

Preparation of the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

APHIS will consider all comments received by the close of the comment period in the development of the final EIS for the Fruit Fly Cooperative Control Program. A notice announcing the availability of the final document will be published in a subsequent **Federal Register** notice.

This notice is issued in accordance with: (1) The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), (2) regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500–1508), (3) USDA regulations implementing NEPA (7 CFR part 1b), and (4) APHIS' NEPA Implementing Procedures (7 CFR part 372).

Done in Washington, DC, this 3rd day of August 1999.

Bobby R. Acord,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 99–20820 Filed 8–11–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–U

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Forest Service****Information Collection; Request for Comments; Land Exchanges**

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Forest Service announces its intention to reinstate, without change, a previously approved information collection. This information collection will provide the Forest Service with the information to complete an Agreement to Initiate and an Exchange Agreement when cooperating in land exchanges with non-Federal parties. Forest Service personnel collect the information from non-Federal land exchange parties.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing on or before October 12, 1999.

ADDRESSES: All comments should be addressed to Jack L. Craven, Director, Lands Staff, Mail Stop 1124, Forest Service, USDA, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, D.C. 20090–6090.

Comments also may be submitted via facsimile to (202) 205–1604 or by email to: lands/wo@fs.fed.us.

The public may inspect comments received in the Office of the Director, Lands Staff, 201 14th Street, SW, Washington, DC. Visitors are encouraged to call ahead to (202) 205–

1248 to facilitate entrance into the building.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James M. Williams, Lands Specialist, at (202) 205–1248 or Kathleen L. Dolge, Realty Specialist, at (202) 205–1248.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

Land exchanges are discretionary, voluntary, real estate transactions between the Secretary of Agriculture, acting by and through the Forest Service, and non-Federal land exchange parties. Land exchanges can be initiated by a non-Federal party, an agent of a landowner, a broker, a third party, or a non-Federal public agency.

Each land exchange requires preparation of an Agreement to Initiate as required by § 254.4 of title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), which specifies the preliminary, non-binding intentions of the non-Federal land exchange party and of the Forest Service in pursuing a land exchange.

As the land exchange proposal develops, the Forest Service and the non-Federal land exchange party may enter into a binding Exchange Agreement pursuant to 36 CFR, § 254.14. The Exchange Agreement is a legally binding document delineating the conditions that must be met to complete the land exchange.

Data from this information collection can be unique to each land exchange and are not available from other sources.

Description of Information Collection

The following describes the information collection to be reinstated:

Title: Agreement to Initiate.

OMB Number: 0596–0105.

Expiration Date of Approval: May 31, 1998.

Type of Request: Reinstatement, without change, of a previously approved information collection.

Abstract: The data collected are used by the agency to facilitate a mutually beneficial land exchange between the Forest Service and a non-Federal partner.

The Agreement to Initiate is a non-binding document. Respondents answer questions in the Agreement to Initiate that include the description of properties being considered in the land exchange; an implementation schedule of action items, such as the relocation of any tenants occupying the land; and the identification of the party responsible for each action item, as well as target dates for completion of each action item.

Respondents are non-Federal land exchange parties. Forest Service

personnel collect the information by phone, in face-to-face meetings with land exchange parties, or by requesting in a letter to the exchange party that the requested information be submitted by mail.

Data gathered in the information collection are not available from other sources.

Estimate of Burden: 1 hour.

Type of Respondents: Non-Federal land exchange parties.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 100.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 100 hours.

Description of Information Collection

The following describes the information collection to be reinstated:

Title: Exchange Agreement.

OMB Number: 0596–0105.

Expiration Date of Approval: May 31, 1998.

Type of Request: Reinstatement, without change, of a previously approved information collection.

Abstract: The data collected are used by the agency to facilitate a mutually beneficial land exchange between the Forest Service and a non-Federal land exchange partner.

The Exchange Agreement is a legally binding document. Respondents will be asked questions, such as the identification of the non-Federal land exchange parties; the description of the lands and interests to be exchanged, such as roads; the identification of all reserved and outstanding interests, such as roads, minerals, and easements; and all other terms and conditions necessary to complete an exchange.

Respondents are non-Federal land exchange parties. Forest Service personnel collect the information by phone, in face-to-face meetings with land exchange parties, or by requesting in a letter to the land exchange party that the requested information be submitted by mail.

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

Estimate of Burden: 1 hour.

