

missions and which are included in contract specifications.

Description of Respondents:

Individuals or households; Business or other for-profit; State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 2,700.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 1,226.

Forest Service

Title: 36 CFR Part 228, Subpart A—Locatable Minerals.

OMB Control Number: 0596–0022.

Summary of Collection: The United States Mining Law of 1982, as amended, governs the prospecting for and appropriation of metallic and most nonmetallic minerals on 192 millions acres of National Forest set up by proclamation from the public domain. It gives individuals the right to search for and extract valuable mineral deposits of locatable minerals and secure title to the lands involved. Recording that claim in the local courthouse and with the appropriate BLM State Office affords protection to the mining claimant from subsequent locators. A mining claimant is entitled to reasonable access to claim for further prospecting, mining or necessary related activities, subject to the other laws and applicable regulations. The purpose of the regulations at 36 CFR part 228, subpart A, is to set some specific rules and procedures through which use of the surface of National Forest System lands in connection with mineral operations authorized by the United States mining laws shall be conducted so as to minimize adverse environmental impacts on surface resources. The Forest Service (FS) will collect information using form FS 2800–5, Plan of Operations for Mining Activities on National Forest System Lands.

Need and Use of the Information: FS will collect information requirements for a Notice of Intent to include the name, address, and telephone number of the operator; the area involved; the nature of the proposed operations; the route of access to the area of operations and the method of transport. The information requirements for a Plan of Operations includes: The name and legal mailing address of the operators; a description of the type of operations proposed; a description of how it would be conducted; a description of the type and standard of existing/proposed roads/access route; a description of the means of transportation to be used; a description of the period during which the proposed activity will take place; and measures to meet the environmental protection requirements. The

information requirements for a cessation of operation include: verification to maintain the structures, equipment and other facilities; expected reopening date; estimate of extended duration of operations; and maintenance of the site, structure, equipment and other facilities during nonoperating periods.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 737.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Other (approved for a given period).

Total Burden Hours: 4,661.

Forest Service

Title: Social and Cultural Structure of Private Forestry.

OMB Control Number: 0596–NEW.

Summary of Collection: Non-industrial Private Forest (NIPF) land represents about 95 percent of the private forest owners and 63 percent of the private forestland in the southern United States. NIPF lands provide many important public and private benefits including timber supply, forest health, watershed protection, biodiversity, aesthetics, wildlife, recreation, income, and investment. These benefits are enhanced when landowners receive professional forestry assistance, though very few landowners seek assistance or have written management plans for their forests. Forest Service along with a team of researchers from the Southern Research Station, and the College of Agricultural, Environmental, and Natural Sciences, Tuskegee University will conduct a study of minority forest landowners at three sites in the South.

Need and Use of the Information: This study will provide guidance for (a) reaching underserved landowners, (b) motivating a wider range of forest landowners to take action to meet their objectives, and (c) developing new survey questions for use in NIPF studies nationwide. The information collected during face-to-face interviews with forest landowners includes responses to “twenty statements test” to measure identity, identification of social networks utilized to acquire forest management information, demographic data, life history regarding land ownership and forest management. Learning how diverse forest landowners operate within social and cultural contexts will produce practical and theoretical benefits. The information gathered will contribute to scientific presentations and publications and will assist in developing new approaches for delivery of assistance to forest landowners.

Description of Respondents:

Individuals or Households.

Number of Respondents: 100.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 200.

Charlene Parker,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

May 16, 2008.

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), 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) 720–8958.

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.

Natural Resource Conservation Service

Title: Emergency Watershed Protection Program Recovery.

OMB Control Number: 0578-0030.

Summary of Collection: The Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program regulations at 7 CFR 624 set forth the basic policies, program provisions, and eligibility requirements for sponsors to participate in the EWP program. The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) is responsible for administration of EWP Program. EWP assistance is provided to sponsors to undertake emergency measures for runoff retardation and soil erosion prevention to safeguard lives and property from floods, drought, and the products of erosion on any watershed whenever fire, flood, or any other natural disaster occurrence is causing or has caused a sudden impairment of that watershed. The sponsor's request is submitted formally as a letter (NRCS-PDM-20A) to the NRCS State Conservationist for consideration. Form NRCS-PDM-20, Damage Survey Report (DSR) is the agency decision-making document that includes the economic, social, and environmental evaluation, as well as the engineer's cost estimate.

