

Administrator; Families, 4-H, and Nutrition; Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service; U.S. Department of Agriculture; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW; Washington, DC 20250-2225; Telephone: (202) 720-2908; E-mail: ahobbs@reeusda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Application for Authorization to Use the 4-H Name and/or Emblem.

OMB Number: 0524-0034.

Expiration Date of Approval: May 31, 1999.

Type of Request: Intent to extend a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: Use of the 4-H Name and/or Emblem is authorized by an Act of Congress, (Pub. L. 772, 80th Congress, Chapter 654, 2nd Session). Use of the 4-H Name and/or Emblem by anyone other than the 4-H Clubs and those duly authorized by them, representatives of the Department of Agriculture, the Land-Grant colleges and universities, and persons authorized by the Secretary of Agriculture is prohibited by the provisions of 18 U.S.C. 707. The Secretary of Agriculture has delegated authority to the Administrator of the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service to authorize others to use the 4-H Name and Emblem. The Administrator has promulgated regulations at 7 CFR Part 8 that govern such use. The regulatory requirements for use of the 4-H Name and/or Emblem reflect the high standards of 4-H and its educational goals and objectives. Anyone requesting authorization from the Administrator to use the 4-H Name and Emblem is asked to describe the proposed use in a formal application. The collection of this information is used to determine whether the applicant's proposed use will meet the regulatory requirements and whether an authorization for use should be granted.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .50 hours per response.

Respondents: Individuals or households, business or other for profit, not-for-profit institutions.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 40.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 2.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 20 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Dr. Nancy Valentine, National 4-H Program Leader, 202-720-2908, nvalentine@reeusda.gov.

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 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: Dr. Alma C. Hobbs; Deputy Administrator; Families, 4-H, and Nutrition; Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service; U.S. Department of Agriculture; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW; Washington, DC 20250-2225; Telephone: (202) 720-2908; Email: ahobbs@reeusda.gov.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request to OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Done at Washington, DC, on this 25th day of March, 1999.

Colien Hefferan,

Acting Administrator, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service.
[FR Doc. 99-7819 Filed 3-30-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Texas Blowdown Reforestation Project, National Forests and Grasslands in Texas, Angelina, Montgomery, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, and Walker Counties, Texas

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, National Forests and Grasslands in Texas (NFGT) will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to assess and disclose the environmental effects of site preparation and reforestation on windstorm-damaged areas in the Angelina, Sabine, and Sam Houston National Forests. The proposed actions include site preparation using

mechanical methods and prescribed fire, alone or in combination, followed by natural regeneration and/or planting on about 32,750 acres of windstorm-damaged forests. The project will be implemented in accordance with the direction in the 1996 Revised Land and Resource Management Plan (the Plan) for the National Forests and Grasslands in Texas. Project activities will take place within Management Area 1—Upland Forest Ecosystems and Management Area 2—Red-cockaded Woodpecker (RCW) Emphasis.

In addition to the management activities proposed for reforestation, the EIS will assess and disclose the effects of amending the forest plan to allocate an additional 7,300 acres to Management Area 2 on the Sabine National Forest due to the changed conditions caused by the windstorm.

DATES: Written comments and suggestions concerning the scope of the analysis must be postmarked or received by April 30, 1999. The estimated date for filing the draft EIS is June 1999, followed by the final decision in September 1999.

ADDRESSES: The Responsible Official is Ronnie Raum, Forest Supervisor; National Forests and Grasslands in Texas; 701 North First Street; Lufkin, TX 75901. Written comments and suggestions concerning the scope of analysis may be sent to him at that address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Keith Baker, Project Environmental Coordinator. Phone: 409-344-6205 (New Waverly, TX).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On the afternoon of February 10, 1998, a storm with hurricane-force winds struck the forests of deep east Texas. Approximately 103,000 acres of national forest land on the Angelina, Sabine, and Sam Houston National Forests were damaged by the windstorm. The Forest Service categorized the storm damage severity and extent on the three affected national forests as follows:

- Extensive damage—loss of greater than 60 percent of the existing trees (11,600 acres),
- Moderate damage—loss of 30 to 60 percent of the existing trees (65,400 acres), and
- Light damage—loss of 10 to 30 percent of the existing trees (26,000 acres).

