

scientific and professional expertise. These fellowships are intended to encourage outstanding students to pursue and complete a graduate degree in an area of the food and agricultural sciences for which development of scientific expertise is designated by HEP-CSREES as a national need. This program is authorized by section 1417(b)(6) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977. CSREES will collect information using several forms before grants can be awarded.

Need And Use Of The Information: CSREES will collect information on the identification of the national needs to be addressed, description of the fellow's proposed program study, description of the institution's academic and research competencies, plans for recruiting fellows, pertinent faculty vitae, a budget request, and other relevant information. The purposes of the information requested are for USDA recordkeeping, proposal evaluation, and administration of the National Needs Graduate Fellowships Grants Programs. Some of the information will be used to respond to inquiries from Congress, other Government agencies, and the grantee community.

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

Number of Respondents: 400.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 9,458.

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Title: Environment Monitoring Form.
OMB Control Number: 0579-0117.

Summary of Collection: The mission of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is to provide leadership in ensuring the health and care of animals and plants, to improve agricultural productivity and competitiveness, and to contribute to the national economy and the public health. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq, and the regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality, which implements the procedural aspects of NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508) requires APHIS to implement environmental monitoring for certain activities conducted for pest and disease, control and eradication programs. APHIS Form 2060, Environment Monitoring Form, will be used to collect information concerning the effects of pesticide use in sensitive habitats.

Need And Use Of The Information: APHIS will collect information on the

kind of pesticide used, the date of application, the location where samples are collected, a description of the samples, and the environmental conditions at the collection site including wind speed and direction, temperature, humidity, amount of rainfall, and topography. The supporting information contained on the APHIS Form 2060 is vital for interpreting the laboratory test APHIS conducts on collected samples. Also if a given sample was not accompanied by the form, APHIS would have no way of knowing which site the sample was taken.

Description of Respondents: Federal Government; Individual or households; Farms.

Number of Respondents: 15.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 150.

Nancy B. Sternberg,

Departmental Information Clearance Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request—Study of the Implementation of the School Meals Initiative for Healthy Children

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Food and Nutrition Service's intention to request Office of Management and Budget approval of the Study of the Implementation of the School Meals Initiative for Healthy Children.

DATES: Written comments on this notice must be received by November 2, 1998.

ADDRESSES: 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, 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: Alberta C. Frost, Director, Office of Analysis and Evaluation, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the proposed information collection forms should be directed to Alberta C. Frost, (703) 305-2117.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: The Study of the Implementation of the School Meals Initiative for Healthy Children.

OMB Number: 0584-0485.

Expiration Date: 10/31/2000.

Type of Request: New collection of information for second year of study.

Abstract: The Study of the Implementation of the School Meals Initiative (SMI) for Healthy Children is a three-year study designed to collect information needed to address current policy issues including those associated with the School Meals Initiative for Healthy Children and Team Nutrition. A major part of this study is intended to provide the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) with descriptive data on the status of School Food Authorities' (SFAs) implementation of the School Meals Initiative for Healthy Children and the changes that have occurred in the food service operations as a result of implementing this new regulation. FNS will examine trends in SMI implementation and characteristics of SFAs implementing certain elements of SMI and Team Nutrition.

A nationally representative sample of approximately 2,250 public school districts was selected in 1997 to participate in a three-year longitudinal survey which began in School Year 1997-98. Data is being collected from the SFA directors using a mixed mode approach of mail/telephone surveys. The study combines elements of longitudinal research and cross-sectional surveys. A brief telephone survey of all State Child Nutrition Directors will be included each year. This request for OMB approval is for the second year data collection instrumentation only. A separate OMB package will be submitted for data collection instruments in the third year. Estimates of burden shown below are based upon field experience from the first year of data collection.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden is estimated to range between 45 and 60 minutes for School Food Service Authority directors; and range between 20 and 30 minutes for State Child Nutrition directors;

Respondents: State Child Nutrition directors will be asked to respond to a brief telephone survey. SFA directors will be asked to respond to a self-administered mail survey with telephone follow-up.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 50 State Child Nutrition directors, 2,250 SFA directors.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: One.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 1,850 hours.

