

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

July 27, 2020.

The Department of Agriculture will submit the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13 on or after the date of publication of this notice. Comments are requested regarding: 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; the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and 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.

Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received by August 31, 2020. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be submitted within 30 days of the publication of this notice on the following website [www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain). Find this particular information collection by selecting “Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments” or by using the search function.

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.

### National Agricultural Statistics Service

*Title:* Census of Agriculture Content Test.

*OMB Control Number:* 0535–0243.

*Summary of Collection:* The purpose of the content test is to evaluate factors impacting the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) Census of Agriculture program. The factors include, but are not limited to, respondent burden, questionnaire format and design, internet instrument performance, new items, changes in question wording and location, ease of completion, and processing methodology such as edit and summary. The proposed forms and letters will be used in several tests in 2020–2021 in preparation for conducting the 2022 Census of Agriculture. NASS is responsible for conducting the Census of Agriculture under the authority of the Census of Agriculture Act of 1997, Public Law 105–113 (U.S.C. 2204g).

This is a reinstatement of the Census of Agriculture Content Test, which is conducted every five years prior to the full Census of Agriculture. The last content test was done in 2015–2016 in preparation for the 2017 Census of Agriculture.

*Need and Use of the Information:* The Census of Agriculture Content Test is designed to evaluate a number of factors affecting the Census of Agriculture program. It is critical to NASS' ability to design a successful census survey. The actual Census of Agriculture is required by law every five years and serves as the basis for many agriculturally-based decisions. Less frequent content test collections would hinder NASS' ability to adequately evaluate changes needed to improve census data collection and therefore recognize changing trends in agriculture.

*Description of Respondents:* Farmers and Ranchers.

*Number of Respondents:* 51,200.

*Frequency of Responses:* Reporting: Other (every 5 years).

*Total Burden Hours:* 29,788.

### National Agricultural Statistics Service

*Title:* Local Food Marketing Practices Survey.

*OMB Control Number:* 0535–0259.

*Summary of Collection:* Data will be collected under the authority of 7 U.S.C. 2204(a). Section 10016(a)(1)(A) of the 2014 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 113–79) directs the Department of Agriculture (USDA) to collect data on “the production and marketing of locally or regionally produced agricultural food products,” while Section 10016(b)(2) requires USDA to “conduct surveys and analysis and publish reports relating to the production, handling, distribution, retail sales, and trend studies . . . of or on locally or regionally produced agricultural food products.”

This is a reinstatement of the survey that was conducted in 2016, referencing the calendar year 2015. The 2018 Farm Bill has provided funding for the continuation of the Local Food programs through 2023. The Local Foods Marketing Practices Survey will be a Census follow-on-survey.

*Need and Use of the Information:* The Local Food Marketing Practices Survey (LFMPS) is valuable because local farms have different business models than conventional farms, and the LFMPS is able to discern important data that are otherwise unavailable from pre-existing farmer surveys. This includes details on different types of market channels used, information about on-farm value-added processing, and outreach and advertising directly to community members and shoppers. Food and agriculture economists and other researchers in university, government, and nonprofit sectors analyze and rely on the data in this survey to understand local food marketing practices, make programmatic decisions, and support farms and related food production, aggregation, and distribution businesses.

Because the survey gathers data on production, risk management, and marketing practices, it will be used by a number of USDA agencies and federal policymakers to inform their policies and programs. Just some of the USDA agencies that will benefit from this data are Farm Service Agency (FSA), Risk Management Agency (RMA), Rural Development (RD), Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), and Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). Farms in all 50 states will be asked to provide these data. Statistics from this survey will be used by state agencies to better understand, support, and promote their local food markets, as well as by researchers studying local foods.

*Description of Respondents:* Farmers and Ranchers.

*Number of Respondents:* 36,550.

*Frequency of Responses:* Reporting: Annually.

*Total Burden Hours:* 20,428.

**Ruth Brown,**

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Jefferson National Forest; Monroe County, West Virginia; Giles and Montgomery County, Virginia; Mountain Valley Pipeline and Equitrans Expansion Project Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

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

**SUMMARY:** The USDA Forest Service (FS) is preparing a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to the 2017 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP) and Equitrans Expansion Project. The MVP project proposed action that is specific to National Forest System (NFS) lands is to construct and operate a buried 42-inch natural gas pipeline across approximately 3.5 miles of the Jefferson National Forest (JNF). The FS, as the lead agency, and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), as the Federal cooperating agency, have decisions to be made based on a review of the 2017 FERC FEIS and this supplemental analysis.