The majority of lands affected by the storm are allocated under the Plan to Management Area 1 (upland forest ecosystems) and Management Area 2 (red-cockaded woodpecker emphasis). Other Management Areas (MAs) were also affected, including MA-4

(streamside management zones), MA-8 (special area management), MA-9 (recreation area management), and MA-10 (administrative and special use sites).

The Forest Service determined that an emergency response was needed to meet three objectives: (1) Reduce the potential for high intensity wildfires spreading into the intermingled private ownerships that include individual homes, subdivisions, and rural communities; (2) minimize further damage to RCW and bald eagle habitat; and (3) reduce the risk of anticipated bark beetle attack to living trees that could kill additional federal and private timber, RCW habitat, and bald eagle habitat. The Forest Service requested approval for alternative arrangements for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) from the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) to expedite the removal of the blown down and damaged timber. On March 10, 1998, CEQ approved the Forest Service's request for alternative arrangements and the NFGT undertook actions to remove blown down and damaged trees to meet the three objectives. As part of these alternative arrangements, the Forest Service and CEQ agreed that the actions taken to reforest the damaged areas of the three affected national forests would be assessed in an Environmental Impact Statement.

On July 15, 1998, the Forest Service published a notice in the **Federal Register** about plans to develop a Changed Condition Analysis (CCA) covering the areas affected by the storm (63 FR 38153, Jul. 15, 1998). The Forest Service identified two objectives for analysis: (1) To provide the basis for site preparation and reforestation proposals in the storm-damaged area of the NFGT and (2) to analyze the need to adjust land allocations to MA-2 on the Angelina and Sabine NFs to meet Plan objectives for RCW habitat. After completion of the CAA, the Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) used a systematic procedure to develop a proposed action to start the NEPA process.

Proposed Action

Site Preparation and Reforestation

The Forest Service proposes to initiate site preparation and reforestation actions on the Angelina and Sabine National Forests in MA-1 and MA-2. The actions proposed will provide for the development of forested conditions appropriate for the sites based on the recent developed Ecological Classification System (ECS). The ESC was prepared in cooperation with the

Nature Conservancy of Texas and the Kisatchie National Forest to describe the public and private forest lands of the western Louisiana and eastern Texas portions of the Western Gulf Coastal Plain. The ECS classifies land into ecological types through the integration of multiple components of the forest ecosystem—soils, physiography (topography and landform), and vegetation. A land classification based on these components reflects the differences in the major environmental characteristics of a site, and it provides information about the inherent potential of a site in terms of the types of vegetative communities it will support. The reforestation actions were proposed to develop the appropriate vegetation considering the ECS, the existing vegetation conditions, and the objectives and management direction of the Plan.

Only those damaged areas where the post-storm residual basal area (BA) is less than 60 square feet will receive unique actions. Damaged areas that exceed 60 BA will not be treated specifically to manipulate the existing forest type or tree species, but will be subject to application of prescribed fire to reduce storm-generated fuel buildup and/or control of midstory vegetation adverse to Red-cockaded woodpecker habitat. The Forest Service proposes to allow damaged areas on the Sam Houston National Forest to reforest naturally without active management to prepare sites or manipulate the plant species.

Within the Angelina and Sabine NFs the following actions are proposed;

- In areas the ECS indicates should be dominated by beech-white oak, mixed oaks, and sweetbay-swamp tupelo forest types and the forest type is not directly correlated to slope or topographical position the following actions will be taken:

- (a) Within MA-2 allow the areas to regenerate naturally without site preparation or artificial planting. Allow fire on a 3 to 5 year rotation since these areas still contain a residual pine component that provides for RCW foraging. About 5250 acres would be treated in this manner.

- (b) Within MA-1 allow the areas to regenerate naturally without site preparation or artificial planting. Only allow prescribed fire to back into these areas when adjoining areas have been designated for use of prescribed fire. About 3750 acres would be treated in this manner.

