

as to support additional State and local government statistical requirements, the agency has expanded the questionnaire to include questions, such as why trees were or were not harvested, practices used to reforest following harvest, and recreational use of the forest.

Respondents will be asked to answer questions that include how many acres of forest land they own; how many acres of forest land they bought or sold in the last 15 years; how many trees they harvested; the types of products that were produced from the trees that were harvested; the landowner's reforestation practices; if trees were not harvested, the reasons given for not harvesting; if landowners intend to harvest trees in the future; whether they have received any kind of forestry assistance and, if yes, the source of the assistance; if they have a written forest land management plan and, if yes, who prepared the plan; their reasons for owning the forest land; the benefits they expect to receive from owning the forest land; if they use the land used for personal recreational activities; if they allow the public to use the land for recreational purposes; how they receive information about State and Federal forest programs that focus on private forests; and the demographic information of the owners of private forest lands.

Forest Service Forest Inventory and Analysis Staff will mail questionnaires to owners of private forest lands, who will return the completed form to the agency. Forest Service personnel will follow up with face-to-face and telephone interviews.

Respondents will be individuals, business partnerships, corporations, trusts, and Native American corporations, tribes and Nations that own private forest lands.

Data gathered in this information collections is not available from other sources.

*Estimate of Burden:* 0.5 hours.

*Type of Respondents:* individuals that own forestland, partnerships, corporations, trusts, and Native American corporations, tribes, and Nations.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 12,292 per year.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 1.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 6,146 hours.

#### Comment Is Invited

The agency invites comments on the following: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the stated purposes and the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the

information will have practical or scientific 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 respondents, including the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

#### Use of Comment

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

Dated: June 11, 1999.

**Robin L. Thompson,**

*Associate Deputy Chief, State and Private Forestry.*

[FR Doc. 99-15411 Filed 6-16-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

**Timber Harvest, Reforestation, and Road Construction Near Trapper Creek, Moonlight Creek, Watkins Creek, Spring Creek, Rumbaugh Creek, Cherry Creek and West Denny Creek Drainages; Gallatin National Forest, Gallatin County, Montana**

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice; intent to prepare environmental impact statement.

**SUMMARY:** The USDA, Forest Service, will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to disclose the environmental effects of timber harvest, reforestation, and road construction in the vicinity of Trapper Creek, Moonlight Creek, Watkins Creek, Spring Creek, Rumbaugh Creek, Cherry Creek and West Denny Creek drainages (herein referred to as the West Lake Project), located in the South Madison Mountain range, Gallatin National Forest, Hebgen Lake Ranger District, Gallatin County, Montana. The West Lake project is one of several projects being proposed on the Gallatin National Forest to contribute timber volume to facilitate acquisition of approximately 54,000 acres of lands currently owned by Big Sky Lumber Company (BSL) located within the proclamation boundary of

the Gallatin National Forest. These lands are checkerboard inholdings that originate as part of the construction grants given to the Northern Pacific Railway Company by the Federal Government in the late 1800's and early 1900's. In addition, this project will contribute toward providing a flow of wood products from National Forest lands.

The Gallatin National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) provides overall guidance for land management activities, including timber and road management, within the area. The proposed actions of timber harvest, reforestation, and road construction are being considered together because they represent either connected or cumulative actions as defined by the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR 1508.25). This EIS will tier to the Gallatin Forest Plan Final EIS (September, 1987).

**DATES:** Written comments and suggestions should be received on or before July 19, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written comments and suggestions on the proposed management activities or a request to be placed on the project mailing list to Stan Benes, District Ranger, Hebgen Lake Ranger District, Gallatin National Forest, P.O. Box 520, West Yellowstone, Montana 59758.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Susan LaMont, EIS Team Leader, Hebgen Lake Ranger District, Gallatin National Forest, Phone (406) 646-7369.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Timber harvest and reforestation is proposed on approximately 1325 acres of forested land in the West Lake project area, which has been designated as suitable for timber management by the Gallatin Forest Plan. The timber harvest operations and general administration of National Forest lands will require constructing up to 2.3 miles of new roads.

The Gallatin Forest Plan provides the overall guidance for management activities in the potentially affected area through its goals, objectives, standards and guidelines, and management area direction. The primary purpose of this project is to utilize available timber volume within the West Fork area as one of several federal exchange assets to be used to facilitate acquisition of approximately 54,000 acres of lands currently owned by BSL located within the proclamation boundary of the Gallatin National Forest. These lands are checkerboard inholdings that originate as part of the construction grants given to the Northern Pacific Railway Company by the Federal

Government in the late 1800's and early 1900's.

