

# 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

### Forest Service

#### Committee on Scientists; Meeting

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** A meeting of the Committee on Scientists is scheduled for April 22–23 in Missoula, Montana. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss planning issues on the National Forests in the Northern Region (Montana, Northern Idaho, North Dakota, and Northwestern South Dakota) and the Intermountain Region (Southern Idaho, Nevada, Utah, and Western Wyoming). The Committee will meet with representatives from federal, state, and local organizations to share information and ideas about Committee members assignments, to continue discussions on the scientific principles underlying land and resource management, and to conduct any other Committee business that may arise. The meeting is open to the public. On April 22, beginning at 4 p.m., citizens may address the Committee to present ideas on how to improve National Forest System land and resource management planning. Citizens who wish to speak must register at the meeting before 5 p.m., and each speaker will be limited to a maximum of 5 minutes. Persons may also written suggestions to the Committee.

**DATES:** A meeting is scheduled for April 22–23 in Missoula, MT.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Elks Lodge, 112 North Pattee Street, Missoula, Montana. On April 22, the meeting will begin at 9 a.m. and end at 7 p.m. On April 23, the meeting will begin at 8 a.m. and end at 4 p.m.

Written comments on improving land and resource management planning may be sent to the Committee on Scientists, P.O. Box 2140, Corvallis, OR 97339 or the Committee may be accessed via the

Internet at [www.cof.orst.edu/org/scicomm/](http://www.cof.orst.edu/org/scicomm/).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Bob Cunningham, Designated Federal Official to the Committee of Scientists, Telephone: 202–205–2494.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Committee of Scientists was chartered to provide scientific and technical advice to the Secretary of Agriculture and the Chief of the Forest Service on improvements that can be made to the National Forest System land and resource management planning process (62 FR 43691; August 15, 1997). Notice of the members appointed to the Committee was published December 16, 1997, at 62 FR 65795. Agenda items and locations for future meetings will be published as separate notices in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: April 2, 1998.

**Robert C. Joslin,**

*Deputy Chief, National Forest System.*

[FR Doc. 98–9232 Filed 4–7–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–11–M

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed Collection; Comment Requested

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice; request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** In conjunction with new export application procedures, the Forest Service announces its intent to establish new recordkeeping and reporting requirements. In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Forest Service is requesting public comment on the information collection requirements of the draft procedures prior to requesting Office of Management and Budget review and approval of the information collection requirements.

**DATES:** Comments must be received in writing on or before June 8, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments to: Bill Wilson, Forest Management, USDA Forest Service, PO Box 21628, Juneau, Alaska 99801–1628.

The public may inspect comments at the following office: Forest Management Staff, Room 559E, Federal Building, 709 W. 9th Street, Juneau, Alaska.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Bill Wilson, Forest Management Staff, telephone: (907) 586–7915.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Description of Information Collection

*Title:* Alaska Log Export.

*OMB Number:* Application pending.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* Not applicable.

*Type of Request:* This is a new information collection requirement that has not received approval from the Office of Management and Budget.

*Type of Respondents:* Respondents are business or other for-profit entities, including small businesses.

*Abstract:* A purchaser of a National Forest System timber sale contract in Alaska may apply to the Regional Forester for a permit to export Western red cedar, utility logs, and/or chip logs. To strengthen an export application, a purchaser may provide documents to support arguments regarding the absence of an Alaskan market for such species, log grade, or product. This documentation may include a copy of a published advertisement or notice of the logs being available, signed letters from processors declining to purchase the available logs, price offers, or any other evidence demonstrating a lack of market. In addition, if an application is approved, the purchaser will be required to provide the contracting officer with the log scale summaries which document the actual volume of export. The specific information collection includes:

#### Western Red Cedar for Alaska Consumption

Purchasers with Western red cedar designated for consumption in Alaska may apply for an export permit to the Pacific Northwest if there is no bona fide Alaska market.

*Estimate of Burden:* 2 hours per response.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 10.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 1.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 20.