- In areas the ECS indicates should be dominated by shortleaf pine-longleaf pine-oak mixtures and the forest type is not directly correlated to slope or

topographical position the following actions will be taken:

- (a) Within MA-2 where the residual overstory basal area ranges from 0-30 square feet, conduct mechanical site preparation, allowing up to 20 BA of oaks in clumps or along drainages, plant longleaf pine, and prescribe burn every 3 to 5 years. Approximately 1150 acres would receive these treatments.

- (b) Within MA-2 in the areas where the residual overstory basal exceeds 30 square feet and is less than about 40 square feet conduct mechanical site preparation, leaving no more than 10 BA of hardwoods in clumps and along drainages, allow for natural regeneration of pines to develop a two age stand, and prescribe burn every 3 to 5 years. In areas where basal area ranges from about 40-60 square feet prescribe burn only and allow for natural regeneration. About 850 acres would receive these treatments.

- (c) Within MA-1 where the residual overstory basal area ranges from 0-30 square feet, commercially remove residual loblolly pine that will impede shortleaf-longleaf regeneration, then mechanically site prepare the areas, plant shortleaf pine or longleaf pine seedlings depending on the site suitability, and prescribe burn the areas on a 3 to 5 year rotation. About 1550 acres would receive these treatments.

- (d) Within MA-1 where the residual overstory basal area exceeds 30 square feet and is less than about 40 square feet conduct mechanical site preparation, leaving no more than 10 BA of hardwoods in clumps and along drainages, plant longleaf pine in openings on suitable soil types. Where shortleaf pine should dominate allow for natural regeneration to develop a two age stand, and prescribe burn every 3 to 5 years. In areas where basal area ranges from about 40-60 square feet prescribe burn only and allow for natural regeneration. About 400 acres would be treated with this prescription.

- In areas the ECS indicates should be dominated by shortleaf pine-loblolly pine forest mixtures and the forest type is not directly correlated to slope or topographical position the following actions will be taken:

- (a) Inside MA-2 where the residual overstory basal area ranges from 0-30 square feet, the areas would be site prepared using mechanical methods, shortleaf pine would be planted in openings on ridgetops and upper slopes, and prescribed burning would be conducted on a 3 to 5 year cycle. In areas where basal area ranges from about 40-60 square feet prescribe burn only and allow for natural regeneration.

These treatments would be implemented on about 1450 acres.

(b) Inside MA-2 in the areas where the residual overstory basal exceeds 30 square feet and is less than about 40 square feet conduct mechanical site preparation, leaving no more than 20 BA of hardwoods in clumps and along drainages, plant shortleaf pine in openings on ridgetops and upper slopes, and conduct prescribed burning on a 3 to 5 year cycle. About 1550 acres would receive these treatments.

(c) Within MA-1 where the residual overstory basal area ranges from 0-30 square feet, the areas would be site prepared using mechanical methods, prescribe burned, and shortleaf pine would be planted on ridgetops and upper slopes where no shortleaf pine seed source exists or where adequate seed source exists would be allowed to regenerate naturally. These treatments would be implemented on about 1450 acres.

(d) Within MA-1 where the residual overstory basal area ranges from 30-60 square feet, prescribe burn the areas to allow for natural regeneration and the development of two-age stands. About 1050 acres would be treated with this prescription.

- In areas the ECS indicates should be dominated by white oak-loblolly pine-sweetbay or white oak-loblolly pine-willow oak forest types and the forest type is directly correlated to slope or topographical position the following actions will be taken:

(a) Within MA-2 allow the areas to regenerate naturally without site preparation or artificial planting. Allow fire on a 3 to 5 years rotation since these areas still contain a residual pine component that provides for RCW foraging. About 550 acres would be treated in this manner.

(b) Within MA-1 allow the areas to regenerate naturally without site preparation or artificial planting. Only allow prescribed fire to back into these areas when adjoining areas have been designated for use of prescribed fire. About 400 acres would be treated in this manner.

