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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Bridger-Teton National Forest; Wyoming; Revision of the Land Management Plan for the Bridger-Teton National Forest

AGENCY: Forest Service, Agriculture (USDA).

ACTION: Notice of intent to initiate the assessment phase of the Land Management Plan revision for the Bridger-Teton National Forest.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, is initiating the assessment phase of the Land Management Plan revision process for the Bridger-Teton National Forest, located in Wyoming. The assessment supports the subsequent planning phase, which will result in a revised land management plan to guide all resource management activities on the Bridger-Teton National Forest. The assessment will identify and consider relevant and readily accessible material about ecological, social, and economic conditions and trends in the planning area and will identify best available scientific information including and Native or Indigenous knowledge. Findings will then help describe the need to change the plan and inform revision of the plan.

DATES: In late 2022, the Bridger-Teton National Forest Supervisor and staff initiated engagement with Tribes, and letters inviting consultation were mailed to Tribes in November 2023. Additional engagements with Tribal, county, State, and Federal entities, as well as public engagement opportunities occurred in 2023 and early 2024. Additional engagement with Tribes, cooperating agencies, and the public are planned for 2024 through the assessment phase. Future engagements will be planned for the subsequent plan revision phases. Interested parties may learn more about

this and future planning phases, as well as information on opportunities to engage by visiting the Bridger-Teton land management planning website, located at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/btnf/landmanagement/planning/?cid=FSEPRD1093592>.

A draft assessment for public review and comment is expected in summer 2024. After review and incorporation of public comments and additional information from Tribal consultation on the draft assessment, a final assessment and need to change the plan will be produced and used in subsequent phases of the plan revision.

ADDRESSES: For questions about Land Management Plan revision or comments on initiating the assessment phase of plan revision, please address mail to: Bridger-Teton National Forest, Attn: Forest Plan Revision, P.O. Box 1888, Jackson, WY 83001 or hand-deliver to the Supervisor's Office, 340 N Cache Street, Jackson, WY. Questions may also be sent electronically to comments-intermtn-bridger-teton@usda.gov. All correspondence, including names and addresses, will be part of the public record.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dominique Brough, Forest Plan Revision Team Leader, by phone at (307) 739-5508 or by email at dominique.brough@usda.gov; or Mary Cernicek, Strategic Communications and Planning Public Affairs Officer, by phone at (307) 739-5564 or by email at mary.cernicek@usda.gov. Individuals who use telecommunications devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339, 24 hours a day, every day of the year, including holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The 2012 Planning Rule (36 CFR part 219), which implements the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) of 1976, provides that the Forest Service develop, maintain, and revise Land Management Plans for all National Forests and Grasslands. Land Management Plans provide the programmatic framework for management of forest resources and are amendable as conditions change over time. The current Bridger-Teton Land Management Plan was adopted in 1990.

The 2012 Planning Rule requires the assessment to include information regarding the status and trends of ecological, social, and economic

conditions within the planning area and across the broader landscape. In particular, the agency must identify and evaluate information relevant to the plan area for the following: (1) Terrestrial ecosystems, aquatic ecosystems, and watersheds; (2) Air, soil, and water resources and quality; (3) System drivers, including dominant ecological processes, disturbance regimes, and stressors, such as natural succession, wildland fire, invasive species, and climate change, and the ability of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems in the plan area to adapt to change; (4) Baseline assessment of carbon stocks; (5) Threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species, and potential species of conservation concern present in the plan area; (6) Social, cultural, and economic conditions; (7) Benefits people obtain from the national forest system planning area (ecosystem services); (8) Multiple uses and their contributions to local, regional, and national economies; (9) Recreation settings, opportunities and access, and scenic character; (10) Renewable and nonrenewable energy and mineral resources; (11) Infrastructure, such as recreational facilities and transportation and utility corridors; (12) Areas of tribal importance; (13) Cultural and historic resources and uses; (14) Land status and ownership and access patterns; and (15) Existing designated areas located in the plan area including wilderness and wild and scenic rivers and potential need and opportunity for additional designated areas. (36 CFR 219.6)

During this assessment phase, the Forest Service invites other government agencies, Tribes, non-governmental parties, and the public to share information about social, economic, and environmental conditions of the Bridger-Teton National Forest and the broader landscape. Existing information about conditions on the Bridger-Teton, including information gathered through public engagement, from cooperating agencies, and Tribal consultation, will be integrated into the assessment. The Forest Service will host public outreach forums to share progress and gather additional information.

