

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

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

February 3, 2005.

The Department of Agriculture has submitted the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Comments regarding (a) Whether the 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 burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; (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 should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Pamela_Beverly_OIRA_Submission@OMB.EOP.GOV or fax (202) 395-5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, DC 20250-7602. Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of this notification. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720-8681.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to

the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Food and Nutrition Service

Title: Report of Food Stamp Benefit Issuance and Commodity Distribution for Disaster Relief.

OMB Control Number: 0584-0037.

Summary of Collection: The Emergency Food Stamp Assistance Program is authorized by the Disaster Relief Act of 1970; the Food Stamp Act, as amended; and Part 274 of the Food Stamp Program regulations. The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) initiate this program in a food stamp project area when all or part of the area has been affected by a disaster. Food distribution in disaster situations is authorized under Section 32 of the Act of August 24, 1935. Surplus foods are made available by State distributing agencies for relief purposes to victims of natural disasters such as hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, etc. Distribution to these recipients is made primarily through such organizations as the American Red Cross or the Salvation Army. These organizations use surplus foods for both central feeding operations and for distribution to families in homes cut off from normal sources of food supply. Form FNS-292 will be used by State welfare departments to report to FNS the number of households and persons who were certified for Emergency Food Stamp Assistance, and also to report the value of benefits issued to those households.

Need and Use of the Information: FNS will collect information through the use of form FNS-292, which is used by the FNS Administrator, the Food Distribution Division, and the three Food Stamp Program divisions to monitor program activity, assess coverage provided to needy recipients, and to prepare budget requests. If the information were not collected, FNS would be unable to monitor the issuance of food stamp benefits and the distribution of surplus foods during disaster situations.

Description of Respondents: State, local, or tribal government.

Number of Respondents: 55.

Frequency of Responses: Recordkeeping; reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 97.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 05-2464 Filed 2-8-05; 8:45 am]

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displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Farm Service Agency

Title: 7 CFR 1962-1, Agreement for the Use of Proceeds/Release of Chattel Security.

OMB Control Number: 0560-0171.

Summary of Collection: Section 335(f) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (CONACT) requires release of normal income security to pay essential household and farm operating expenses of the borrower, until the Farm Service Agency (FSA) accelerates the loans. The FSA agreed in the consent decree to approve a borrower's planned use of proceeds from the disposition of their chattel security, record any changes to planned use, and record the actual disposition of chattel security for the year of operation.

Need and Use of the Information: FSA will collect information on the actual and planned disposition of chattel security through the use of form FSA 1962-1. This form allows for normal income releases as required for payment of essential family living and farm operating expenses, provides the borrower with information on how to report sales of chattels, income received and how to notify agency of any changes to the operation or the use of chattel proceeds. The information collected will come from FSA borrowers who may be individual farmers or farming entities.

Description of Respondent: Farms; business or other for-profit; individuals or households.

Number of Respondents: 69,300.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: annually.

Total Burden Hours: 20,531.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 05-2465 Filed 2-8-05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Plumas National Forest, California; Empire Vegetation Management Project

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The USDA Forest Service Plumas National Forest will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on a proposal to construct a Defensible Fuel Profile Zone (DFPZ), harvest trees

using group-selection and individual tree selection silvicultural methods, and perform associated road-system improvement work in forested areas of public land northeast of Quincy, California.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received within 30 days of the date of publication of this Notice of Intent in the **Federal Register**. The draft EIS is expected in April 2005 and the final EIS is expected in July 2005.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to James M. Peña, Plumas National Forest, PO Box 11500, Quincy, CA 95971. Fax: (530) 283-7746. Electronic comments should be sent to: *comments-pacificsouthwest-plumas@fs.fed.us*.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gary Rotta, Interdisciplinary Team Leader, Mt. Hough Ranger District, telephone (530) 283-7687.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Tentative or Preliminary Issues and Possible Alternatives

In June 2004, James M. Peña solicited public comment for the Empire Vegetation Management Project proposed action. Comments received during that initial scoping period will be considered in this analysis. Substantial questions regarding the potential environmental effects of the original proposed action have prompted the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). All action alternatives will need to respond to the specific condition of providing benefits equal to or better than the current condition. Other alternatives may be developed based on significant issues identified during the scoping process for this EIS. Alternatives being considered at this time include: (A) The Proposed Action and (B) No Action, as well as possible alternatives that consider watershed concerns, fuel treatments that allow for continuity of wildlife habitat, increased economical efficiency, density of group selection harvest units and how it affects continuous forest cover and edge effect.

The proposed action is designed to meet the standards and guidelines for land management activities in the Plumas National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (1988) (LRMP) as amended by the Record of Decision for the Herger-Feinstein Quincy Library Group Forest Recovery Act (1999) (HFQLG), and as amended by the Record of Decision for the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (2004).

The proposed action is located in Plumas County, California, within the Mt. Hough Ranger District of the Plumas

National Forest in all or portions of Section 1, T23N, R9E; Section 6, T23N, R10E; Sections 4 & 8, T23N, R11E; Sections 1-6, 8-12, 13-16, 22-26, 31, and 32, T24N, R10E; Sections 5-8, 15, 17, 21-28, and 33-35, T24N, R11E; Sections 1, 10-12, 13, 14, 21-28, 33-34, and 26, T25N, R9E; Sections 6-8 and 14-35, T25N, R10E; Sections 19, 29, 30, 31, and 32, T25N, R11E, MDM.

Purpose and Need for Action

The need for and purpose of the project has three elements: (1) To implement fuel reduction in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) and, as part of the larger HFQLG fuel treatment strategic network as called for by the HFQLG Act (section 401[b][1] and [d][1]) and the HFQLG amendment to the LRMP, to reduce the potential size and intensity of wildfires and provide fire suppression personnel safe locations for taking action against wildfires; (2) to implement group selection and individual tree selection, as directed in the HFQLG Act (section 401[b][1] and [d][2]) and the HFQLG amendment of the LRMP, to test the effectiveness of an uneven-aged silvicultural system in achieving an all-aged, multistory, fire resilient forest, providing an adequate timber supply that contributes to the economic stability of rural communities, and improving and maintaining ecological health of the forest; and (3) to reduce impacts of the transportation system on forest resources and provide the necessary access for the fuel treatments and the group and individual tree selection harvests.

Proposed Action

The assessment area for the project is about 103,000 acres. The project is composed of four actions: (1) Fuel treatments; (2) group selection timber harvest; (3) individual tree selection harvest; and (4) transportation system improvement. Fuel treatments would consist of construction of defensible fuel profile zones (DFPZs) and other areas of hazardous fuel reduction around communities, totaling about 6,600 acres. Group selection timber harvest as part of the HFQLG pilot project would be conducted on about 1,300 acres. Individual tree selection harvests would take place over about 4,000 acres surrounding the group selection units, with a focus on dead or dying trees, those at high risk or of poor genetic quality, and crowded stands. To provide access for the project and reduce impacts of the existing road system on key resources, about three miles of new system roads would be constructed and closed after use; six miles of temporary