- In areas the ECS indicates should be dominated by shortleaf pine-longleaf pine-oak mixtures and the forest type is correlated to slope or topographical position the following actions will be taken:

(a) Within MA-2 where the residual overstory basal area ranges from 0-30 square feet, conduct mechanical site preparation, plant longleaf pine on the site prepared areas, prescribe burn every 3 to 5 years, and limit hardwoods to the lower slope positions. Approximately

950 acres would receive these treatments.

(b) Within MA-2 in the areas where the residual overstory basal exceeds 30 square feet and is less than about 40 square feet conduct mechanical site preparation, leaving no more than 10 BA of hardwoods in clumps and along drainages, allow for natural regeneration of pines to develop a two age stand, and prescribe burn every 3 to 5 years. In areas where basal area ranges from about 40-60 square feet prescribe burn only and allow for natural regeneration. About 1300 acres would receive these treatments.

(c) Within MA-1 where the residual overstory basal area ranges from 0-30 square feet, commercially remove residual loblolly pine on ridges and upper slopes that will impede shortleaf-longleaf regeneration, then mechanically site prepare the areas, plant shortleaf pine or longleaf pine seedlings depending on soil type and slope position, and prescribe burn the areas on a 3 to 5 year rotation. About 3450 acres would receive these treatments.

(d) Within MA-1 where the residual overstory basal area ranges from 30-60 square feet, prescribe burn the areas to allow for natural regeneration and the development of two-age stands. About 2650 acres would be treated with this prescription.

- In areas the ECS indicates should be dominated by shortleaf pine-loblolly pine forest mixtures and the forest type is correlated to slope or topographical position the following actions will be taken:

(a) Inside MA-2 where the residual overstory basal area ranges from 0-30 square feet, the areas would be site prepared using mechanical methods, shortleaf pine would be planted in openings on ridgetops and upper slopes, and prescribed burning would be conducted on a 3 to 5 year cycle. These treatments would be implemented on about 750 acres.

(b) Inside MA-2 where the residual overstory basal area ranges from 30-60 square feet, conduct site preparation using mechanical methods, plant shortleaf pine in openings on ridgetops and upper slopes and allow natural regeneration elsewhere, and prescribed burning would be conducted on a 3 to 5 years cycle. About 1300 acres would receive these treatments.

(c) Within MA-1 where the residual overstory basal area ranges from 0-30 square feet, loblolly pine would be commercially removed from ridgetops and upper slopes, the areas would be site prepared using mechanical methods, prescribe burned, and

shortleaf pine would be planted on ridgetops and upper slopes where no shortleaf pine seed source exists or where adequate seed source exists would be allowed to regenerate naturally. These treatments would be implemented on about 1450 acres.

(d) Within MA-1 where the residual overstory basal area ranges from 30-60 square feet, prescribe burn the areas to allow for natural regeneration and the development of two-age stands. About 1500 acres would be treated with this prescription.

These actions will result in different vegetation patterns in many areas than existed prior to the February, 1998, windstorm. Hardwoods will be more prevalent on sites where the FCS indicates this is appropriate, such as lower slopes and moister sites. On drier upland sites pines will dominate and hardwoods will be limited to clumps or in areas along minor drainages. Many areas will develop different stand structure because overstory trees will remain and the new trees will create two different ages of vegetation on the same site. Natural regeneration will be relied on where it is expected to result in the development of vegetation appropriate for the site. Planting of shortleaf pine and longleaf pine will be done where a seed source for these species does not exist and the ECS indicates they should exist.

Forest Plan Amendment (Non-Significant Amendment)

The Plan delineated approximately 18,360 acres of the Sabine National Forest as MA-2 in an area known as the Northern Sabine Habitat Management Area (HMA). The emphasis in MA-2 is the production of high quality habitat for the endangered redcockaded woodpecker; the size of the HMA was determined based on a population objective of 91 active RCW groups. The February 10 storm affected approximately 18,300 acres of the Northern Sabine HMA. Of this total, about 15,000 acres received moderate to extensive damage. Because of the habitat needs for the RCW, many of the acres that provided suitable habitat for the species prior to the storm may not provide such habitat now. The EIS will examine the consequences of adjusting the boundaries of MA-2 within the Northern Sabine HMA to include about 7,300 additional acres in Compartments 29, 35, 36, 45, 46, 47, and 54 to provide suitable habitat for the RCW to meet the population objective.