Topics of interest will be discussed in the assessment and subsequent plan development phases include: areas of tribal importance; at-risk species; livestock grazing; management within

inventoried roadless areas; watersheds and intact ecosystems; habitat connectivity; sustainable recreation; human population pressures; mature and old growth forest conditions; fire management within the wildland urban interface; and timber management and production trends. Wilderness evaluation and the identification of eligible wild and scenic rivers will be separate from the assessment but included in plan development.

Responsible Official: The responsible official for the revision of the Land Management Plan is Chad Hudson, Forest Supervisor, Bridger-Teton National Forest.

Dated: May 17, 2024.

Troy Heithecker,

Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest System.

[FR Doc. 2024-11664 Filed 5-28-24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Census Bureau

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Business Enterprise Research and Development Survey

AGENCY: Census Bureau, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of information collection, request for comment.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed, and continuing information collections, which helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. The purpose of this notice is to allow for 60 days of public comment on the proposed extension of the Business Enterprise Research and Development Survey, prior to the submission of the information collection request (ICR) to OMB for approval.

DATES: To ensure consideration, comments regarding this proposed information collection must be received on or before July 29, 2024.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments by email to Thomas.J.Smith@census.gov. Please reference Business Enterprise Research and Development Survey in the subject line of your comments. You may also submit comments, identified

by Docket Number USBC-2024-0014, to the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. All comments received are part of the public record. No comments will be posted to <http://www.regulations.gov> for public viewing until after the comment period has closed. Comments will generally be posted without change. All Personally Identifiable Information (for example, name and address) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information. You may submit attachments to electronic comments in Microsoft Word, Excel, or Adobe PDF file formats.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information or specific questions related to collection activities should be directed to Michael Flaherty, U.S. Census Bureau, Chief, Research, Development & Innovation Surveys Branch, 301-763-7699, michael.j.flaherty@census.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The U.S. Census Bureau, with support from the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES) within the National Science Foundation, plans to conduct the Business Enterprise Research and Development Survey (BERD) for the 2024-2026 survey years. BERD covers all domestic, non-farm, for-profit businesses with at least 10 paid employees. BERD provides the only comprehensive national data on Research and Development (R&D) costs and detailed expenses by type and industry.

The Census Bureau has conducted a business R&D survey since 1957, collecting primarily financial information on the systematic work companies undertake to discover new knowledge or use existing knowledge to develop new or improved goods and services.

The 2024-2026 BERD will continue to collect the following types of information:

- R&D expense based on accepted accounting standards.
- Worldwide R&D of U.S. companies.
- Business segment detail.
- R&D-related capital expenditures.
- Detailed data about the R&D workforce.
- R&D strategy and data on the potential impact of R&D on the market.
- R&D directed to application areas of particular national interest.

- Data measuring intellectual property protection activities and technology transfer.

Domestic and foreign researchers in academia, business, and government analyze and cite data from the BERD. Among the federal government users are the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) and the White House's Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). BEA includes R&D in the system of national accounts that measures the economic well-being of the country. BERD data are key inputs into these accounts, which feed into the calculation of the U.S. Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The White House, in 2006, issued the American Competitiveness Initiative to "increase investments in research and development, strengthen education, and encourage entrepreneurship." In support of this initiative and in response to legislative mandates, data on R&D are delivered to OSTP, primarily in the biennial National Science Board report Science and Engineering Indicators. Also, the National Science Foundation (NSF) produces a series of publications containing R&D data including the National Patterns of R&D Resources series, the S&E State Profile series, and the annual Business Enterprise Research and Development Survey series. Special reports and other publications are also prepared.

II. Method of Collection

BERD utilizes an online survey instrument. Respondents are mailed and emailed letters directing them to create a Census account and access the survey through their account. The online survey automatically skips questions that do not apply [based on previous responses] and checks for common errors. Links to detailed question-by-question instructions will be embedded in the electronic instrument. Excel spreadsheets are available to facilitate the electronic collection of information from various areas of the companies. A consolidator spreadsheet is also available to assist companies that need to gather information from business units and then compile the information into one company report.

Limited data can be taken over the phone should companies choose to call and wish to report that way.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0607-0912.

Form Number(s): BRD-1.

Type of Review: Regular submission, Request for an Extension, without Change, of a Currently Approved Collection.