#### Surplus Western Red Cedar

Purchasers with Western red cedar designated for consumption in the Pacific Northwest may apply for an export permit to other countries if there

is no bona fide Pacific Northwest market.

*Estimate of Burden:* 2 hours per response.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 10.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 1.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 20.

#### Utility and Pulp Logs

Purchasers with utility and pulp logs may apply for an export permit if there is no bona fide Alaska market.

*Estimate of Burden:* 2 hours per response.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 20.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 1.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 40.

#### Reporting Exports

Purchasers must provide the Regional Forester with scale reports to document any volume exported.

*Estimate of Burden:* 1 hour per response.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 20.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 1.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 20.

#### Comments are Invited

The Forest Service invites comments on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Forest Service, including whether the information will have a practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Forest Service'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 collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

#### Use of Comments

All comments, including name and address when provided, will become a matter of public record. Comments received in response to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval.

Dated: April 3, 1998.

**Ronald E. Stewart,**

*Acting Associate Chief.*

[FR Doc. 98-9233 Filed 4-7-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Information Collection on the Economic, Social, and Cultural Contributions of Livestock Ownership

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent; request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Forest Service announces its intent to establish a new information collection. The new collection is necessary to provide baseline data on the economic, social, and cultural contributions of livestock ownership by surveying grazing permittees on two ranger districts of the Carson and Santa Fe National Forests, New Mexico. The information provided by both this pilot study and the proposed larger study, encompassing all the permittees on the two forests, will be used to help the Forest Service address issues related to grazing permit administration in northern New Mexico.

**DATES:** Comments must be received in writing on or before June 8, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** All comments should be addressed to: Carol Raish, Research Social Scientist, Rocky Mountain Research Station, Forest Service, USDA, 2205 Columbia SE, Albuquerque, NM, 87106.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Carol Raish, Rocky Mountain Research Station, telephone: (505) 766-1045.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

The Forest Service intends to invite private landowners, who hold federal grazing permits on the Canjilon Ranger District (Carson National Forest) and the Espanola Ranger District (Santa Fe National Forest), to participate in a pilot study designed to evaluate and refine the research methods and techniques proposed for a larger study to be conducted on the two forests. Forest Service researchers plan to distribute questionnaires to the 112 permittees associated with the two districts, with approximately one-third of the respondents from each district (or at least 18 persons per district) receiving a follow-up interview. Participation in the study is completely voluntary. In

addition to collecting data on the contributions of livestock ownership, researchers are assessing the use of a questionnaire in terms of response rate and quality; clarity, comprehensibility, and relevance of questions; and effectiveness and impact of interviewing techniques.

This study will focus on the rural communities of northern New Mexico. Many of the permittees are descendants of Hispanic settlers who have farmed and ranched in northern New Mexico for over 400 years. Much of the land which they now use under federal permit was formerly owned or used by local communities under Spanish and Mexican land grants. Cultural differences and historical issues of land ownership and use contribute to disagreements over land use between permittees and Federal land managers. This research study is designed to provide information to help agency managers manage the lands more effectively, work more cooperatively with livestock grazing permittees, and improve agency-community relations by promoting greater understanding.

#### Description of Information Collection

The following describes the information collection for which approval will be requested:

*Title:* Economic, Social, and Cultural Contribution of Livestock Ownership.

*OMB Number:* New.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* New.

*Type of Request:* The following describes a new collection requirement, which has not received approval by the Office of Management and Budget.

*Abstract:* The information collected in both the pilot study and the larger study will assist Forest Service managers in understanding the role and contribution of livestock ownership to the economy, culture, and social interactions of the primarily Hispanic grazing permittees (and the small, rural communities) of northern New Mexico. Data gathered in this information collection is not available from other sources. The information collected and research outcomes will be presented in scientific and technology transfer publications and will be available to federal agencies and local communities, as well as to the study participants.

#### Questionnaire

Forest Service research personnel will administer a questionnaire to the 112 grazing permittees on the Canjilon and Espanola Ranger Districts. Response to the questionnaire will be voluntary.

The questionnaire consists of 46 questions divided into seven sections. Two sections request demographic