Public Involvement and Scoping

This environmental analysis and decision-making process will enable

interested and affected people to participate and contribute to the final decision. Public participation will begin with the publication of this NOI. Interested and affected individuals and organizations on each affected forest scoping list will be informed of the proposal and invited to submit comments. The Forest Service will also be seeking information, comments, and assistance from Federal, state, and local agencies. The information received will be used in the preparation of the draft and final EIS. At this time no scoping meetings are scheduled to be held to discuss the project. The scoping process includes:

1. Identifying potential issues.
2. Identifying issues to be analyzed in depth.
3. Eliminating non-significant issues or those which have been covered by a relevant previous environmental process.
4. Exploring additional alternatives.
5. Identifying potential environmental effects of the proposed action and alternatives (i.e. direct, indirect, and cumulative effects).

Preliminary Issues

Several preliminary issues have been identified by the Forest Service. The issues are briefly described below:

Red-cockaded woodpecker—the storm adversely affected RCW habitat. What effect will reforestation activities have on habitat suitable for RCW foraging and nesting and the potential for RCW population growth in the short and long term?

Hardwoods—many hardwoods remain in the damaged areas. What effect would project activities have on the current and future hardwood composition of the storm-damaged areas? Will any areas be managed for pine-hardwood mixtures or only for hardwoods within the storm-affected areas?

Soil productivity—mechanical equipment used in site preparation could compact soils and prescribed fire could affect nutrient availability. What effect will mechanical site preparation and prescribed burning have on long-term soil productivity?

Water quality—site preparation activities could expose soil to erosion. What effects will mechanical site preparation and prescribed burning have on soil erosion and sedimentation?

Potential Alternatives: based on the preliminary issues, the following potential alternative themes have been identified:

No Action—no site preparation or planting activities would occur, nor would acreage adjustments be made to

the Northern Sabine HMA. Only natural regeneration would be allowed in the damaged areas.

Limited Budget Theme—maintain the existing Northern Sabine HMA and maximize the pine regeneration if damaged areas within the HMA regardless of ECS considerations. Mechanical site preparation would be minimized and natural regeneration would be emphasized.

Reviewers Obligations

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 EISs 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 EIS 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 draft EIS 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 in the final EIS.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the draft EIS 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 EIS of the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the statement. Reviewer 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 1503.3.

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. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under

36 CFR parts 215 or 217. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that, under the FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within 10 days.

Responsible Official

Ronnie Raum, Forest Supervisor; National Forests and Grasslands in Texas; 701 North First Street, Lufkin, TX 75901 is the Responsible Official. As the Responsible Official, I will decide which, if any of the alternatives to be described in the draft Environmental Impact Statement will be implemented. I will document the decision and the reasons for my selection of the decision in the Record of Decision.

Dated: March 25, 1999.

Ronnie Raum,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 99-7836 Filed 3-30-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of Export Administration

Order Denying Permission To Apply For or Use Export Licenses; Action Affecting Export Privileges; A.V.S. Armoured Vehicles' Systems, Inc., Now Known as S.P.O. Spare Parts Logistics, Inc.

In the matter of: A.V.S. ARMoured VEHICLES' SYSTEMS, INC., now known as S.P.L. SPARE PARTS LOGISTICS, INC. 1117 Old Country Road, Plainview, New York 11803.

On April 10, 1995, following a plea of guilty to one count of an information, A.V.S. Armoured Vehicles' Systems, Inc.¹ was convicted in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York of violating Section 38 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C.A.

¹ On September 27, 1993, A.V.S. Armoured Vehicles' Systems, Inc. filed with the State of Delaware, Secretary of State, Division of Corporations, a Certificate of Amendment of the Certificate of Incorporation to change A.V.S. Armoured Vehicles' Systems, Inc.'s name to S.P.L. Spare Parts Logistics, Inc.