

# Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 64, No. 116

Thursday, June 17, 1999

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.

## AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Delegation of Authority and Line of Succession

**AGENCY:** Agency for International Development, Office of Inspector General.

**ACTION:** Delegation of authority and line of succession.

**SUMMARY:** This document amends Delegation of Authority No. 14-01, FR Doc. 95-16531, dated June 29, 1995, by removing the Assistant Inspector General for Security from the line of succession to serve as Acting Inspector General. The Security Office was recently realigned out of the Office of Inspector General.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** February 3, 1999.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mary C. Pleffner, (202) 712-0135.

This rule is hereby issued to effect a delegation of authority and provide a line of succession from the Inspector General as follows:

I. Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, in the event of death, disability, absence, resignation, or removal of the Inspector General, U.S. Agency of International Development, the officials designated below, in the order indicated, and in the absence of the specific designation of another official in writing by the Inspector General or the Acting Inspector General, are hereby authorized to and shall serve as Acting Inspector General and shall perform the duties and are delegated the full authority and power ascribed to the Inspector General by law and regulation as well as those authorities delegated to the Inspector General by the Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development.

1. Deputy Inspector General.
2. Assistant Inspector General for Audit.
3. Assistant Inspector General for Investigations.

II. Anyone designated by the Inspector General as acting in one of the positions listed above remains in the line of succession; otherwise, the authority moves to the next position.

III. This delegation is not in derogation of any authority residing in the above officials relating to the operations of their respective programs, nor does it affect the validity of any delegations currently in force and effect and not specifically cited as revoked or revised herein.

IV. The authorities delegated herein may not be redelegated.

Dated: May 28, 1999.

**Jeffrey Rush Jr.,**  
*Inspector General.*

[FR Doc. 99-15426 Filed 6-16-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6116-01-M

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Information Collection; Request for Comments; National Woodland Ownership Study

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Forest Service announces its intent to reinstate, with change, a previously approved information collection. This information will help the agency evaluate the availability and sustainability of timber resources on private forest lands. Forest Service personnel will collect information from owners of private forest lands.

**DATES:** Comments must be received in writing on or before August 16, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** All comments should be addressed to Thomas Birch, Northeastern Research Station, 5 Radnor Corp. Cntr., Suite 200, Radnor, PA 19087 or email [tbirch/ne\\_fia@fs.fed.us](mailto:tbirch/ne_fia@fs.fed.us) or FAX: 610-975-4200.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Thomas Birch, 610-975-4045.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

The Forest and Range Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, the Forest and Range Land Renewable Resources Act of 1978, and the Agricultural Research, Extension, and

Education Reform Act of 1998, section 253(c), require the Forest Service to collect information on the availability and sustainability of timber resources on private forest lands. Data gathered in this information collection will help the Forest Service evaluate the availability and sustainability of these lands and how well the agency disseminates information about its private forest land assistance programs. The agency will share this data with other government and university scientists, who will use the information to better understand private forest ownerships and the economics of timber production on private forest lands.

Where, in previous years, this information collection had focused on private Forest land parcels, land tenure, forest land owner demographics, and ownership objectives, the new focus will be to identify issues that owners of private forest lands believe to be of importance and to gain knowledge of how owners of private forest lands manage or plan to manage their forested lands. The revised questionnaire also will provide the agency with improved information at the State and local level of government.

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

#### Description of Information Collection

The following describes the information collection to be reinstated with change:

*Title:* National Woodland Ownership Study.

*OMB Number:* 0596-0078.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* October 31, 1997.

*Type of Request:* Reinstatement, with change, of a previously approved information collection for which Office of Management and Budget approval has expired.

*Abstract:* The collected information will help the Forest Service evaluate the agency's private forest land programs. These programs focus on opportunities for sustainable management of private forests. Sustainable private forest lands are essential for public recreational use and timber production. There are almost 10 million private forest land ownerships in the United States.

To gain knowledge of issues of importance to owners of private forest lands and of demographic data about owners of private forest lands, as well

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