

Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), (2) regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality for implementing the procedural provision of NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500–1509), (3) USDA regulations implementing NEPA (7 CFR part 1b), and (4) APHIS= NEPA Implementing Procedures (7 CFR part 372).

Done in Washington, DC, this 11th day of March 1999.

Craig A. Reed,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 99–6595 Filed 3–17–99; 8:45am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Environmental Impact Statement Preparation for the Goose Pond Project, Allegheny National Forest, McKean County, PA

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, notice is hereby given that the Forest Service, Allegheny National Forest will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement to disclose the environmental consequences of the proposed Goose Pond Project.

The purpose of this project is to salvage mortality and to move from the Existing Condition towards the Desired Future Condition (DFC) as detailed in the Allegheny National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). The Forest Plan allocate land to management for both wood production (Management Area 3.0); and scenic quality (Management Area 6.1). The Goose Pond project is located within management areas, 3.0 and 6.1.

In order to move towards the DFC, the early successional age class (0–20 year age) needs to increase; healthy forested stands capable of producing high quality, high value sawtimber need to be maintained; and understories dominated by fern, grass or undesirable woody vegetation need to develop seedling vegetation. Project proposals include timber harvesting as a means for making desired changes to forest vegetation and satisfying the demonstrated public need for wood products. Our proposed action to meet the purpose and need includes 194 acres of regeneration harvests to bring the onset of a new forest; herbicide, fertilizer, fencing, mechanical site

preparation, and planting to ensure seedling establishment and growth in understories, 549 acres of thinning in immature stands to reduce the competition for light and nutrients, thereby improving the health and vigor of residual trees; and 232 acres of salvage thinning to salvage dead and dying trees. Associated with these silvicultural activities includes approximately 3.4 miles of new road construction (1.8 miles are existing non-system roads), 5.9 miles of road restoration, 2.6 miles of road betterment, expansion of 4 stone pits, and development of 3 additional stone pits to provide an adequate long-term transportation system. Wildlife habitat improvement measures in the form of planting 20 acres of trees and shrubs, 3 acres of grasses, underplanting 60 acres of conifer cover, constructing a 1 acre permanent wildlife opening, pruning of 5 acres of apple trees, 1.0 mile of fish habitat improvements, and placement of 8 nest boxes to supplement the existing conditions.

After completion of the analysis, the responsible official will select an alternative that maximizes net public benefits for the Goose Pond Project area.

DATES: The public is asked to provide comments, suggestions, and recommendations for achieving the purpose and need for the Goose Pond Project. The public comment period will be for 30 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes this notice of availability in the **Federal Register**. Comments and suggestions should be submitted in writing and postmarked by April 20, 1999 to ensure timely consideration. To assist in commenting, a scoping letter providing more detailed information on the project proposal has been prepared and is available to interested parties.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Submit written comments and suggestions concerning the proposed action to: “Goose Pond Project”.

attention Edward L. Hale—ID Team Leader, Marienville Ranger District, HC2 Box 130, Marienville, PA 16239. For further information, contact Edward L. Hale at (814) 927–6628.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The issue of uneven-aged management often arises during the scoping process for projects such as this. We will therefore include at least one alternative to the Proposed Action which will evaluate the effects of applying uneven-aged management techniques. Issues which are generated through the scoping process may generate additional alternatives.

Comments considered beyond the scope of this project and which will *not*

be evaluated include whether or not commercial timber harvest should occur on National Forest System lands; the validity of the science of silviculture and forest management; and whether or not to allow the use of herbicides on the Allegheny National Forest on a programmatic level.

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. In a recent legal opinion, the Forest Service's Office of General Council (OGC) has determined that names and addresses of people who respond to a Forest Service solicitation are not protected by the Privacy Act and can be released to the public. The Forest Service routinely gives notice of and requests comments on proposed land and resource management actions accompanied by environmental documents, as well as on proposed rules and policies. Comments received in response to such solicitations, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record and will be available for such inspection, upon request. Any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIC) permits such confidentiality. The opinion states that such confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets.

The Draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency and to be available for public review during June of 1999. At that time, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will publish in the **Federal Register** a notice of availability of the draft environmental impact statement. The comment period on the draft will be 45 days from the date the EPA notice appears in the **Federal Register**.

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 statements must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposals so that it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewers 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 may be waived if not raised until after completion of the final

environmental impact statement. *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F.2d 1016, 1022 (9th Cir. 1988), 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 it can meaningfully consider them and respond to them in the final environmental impact statement.

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 the statement (Reviewers may wish to refer to CEQ Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points). After the comment period ends on the draft environmental impact statement, the comments received will be analyzed and considered by the Forest Service in preparing the final environmental impact statement.

The final environmental impact statement is scheduled to be completed in October, 1999. In the final EIS, the Forest Service is required to respond to the comments received (40 CFR 1503.4). The responsible official will consider the comments, responses, environmental consequences discussed in the environmental impact statement, and applicable laws, regulations and policies in making a decision regarding this proposal. The responsible official will document the decision and reasons for the decision in a Record of Decision. That decision will be subject to appeal under 36 CFR part 215.

The responsible official is Leon Blashock, District Ranger, Allegheny National Forest, HC2 Box 130, Marienville, PA 16239.

Dated: March 5, 1999.

Leon Blashock,
District Ranger.

[FR Doc. 99-6613 Filed 3-17-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

California Coast Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC)

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The California Coast Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC) will meet on March 31 and April 1, 1999, at the Robinson Rancheria Tribal Administration Building in Nice, California. The meeting will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on March 31, and from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. April 1. The Robinson Rancheria Tribal Administration Building is located at 1545 E. Highway 20 in Nice. Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Regional Ecosystem Office (REO) update; (2) IAC Update; (3) PAC/IAC Summit; (4) Potter Valley Project; (5) Subcommittee reports and recommendations; and (6) Open public comment. All California Coast Provincial Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Direct questions regarding this meeting to Daniel Chisholm, USDA, Forest Supervisor, Mendocino National Forest, 825 N. Humboldt Avenue, Willows, CA, 95988, (530) 934-3316 or Phebe Brown, Province Coordinator, USDA, Mendocino National Forest, 825 N. Humboldt Avenue, Willows, CA, 95988, (530) 934-3316.

Dated: March 10, 1999.

Daniel K. Chisholm,
Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 99-6534 Filed 3-17-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce (DOC) has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Agency: Patent and Trademark Office (PTO).

Title: Public Search Room.

Form Numbers: None.

Agency Approval Number: 0651-new.

Type of Request: New collection.

Burden: 141 hours for the first year and 188 hours for the following years.

Number of Respondents: 1,142 responses for the first year and 1,713 responses for the following years.

Avg. Hours Per Response: The PTO estimates that it will take approximately 10 minutes for the user to verbally supply optional information to PTO

staff that is not included on the Application for the Public User ID and to have a photograph taken. The PTO estimates that it will take approximately 5 minutes to gather, prepare, and submit the Application for Public User ID and to renew the Public User ID.

Needs and Uses: The Application for a Public User ID is used by the public to request a User ID. It is also used by the public to renew the Public User ID. The PTO uses the Application for Public User ID to identify status of any existing passes for users. The PTO also uses the form to update the user records in the system. The public uses the Public User ID to access the trademark and patent collections. The PTO uses the Public User ID to track the public's use of the facilities and the services.

Affected Public: Individuals or households, businesses or other for-profit, not-for-profit institutions, farms, federal government, and state, local, or tribal governments.

Frequency: On occasion.

Respondent's Obligation: Required to obtain or retain benefits.

OMB Desk Officer: Maya A. Bernstein, (202) 395-3785.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Linda Engelmeier, DOC Forms Clearance Officer, (202) 482-3272, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication to Maya A. Bernstein, OMB Desk Officer, Room 10236, New Executive Office Building, 725 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20503.

Dated: March 12, 1999.

Linda Engelmeier,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 99-6644 Filed 3-17-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce (DOC) has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). An expedited clearance is being requested under the Act. We are requesting OMB clearance by March 19, 1999.