Dated: August 27, 1998.

George A. Braley,

Acting Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service.

[FR Doc. 98-23577 Filed 9-1-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-30-U

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Middle Fork Weiser River Watershed Project, Payette National Forest, Adams County, Idaho

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to Prepare Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The Payette National Forest is proposing timber harvest, prescribed fire, and road removal to enhance forest and watershed conditions in the Middle Fork Weiser River Watershed on the Council Ranger District. The 50,000 acre watershed extends from No Business Mountain to the confluence of Fall Creek and the Middle Fork Weiser River about 6 miles southeast of Council, Idaho.

DATES: The Forest Service expects to release a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Middle Fork Weiser River Watershed Project in December 1998. A Final EIS and Record of Decision are expected in February 1999.

ADDRESSES: Written comments or requests for the above documents can be sent to David Alexander, Forest Supervisor, Payette National Forest, P.O. Box 1026, McCall, Idaho 83638.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions about the proposed project should be directed to Sue Douglas, Team Leader (208) 253-0169; or John Baglien, Acting Council District Ranger, (208) 549-4201.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Proposed Action (Alternative B) would

harvest timber on approximately 2,900 acres. On an estimated 1,190 acres, understory trees would be selectively removed, favoring the retention of ponderosa pine, western larch, and Douglas-fir. Large overstory trees of these species would generally be retained. About 790 acres of immature forests would be selectively thinned to accelerate the growth of the remaining trees, allowing these forests to reach a larger size sooner. Approximately 880 acres of lodgepole pine, subalpine fir, or grand fir would be converted to younger-aged forests through harvest and planting.

Most of the area would be logged using ground-based systems. An estimated 200 acres would be logged using helicopters and 500 acres would be logged with skyline systems.

Timber harvest would require 7 miles of new road construction. No road building or harvest activities would occur in the Council Mountain roadless area. Approximately 19 miles of roads would be decommissioned and 9 stream crossings removed or improved to benefit watershed conditions and fish and wildlife habitat as part of the timber sale contract. An additional 60 miles of road would be decommissioned with appropriated money or as part of the nonessential Knudsen-Vandenberg (KV) projects.

Broadcast burning on 700 acres and piling and burning of logging slash on 500 acres would reduce existing and created fuels or prepare the site for planting. Planted or natural regeneration, primarily of ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, or western larch, would occur on an estimated 900 acres.

In addition, prescribed fire activities would occur on 500 acres of open ponderosa pine forests, 300 acres of dry Douglas fir forests, 1,400 acres of aspen communities, and 2,000 acres of grass/shrubland to enhance plant growth and diversity.

Standard INFISH Riparian Habitat Conservation Area (RHCA) buffers would be established throughout the project area. Areas identified as RHCAs would be excluded from timber harvest. Key wildlife habitats, including northern goshawk post-fledgling areas, flammulated owl habitat, and elk travel corridors would be maintained.

Members of the public, organizations, and government agencies were involved in the watershed analysis through meetings and field reviews. This scoping document provides another level of involvement. The Forest Service is conducting scoping for issues the environmental analysis should address.

During the preliminary analysis the team identified two issues to explore

further. (1) Will thinning old trees improve the resilience of the remaining old structure trees? Is the economic benefit of thinning old trees essential to pay for other desired improvements? (2) Is it possible to enhance near term economics and benefit the watershed as a whole through longer return intervals by treating additional acres at this time? These issues, in addition to others brought forward through the scoping process will be more fully developed in evaluating the proposed action. If appropriate, alternatives will be developed to address them in the analysis process.

Comments

Comments on the Proposed Action and the analysis should be received in writing on or before October 5, 1998. Send comments to Forest Supervisor, Payette National Forest, P.O. Box 1026, McCall, ID 83638; telephone (208) 634-0700; FAX (208) 634-0744.

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 and 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, 1002 (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 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 it can meaningfully consider and respond to them in the final environmental impact statement.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues raised by the Proposed Action, comments should be as specific as possible.

Responsible Official: David F. Alexander, Forest Supervisor, Payette National Forest, P.O. Box 1026, 106 West Park, McCall, ID 83638.