

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 62, No. 39

Thursday, February 27, 1997

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

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

February 21, 1997.

The Department of Agriculture has submitted the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Comments regarding (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; (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 should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Washington, DC 20503 and to Department Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, DC 20250-7602. Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of this notification. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720-6204 or (202) 720-6746.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it

displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Rural Business Cooperative Service

Title: Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program.

OMB Control Number: 0570-New.

Summary: Information collected includes application for loans and grants as well as work plans, scope of work, performance reports and financial status reports.

Need and Use of the Information: The information is used to select projects and to make sure the funds are used for the intended purpose.

Description of Respondents: Not-for-profit institutions; Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 180.

Frequency of Responses:

Recordkeeping; Reporting: On occasion, Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 7,005.

Rural Housing

Title: Community Facility Loan and Grant Program and Water and Waste Loan and Grant Program.

OMB Control Number: 0575-0015.

Summary: Information collected includes application for Federal assistance and budget, expense, contract and inspection information.

Need and Use of the Information: The information is used to determine applicant/borrower, eligibility project feasibility, and to ensure borrowers operate on a sound basis and use loan and grant funds for authorized purposes.

Description of Respondents: Not-for-profit institutions; Business or other for-profit; State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 9,511.

Frequency of Responses:

Recordkeeping; Reporting: On occasion, Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 270,789.

Farm Service Agency

Title: Upland Cotton Domestic User/Exporter Agreement and Payment Program.

OMB Control Number: 0560-0136.

Summary: To participate in this program, exporters and domestic users must sign an agreement with CCC. A name and address file of program participants is maintained. This information is collected when the participant submits CCC-1045.

Need and Use of the Information: The information is necessary to establish eligibility for payments of domestic users and exporters of US upland cotton and to accurately determine the level of payments authorized under this program.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 300.

Frequency of Responses:

Recordkeeping; Reporting: On occasion; When payment rate is in effect.

Total Burden Hours: 2,750.

Forest Service

Title: Fuelwood and Post Assessment in Selected States.

OMB Control Number: 0596-0009.

Summary: the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act of 1978 as amended by the Energy Security Act of 1980 requires the Secretary of Agriculture to make and keep current a comprehensive survey and analysis of the present and prospective conditions of forest and range lands.

Need and Use of the Information: The collection is needed to estimate the production and consumption of residential fuelwood and posts in individual states.

Description of Respondents: Individuals or households; Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 2,940.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion; Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 201.

Rural Housing Service

Title: 7 CFR 1910-A, Receiving and Processing Applications.

OMB Control Number: 0575-0134.

Summary: Information collected includes business organization, farm training and experience, credit tests from commercial lenders and a legal description of real estate.

Need and Use of the Information: The collection of information is required to ensure that the direct farm loan programs are being administered in accordance with applicable laws and regulations and that loans are made to applicants who have reasonable prospects for repaying their loans.

Description of Respondents: Farms; Individuals or households; Business or other for-profit; State, Local and Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 24,000.

Frequency of Responses:

Recordkeeping; Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 80,568.

Larry Roberson,

Deputy Departmental Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 97-4933 Filed 2-26-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-01-M

Forest Service

South Quartzite Salvage Timber Sale Analysis, White River National Forest; Garfield County, CO

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement to disclose effects of alternative decisions it may make to harvest dead Engelmann spruce and associated road construction within the South Quartzite Salvage Timber Sale Planning area, on the Rifle Ranger District of the White River National Forest.

DATES: Written comments concerning the scope of the analysis should be received on or before April 14, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Veto J. LaSalle, Forest Supervisor, White River National Forest, PO Box 948, 9th and Grand Ave., Glenwood Springs, Colorado 81602. Mr. LaSalle is the Responsible Official for this EIS.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert W. Currie, Project Coordinator, Holy Cross Ranger District, 24747 U.S. Highway 24, PO Box 190, Minturn, CO 81645, (970) 827-5715.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On May 16, 1996 the White River National Forest released a Draft Environmental Assessment for the proposed action and alternatives to that proposed action under Public Law 104-19. Based on comments received from members of the public, the Interdisciplinary Team has determined that the proposed action and alternatives to that action represent an inventoried roadless area entry. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is required as per Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, Section 20.6. The proposed action proposes to harvest approximately 4.0 to 5.0 million board feet from approximately 1,280 acres of dead Engelmann spruce using a combination of ground-based (approximately 110 acres) and helicopter yarding (approximately 1,180 acres) and to construct approximately 0.9 miles of new specified road.

The proposed action is consistent with governing programmatic management direction contained in the *Rocky Mountain Regional Guide* and

FEIS for Standards and Guidelines (1983) and in the Final EIS and *Land and Resource Management Plan for the White River National Forest* (LMP, 1984). The LMP allocated the proposed timber sale area to semi-primitive motorized and semi-primitive non-motorized use and allows for timber harvest. The site-specific environmental analysis provided by the EIS will assist the Responsible Official in determining which improvements are needed to meet the following objectives: Reduce natural fuel loadings and to provide wood products for the nation and opportunities for timber related jobs. Alternative will be carefully examined for their potential impacts on the physical, biological, and social environments so that tradeoffs are apparent to the decisionmaker.

Public participation will be fully incorporated into preparation of the EIS. The first step is the scoping process, during which the Forest Service will be seeking information, comments, and assistance from Federal, State, and local agencies, and other individuals or groups who may be interested in or affected by the proposed action. This information will be used in preparing the EIS. No public meetings are planned for this project. Public comments received during initial scoping and those raised during public review of the Draft Environmental Assessment for this project will be incorporated into this EIS. Individuals who have provided comments during initial scoping, on the Draft Environmental Assessment, and those who provide comments on this EIS will receive copies of the Draft EIS for their review.

Preliminary issues include the potential effects of proposed actions on the following elements of the biological, physical, and social environments: wildlife and wildlife habitat, recreation resource values, roadless area resource values, and watershed health resources. The direct, indirect, cumulative, short-term, and long-term aspects of impacts on national forest lands and resources, and those of connected or related effects off-site, will be fully disclosed.

Preliminary alternatives include the proposed action (described above) and No Action, which in this case is deferring treatment of the area until the future. A third preliminary alternative could be analyzed which would harvest approximately 6.0 to 7.0 million board feet of approximately 2,500 acres of dead Engelmann spruce using a combination of ground-based and helicopter yarding and to construct approximately 3.0 miles of new specified road. Additional alternatives may be developed after the significant

issues are clarified and management objectives are fully defined. The Responsible Official will be presented with a range of feasible and practical alternatives.

Permits and licenses required to implement the proposed action will, or may, include the following: consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, review from the Colorado Division of Wildlife, and clearance from the Colorado State Historic Preservation Office.

The Forest Service predicts the draft environmental impact statement will be filed during the fall of 1997 and the final environmental impact statement during the spring of 1998.

The Forest Service will seek comments on the draft environmental impact statement for a period of 45 days after its publication in the Federal Register. Comments will then be summarized and responded to in the final environmental impact statement.

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 statement 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 DEIS stage but that are not raised until after completion of the Final EIS 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 they 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 the 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