Type of Respondents: Non-Federal land exchange partners.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 100.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 100 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: August 4, 1999.

Arthur Bryant,

Acting Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest System.

[FR Doc. 99-20842 Filed 8-11-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Information Collection; Request for Comments; Improve Management of the Tongass National Forest and Service to Local, Regional, and National Customers

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Forest Service announces its intention to establish a new information collection. The new collection will provide information that will help Forest Service personnel identify and meet the needs of people who use, visit, or benefit in other ways from the Tongass National Forest in southeast Alaska. Respondents will be chosen from three different groups of customers: southeast Alaska residents; southeast Alaska visitors; and the general public.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing on or before October 12, 1999.

ADDRESSES: All comments should be addressed to: Robert F. Schroeder, Forestry Sciences Lab, Forest Service,

USDA, 2770 Sherwood Lane, Suite 2A, Juneau, AK 99801.

Comments also may be submitted via facsimile to (907) 586-7848 or by email to rschroeder/r10@fs.fed.us.

The public may inspect comments received at the Office of the Forestry Sciences Lab, Forest Service, USDA, 2770 Sherwood Lane, Suite 2A, Juneau, Alaska. Visitors are asked to call (907) 586-8811, extension 240, to facilitate entrance into the building.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert F. Schroeder, Forestry Sciences Lab, at (907) 586-8811, extension 240.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Tongass National Forest encompasses nearly 85 percent of the land in southeast Alaska, and activities conducted on the Forest form the basis for the regional economy. Commercial fishing, timber production, mineral extraction, and the quickly growing tourism industry depend on the renewable and non-renewable natural resources of this National Forest. The Forest Service completed a revision of the Tongass Land Management Plan in 1997 and published a revised Record of Decision in the **Federal Register** on May 11, 1999 (64 FR 25274). The Tongass Land Management Plan and Record of Decision will serve as a blueprint for how the Forest Service will manage the Tongass National Forest over the next 10 to 15 years.

While revising the Tongass Land Management Plan in 1997, the Forest Service identified critical information needs. Some of these information needs were associated with the human component of Tongass National Forest ecosystems, that is the people and social systems that benefit from these ecosystems.

The collected data, while addressing the human component, will provide the Forest Service with a better understanding of how forest management practices influence community well-being and social change within the southeast Alaska geographic area and will help the agency meet the needs of three groups of diverse customers: residents of southeast Alaska who are affected by forest management actions on a day-to-day basis, people from outside the southeast Alaska geographic area who visit the Tongass National Forest, and people who may never visit the Tongass National Forest yet believe they benefit because it exists.

The agency will gain a better understanding of the demands the public makes on the Tongass National

Forest programs and services, how well information about agency programs and services are communicated to the public, and how well the agency meets the needs and expectations of the three identified groups of people.

Forest Service personnel from the Pacific Northwest Research Station Forestry Sciences Lab in Juneau, Alaska, will work in cooperation with University of Alaska research staff to design, administer, and evaluate these surveys. Interviewers will conduct most surveys by telephone. Mail-back questionnaires and face-to-face interviews will be used to reach people who do not have telephones.

People from each of the three identified groups will be asked to respond to questions that include their perceptions of how the Tongass National Forest is managed by the agency, their preferences for how this National Forest should be managed, their perceptions of Tongass National Forest ecosystems, their past and planned visits to the Tongass National Forest, their use of the forest's resources, their vision of the forest of the future, their household and community economic dependence on the forest, and their attitudes and values concerning timber management.

The information collection is comprised of three closely related surveys: The Tongass Southeast Alaska Resident Survey, The Tongass Visitor Survey, and The Tongass National Public Survey. A description of each survey form follows.

Description of Information Collection

The following describes the new information collection:

Title: The Tongass Southeast Alaska Resident Survey.

OMB Number: New.

Expiration Date of Approval: New.

Type of Request: This is a new information collection requirement and has not received approval from the Office of Management and Budget.

Abstract: The Forest Service conducted a survey in 1979 to assess the interaction of the southeast Alaska residents with the Tongass National Forest. This survey also included the perceptions these residents had of the Tongass as a natural resource. The 1979 survey provided the most recent comprehensive information on southeast Alaska residents' subsistence and recreational use of the Tongass, their attitudes and values concerning the Tongass National Forest, their interest in the development of a regional timber economy, and their perceptions of Forest Service land management practices. This important benchmark