Another purpose for the BSL/West Lake Timber Sale proposal is to contribute toward providing a flow of wood products from National Forest lands identified as "suitable" for timber production, as directed in the Gallatin Forest Plan (Forest Plan, pg. II-1). The forested areas being considered for harvest are identified as productive Forest lands available for timber harvest provided grizzly bear habitat objectives are met. The purpose of road construction is to access stands of timber to be harvested. All new roads will be effectively closed to vehicle travel after completion of post-sale activities.

The purpose of closing roads is to minimize future road maintenance costs, reduce sedimentation, and to regulate overall open road density to maintain or improve big game habitat security.

The project area consists of approximately 1325 acres of National Forest land located in T11S, R3E, Sec 26, 35, and 36; T12S, R3E, Sec 1, 2, 11, 12, 13, 14, 23, 24, 25, and 36; T12S, R4E, Sec 18, 19, 20, 29, 30, 31, 32, and 33; and T13S, R4E, Sec 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 16, 17, 18, and 20; P.M. MT.

The areas of proposed timber harvest and reforestation would occur within Management Area 5 and 13. Timber harvest would occur only on suitable timber land. Road construction would occur in these management areas plus Management Area 7 when crossing streams. Below is a brief description of the applicable management direction.

Management Area 5—This management area contains travel corridors that receive heavy recreation use. Timber harvest is allowed within this area provided that the following goals are met. Management goals for MA 5 include: (1) maintain and improve wildlife habitat values; and (2) maintain the natural attractiveness of these areas to provide opportunities for public enjoyment and safety.

Management Area 13—This management area consists of forested, occupied grizzly bear habitat. The productive Forest lands area available for timber harvest provided grizzly bear habitat objectives are met. Management goals for MA 13 include: (1) managing vegetation to provide habitat necessary to recover the grizzly bear; (2) meet grizzly bear mortality reduction goals as established by the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee; (3) allow a level of timber harvest compatible with Goal 1; and (4) meet State water quality standards and maintain stream channel stability.

Management Area 7—These are riparian zones or areas where vegetation is present that requires either free or unbounded water or soil moistures in excess of what is normally found in the area. Lands within this management area are suitable for timber harvest as long as soil, water, vegetation, fish, and dependent wildlife species are protected. These suitable lands must also be adjacent to other management areas suitable for timber management.

The Forest Service will consider a range of alternatives. One of these will be the "no action" alternative, in which none of the proposed activities would be implemented. Additional alternatives will examine varying levels and locations for the proposed activities in response to issues and other resource values.

The EIS will analyze the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental effects of the alternatives. Past, present, and projected activities on both private and National Forest lands will be considered, including the effects caused by recent and past harvesting and road construction on private lands. The EIS will disclose the analysis of site-specific mitigation measures and their effectiveness.

Public participation is an important part of the analysis, commencing with the initial scoping process (40 CFR 1501.7), which will occur during June 1999. In addition to this initial scoping, the public may visit Forest Service officials at any time during the analysis and prior to the decision. The Forest Service will be seeking information, comments, and assistance from Federal, State, and local agencies and other individuals or organizations who may be interested in or affected by the proposed action. No public meetings are scheduled at this time.

Comments from the public and other agencies will be used in preparation of the Draft EIS. The scoping process will be used to:

1. Identify potential issues.
2. Identify issues to be analyzed in depth.
3. Eliminate insignificant issues or those which have been covered by a relevant previous environmental analysis, such as the Gallatin Forest Plan EIS.
4. Identify alternatives to the proposed action.
5. Identify potential environmental effects of the proposed action and alternatives (i.e., direct, indirect, and cumulative effects).
6. Determine potential cooperating agencies and task assignments.

The following principle issues have been identified so far:

1. The potential effect of proposed timber harvest and associated road development on grizzly bear habitat (primarily security and cover).

2. The potential of proposed timber harvest and associated road development activities to displace grizzly bears use within the sale area.

3. The potential for proposed harvest and associated road development to affect water quality and stream conditions.

Other issues commonly associated with timber harvesting and road construction include: effects on native fisheries, old growth habitat, big game species, sensitive wildlife and plant species, cultural resources, soils, noxious weeds, and scenery in the area. This list will be verified, expanded, or modified based on public scoping for this proposal.

The Draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and available for public review in October of 1999. At that time, the EPA will publish a Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS in the **Federal Register**. The comment period on the Draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the EPA's notice of availability appears in the **Federal Register**. It is very important that those interested in management of the West Lake project area participate at that time. The Final EIS is scheduled to be completed by mid-January, 2000.

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 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 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, 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 30-day scoping 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 developing issues and alternatives. To

assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues, comments should be as specific to this proposal as possible. Reviewers 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 in addressing these points.

I am the responsible official for this environmental impact statement. My address is Gallatin National Forest, P.O. Box 130, Federal Building, Bozeman, MT 59771.

Dated: June 7, 1999.

**David P. Garber,**

*Forest Supervisor.*

[FR Doc. 99-15423 Filed 6-16-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Klamath Provincial Advisory Committee

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Klamath Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC) will meet on July 7-9, 1999, in Weaverville, California. On Wednesday, July 7, the PAC will meet at the Weaverville Ranger District Office for a field trip from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Non-PAC members will need to arrange their own transportation. On Thursday, July 8, the meeting will be at the Weaverville Fire Hall, 100 Bremer, starting at 9:00 A.M. and adjourn at 5:00 P.M. On Friday, July 9, the meeting again will be at the Fire Hall and will start at 8:00 A.M. and adjourn at 12:30 P.M. Agenda items for the meeting include: (1) Review of the Elk Gulch II Field Trip; (2) Adaptive Management Area Panel Discussion; (3) Trinity River Water Issues Panel Discussion; (4) Subcommittee Reports; and (5) Public Comment Periods. All PAC meeting are open to the public. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Connie Hendryx, USDA, Klamath National Forest, 1312 Fairlane Road, Yreka, California 96097; telephone 530-841-4468 (voice), TDD 530-841-4573.

Dated: June 9, 1999.

**Nancy J. Gibson,**

*Administrative Officer.*

[FR Doc. 99-15425 Filed 6-16-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Census Bureau

#### Census 2000 Evaluation of the Facility Questionnaire

**ACTION:** Proposed collection; Comment request.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before August 16, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5033, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:** Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instruments and instructions should be directed to Zakiya Sackor, Bureau of the Census, Mail Stop 9200, Washington, DC 20233; (301) 457-8084.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Abstract

The Census Bureau must provide everyone in the United States and Outlying Areas the opportunity to be counted in Census 2000 as well as making sure that persons are counted in the appropriate places. The Census 2000 Special Place Facility Questionnaire (FQ) is a Computer Assisted Telephone Interview (CATI) operation in which updated information on group quarters (GQs) and housing units is collected and GQ codes are assigned; cases that cannot be resolved by CATI are sent to the field for personal visit (PV) interviews. The GQ code is a critical component to correctly tabulate the data for different types of GQs. This operation began in October 1998 and will conclude in July 1999.

To evaluate this operation, the Census Bureau is proposing to conduct a follow-up operation to the Census 2000 Special Place Facility Questionnaire. The types of information collected during the interviews will concern the types of services the facility provides, the number of persons that reside within the facility, and what types of GQs are associated with the facility. All information collected will be pertinent

to verifying the accuracy of the GQ code.

A personal visit reinterview of 1,000 cases that were initially CATI or PV will be conducted. These 1,000 cases will consist of two strata, large and complex special places with a sample size of 750, (i.e. universities, hospitals) and others with a sample size of 250, (i.e. nursing homes). We will use these data to determine: (1) How well the facility questionnaire performed by assessing the frequency with which the group quarters classification code was different between the production interview and reinterview, (2) whether or not there was a significant difference in the occurrence of group quarters classification code change by special place type, and (3) whether or not CATI versus PV increased data quality by computing item nonresponse rates. The evaluation interviews will be conducted in six regions during January 2000.

##### II. Method of Collection

The reinterview will be conducted via personal visits administered by specially trained interviewers using a paper questionnaire that has been modified from the production questionnaire. The design of the reinterview questionnaire is based on the results of cognitive tests and research conducted prior to the Census 2000 Dress Rehearsal.

##### III. Data

*OMB Number:* Not available.

*Form Number:* Not available.

*Type of Review:* Regular Submission.

*Affected Public:* Individuals, businesses or other for-profit organizations, non-profit institutions and small businesses or organizations.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 1,000.

*Estimated Time per Response:* 15 minutes.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 250.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost:* There is no cost to the respondent other than the time to provide the information requested.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Voluntary.

*Legal Authority:* Title 13, United States Code, Sections 141 and 193.

##### IV. Request for 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 shall have a practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information;