonging to disadvantaged residents in the flood plains of the Palmers Crossing and Irene Chapel communities. The planned works of improvement consist of channel modification on 3.05 miles of manmade and/or previously modified channel.

The notice of a finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) has been forwarded to the Environmental Protection Agency and to various Federal, State, and local agencies and interested parties. A limited number of copies of the FONSI are available to fill single copy requests at the above address. Basic data developed during the environmental assessment are on file and may be reviewed by contacting Homer L. Wilkes.

No administrative action on implementation of the proposal will be taken until 30 days after the date of this publication in the **Federal Register**.

(This activity is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under No. 10.904—Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention and is subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372 which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials.)

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BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Sunshine Act Meeting

DATE AND TIME: June 10, 1997; 9:30 a.m.

PLACE: Cohen Building, Room 3321, 330 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20547.

CLOSED MEETING: The members of the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) will meet in closed session to review and discuss a number of issues relating