**DATES:** The Draft SEIS is expected to be available by September 2020 and the Final SEIS is anticipated later in 2020.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For media inquiries or to leave a message about the project on the JNF, please contact Nadine Siak via email at [SM.FS.GWJNF-PA@usda.gov](mailto:SM.FS.GWJNF-PA@usda.gov) or leave a voicemail at 1-888-603-0261. Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday. For inquiries for the BLM, contact Francis Piccoli by email at: [Fpiccoli@blm.gov](mailto:Fpiccoli@blm.gov) or by phone at (209) 912-7717.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

### Background and History

The MVP is a proposed 303.5 mile interstate natural gas pipeline that crosses about 3.5 miles of the JNF, in Monroe County, West Virginia and Giles and Montgomery County, Virginia. The FS and the BLM participated as cooperating agencies with the FERC in the preparation of the MVP EIS. On June 29, 2017, the Notice of Availability for the FERC FEIS and the FS Draft Record of Decision (ROD) for the Mountain Valley Project Land and Resource Management Plan Amendment was published in the **Federal Register**.

On December 1, 2017, the FS adopted the FEIS and a ROD was signed by the JNF Forest Supervisor. The ROD amended the JNF Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) to allow the project to be consistent with the Forest Plan. The ROD included resource protection terms and conditions for the BLM to include should their decision be to grant a right-of-way (ROW). Therefore, both BLM and the FS have overlapping jurisdiction concerning the issuance of the terms and conditions, or stipulations included within the ROW grant.

Under the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 185 *et seq.*) (MLA), the BLM is the Federal agency responsible for issuing ROW grants for natural gas pipeline across Federal lands under the jurisdiction of two or more Federal agencies. The BLM is, therefore, responsible for considering the issuance of a ROW grant for the MVP for pipeline construction and operation across the lands under the jurisdiction of the FS and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). In 2017, the BLM received written concurrence to proceed from both federal agencies and on December 20, 2017 issued a ROD approving the MLA ROW grant to construct and operate the MVP pipeline across federal lands. The BLM ROD included a temporary use authorization.

Project implementation began in December 2017 and continued until July 27, 2018 when the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals vacated and remanded the FS's decision approving the JNF plan amendment and BLM's MLA ROW decision. However, the Court vacated the BLM's MLA ROW decision only as it related to the portion through FS lands; the ROW across USACE lands was not affected and that decision remains in place. The Fourth Circuit concluded that aspects of the FS decision failed to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Forest Management Act (NFMA). The Court upheld the BLM's adoption of and

reliance on FERC's FEIS as satisfying the requirements of NEPA in support of the MLA ROW decision across federal lands. The Court, however, vacated BLM's decision approving the MLA ROW across the JNF, concluding that the BLM did not analyze and determine whether the proposed route utilized rights-of-way in common to the extent practical, as required by the MLA, 30 U.S.C. 185(p).

On May 1, 2020, Mountain Valley Pipeline, LLC (Mountain Valley) submitted a revised MLA ROW application to the BLM seeking to construct and operate the natural gas pipeline across the JNF. Mountain Valley also requested that the FS amend the JNF Forest Plan consistent with the issues identified by the Fourth Circuit Court. On May 28, 2020, the BLM deemed Mountain Valley's revised application complete. For more detailed information on the background and history of the MVP project, see the project website at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/gwj/landmanagement/projects/?cid=stelprd3827827>.

### Purpose and Need for Action

The FS's purpose and need for the proposed action is to respond to a proposal from Mountain Valley to construct and operate a buried 42-inch interstate natural gas pipeline that would cross NFS lands on the JNF along a proposed 3.5-mile corridor. A FS decision is needed because the project would not be consistent with several JNF Forest Plan standards including utility corridors, soil, riparian, old growth, the Appalachian National Scenic Trail (ANST), and scenic integrity without a project-specific amendment. Relatedly, there is a need to determine what terms and conditions, or stipulations should be provided to the BLM in order to protect resources and the public interest consistent with the MLA, 30 U.S.C. 185(h).

For the FS, a supplemental analysis and new decision are needed because the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals vacated the FS ROD. The Court identified both NFMA and NEPA issues. To resolve the Court's NFMA issues, there is a need, at a minimum, to apply FS Planning Rule requirements to soil and riparian resources and evaluate both the purpose and the effects of the amendment to threatened and endangered aquatic species, consistent with 36 CFR 219.13(b)(5). To ensure all resources potentially affected by the amendment receive equal consideration, there is a need to apply the Planning Rule requirements to resources including water; terrestrial and