Need and Use of the Information: The collected information allows the responsible federal official to make EWP eligibility determinations and provide federal cost-share payments to the sponsors. Without the information NRCS would not be able to implement the program.

Description of Respondents: State, Local, or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 190.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Other (Disaster Occurrence).

Total Burden Hours: 5,035.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

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BILLING CODE 3410-16-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Caribou-Targhee National Forest, ID; Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Targhee Revised Forest Plan With Proposed Forest Plan Amendment

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare a supplemental environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The Caribou-Targhee National Forest is proposing to prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to the Targhee Revised

Forest Plan (FEIS) to disclose effects of a proposed amendment to the TRFP to address Plan direction for forested vegetation that presently does not reflect the ecological capability of forest ecosystems found on the Targhee National Forest and to also clarify TRFP direction on snags.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received within 45 days from the date of this publication. The draft supplemental environmental impact statement is expected July of 2008 and the final supplemental environmental impact statement is expected November 2008.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Robbin Redman, Forest Planner, Caribou-Targhee National Forest, 1405 Hollipark Drive, Idaho Falls, Idaho. Electronic comments can be sent to comments-intermtn-caribou-targhee@fs.fed.us.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robbin Redman, Forest Planner, Caribou-Targhee National Forest, 1405 Hollipark Drive, Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401 or telephone (208) 557-5821.

Purpose and Need for Action

The Caribou-Targhee National Forest (C-T) has completed an assessment of forest vegetation for the Targhee portion of the C-T and in addition to this assessment the Forest has previously completed identification of the properly functioning condition (PFC) for forested landscapes in the Madison-Pitchstone Plateau Subsection. Scientific research papers published after the TRFP and PFC were also completed that help the Forest to identify desired conditions that better match the ecological capabilities of forested vegetation including a range of amounts and distribution of old growth and late seral structural stages by forest type.

The results of the information discussed above indicate a need to amend guidance in the TRFP for old growth and late seral structural stages to better describe desired conditions in the TRFP for old growth and late seral structural stages. Specifically, review of existing information and TRFP direction indicates the following:

The TRFP established guidelines for old growth and late seral forest stages that suggest minimum percentages of forested acres of old growth and late seral forest be present in each principal watershed. Presence and persistence of late seral stages and old growth are highly dependent on natural disturbance cycles that vary with forest type. For example, several principal watersheds are dominated by the lodgepole pine forest type, which rarely

develops old growth conditions on the Targhee National Forest. Natural disturbance cycles in lodgepole pine forest such as insects, disease, and fire recur frequently enough to preclude development of old-growth conditions in most of this type. Therefore, the old growth and late seral guidelines presently in the TRFP do not reflect the ecological capability of these forest ecosystems.

Similarly, several principal watersheds have a large component of the aspen forest type. On the Targhee, aspen is primarily seral to conifer. Stable aspen is rare and limited to harsh sites generally along ecotones with poor growing conditions where conifer cannot establish. Absent disturbances in seral types, these aspen stands will eventually be replaced by conifer types and it is unlikely that late seral or old growth aspen stands will develop or persist. Even though the ecological capability of these forest types is different from others such as spruce/fir the Forest is still proposing to manage for old growth and replacement old growth in these forest types, this would be for vegetation diversity.

Recent insect outbreaks have changed the number and distribution of snags over much of the Targhee NF. Currently TRFP snag direction requires several levels of analysis of snags: at the prescription area, at the watershed level and at a 100 acre level. This direction will be reviewed and adjusted to reflect current conditions and allow for wildlife habitat needs.

Proposed Action

The Caribou-Targhee National Forest is proposing to amend the TRFP with regard to Plan direction for old growth and late seral forested vegetation. The Proposed old growth direction will be to manage for ten percent of forested acres in a combination of old growth and replacement old growth in ecological subsections. The old growth would meet Region 4 Characteristics of Old Growth Forests definitions. The Forest is also proposing to clarify snag direction in the Plan to allow more ease in implementation while still providing for wildlife habitat needs.

Possible Alternatives

The Forest has developed the Proposed Action and the no-action alternative which is to continue with current TRFP direction.

Lead and Cooperating Agencies

The Caribou-Targhee National Forest is the lead agency for this project.