

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public (as well as affected agencies) concerning this information collection. We need this outside input to help us:

(1) Evaluate 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;

(2) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the burden of the information collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) Minimize the burden of the information collection on those who are to respond, through use, as appropriate, of automated, electronic, mechanical, and other collection technologies, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Estimate of burden: The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .05 hours per response.

Respondents: State field personnel, accredited veterinarians, meat inspectors, animal health technicians, and other regulated entities, including owners of cattle, swine, horses, sheep, and goats.

Estimated annual number of respondents: 3,847.

Estimated annual number of responses per respondent: 2.5258.

Estimated annual number of responses: 9,717.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 740 hours. (Due to rounding, the total annual burden hours may not equal the product of the annual number of responses multiplied by the average reporting burden per response.)

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Done in Washington, DC, this 3rd day of April 2000.

Bobby R. Acord,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 00-8680 Filed 4-6-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-U

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency

Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Farm Service Agency, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) intention to request an extension for a currently approved information collection in support of the program for Guaranteed Farm Loans.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by June 6, 2000 to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Phillip Elder, Senior Loan Officer, USDA, FSA, Farm Loan Programs, Loan Servicing Division, STOP 0523, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-0523, telephone (202) 690-4012 or Electronic mail: phillip_elder@wdc.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: (7 CFR part 762) Guaranteed Farm Loans

OMB Control Number: 0560-0155.

Expiration Date of Approval: June 30, 2000.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: Section 309(h) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (CONACT) (7 U.S.C. 1929(h)) authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to guarantee loans for CONACT purposes made by legally authorized lending agencies to eligible farmers and ranchers. FSA must assure that farmers and ranchers, joint operators, farm cooperatives, private domestic corporations and partnerships that are controlled by farmers and ranchers engaged primarily and directly in farming or ranching in the United States comply with CONACT requirements and implementing regulations at 7 CFR part 762 in order to obtain the requested assistance. A guaranteed farm ownership loan applicant, for example, must be a citizen of the United States; own and operate or become the owner and operator of not larger than a family size farm; and be unable to obtain sufficient credit elsewhere at reasonable rates and terms. The reporting and record keeping requirements imposed on the public by regulations set out in 7 CFR part 762 are necessary to administer the Farm Loan Programs (FLP) guaranteed loan program in accordance with the statutory requirements listed above and are consistent with commonly performed lending practices. Periodic collection of information after loans are made is necessary to protect the Government's financial interest. The information is stored in the FSA county

office loan files or state office lender files.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting for this collection of information is estimated to average 46 minutes per response.

Respondents: Individuals or households, businesses or other for profits, and farms.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 14,500.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 20.24.

Estimated Number of Responses: 293,538.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 226,935 hours.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the subject Agency, including whether the information will have practical 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 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 should be sent to the Desk Office for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C. 20503 and to Phillip Elder, Senior Loan Officer, USDA, FSA, Farm Loan Programs, Loan Servicing Division, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, STOP 0523, Washington, D.C. 20250-0523.

Comments regarding paperwork burden will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Signed at Washington, D.C., on March 31, 2000.

Keith Kelly,

Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

[FR Doc. 00-8679 Filed 3-6-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Lake Tahoe Basin Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, USDA.

ACTION: Notice, renewal of charter, and request for nominations.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of Agriculture intends to renew the charter of the Lake Tahoe Federal Advisory Committee, chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, to provide advice to the Secretary of Agriculture on implementing the terms of the Federal Interagency Partnership on the Lake Tahoe Region. Nominations of persons to serve on the Committee are invited.

DATES: Nominations for membership on the Committee must be received in writing by May 1, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Send nominations and applications with telephone numbers for membership on the Committee to: FACA Nomination, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, 870 Emerald Bay Road, South Lake Tahoe, California 96150.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Maribeth Gustafson, Forest Supervisor, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, telephone (530) 573-2773.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.), notice is hereby given that the Secretary of Agriculture intends to renew the charter of the Lake Tahoe Basin Federal Advisory Committee. The purpose of the Committee is to provide advice to the Secretary of Agriculture on implementing the terms of the Federal Interagency Partnership on the Lake Tahoe Basin and other matters raised by the Secretary.

The Secretary has determined that the work of the Committee is in the public interest and relevant to the duties of the Department of Agriculture.

The Committee will meet on a quarterly basis, conducting public meetings to discuss management strategies, gather information and review federal agency accomplishments, and prepare a progress report every six months for submission to regional federal executives. Representatives will be selected from the following sectors: (1) Gaming, (2) Environmental, (3) National environmental, (4) Ski resorts, (5) North Shore economic/recreation, (6) South Shore economic/recreation, (7) Resort associations, (8) Education, (9) Property rights advocates, (10) Member-at-large, (11) Member-at-large, (12) Science and Research, (13) Local Government, (14) Washoe Tribe, (15) State of California, (16) State of Nevada, (17) Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, (18) Labor, (19) Transportation and (20) Member-at-large. Nominations to the Committee should describe and document the proposed member's qualifications for membership on the Lake Tahoe Basin Advisory Committee. The Committee Chair will be recommended by the Committee and

approved by the Secretary. Vacancies on the Committee will be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made.

Appointments to the Committee will be made by the Secretary of Agriculture. Equal opportunity practices, in line with USDA policies, will be followed in all appointments to the Committee. To ensure that the recommendations of the Committee have taken into account the needs of the diverse groups served by the Department, membership should include to the extent practicable individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, persons with disabilities, and senior citizens.

Dated: April 3, 2000.

Edmund Gee,

Acting Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 00-8683 Filed 4-6-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Big Butte Timber Sales and Related Activities, Rogue River National Forest Jackson County, OR

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The USDA, Forest Service will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS). The purpose of the EIS is to analyze and disclose the environmental impacts of a site specific proposal to commercially harvest and regenerate trees, construct, reconstruct, and decommission roads, implement vegetation density management activities, implement wildlife projects, and conduct prescribed burns. The activities are proposed in the Big Butte Springs watershed located on lands administered by the Rogue River National Forest, Butte Falls Ranger District, Jackson County, Oregon. The Proposed Action will tier to and be designed under the Rogue River National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (1990), as amended by the Record of Decision for the Northwest Forest Plan (1994), which provides guidance for land management activities. This proposal is scheduled for implementation during fiscal years 2000-2003. The Cascade Zone invites written comments concerning the scope of the analysis in addition to those comments that will be solicited as a result of local public participation activities. The Forest Service will also give notice of the full environmental analysis and decision making process so

that interested and affected people are made aware as to how they may participate and contribute to the final decision.

DATES: Issues and comments concerning the scope, implementation, and analysis of the Proposed Action must be received by May 15, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments regarding the Proposed Action to Joel King, District Ranger, Prospect Ranger District, 47201 Highway 62, Prospect, Oregon, 97536.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Direct questions about the Proposed Action and EIS to Don Boucher, Interdisciplinary Team Leader, Prospect Ranger District, 47201 Highway 62, Prospect, Oregon, 97536, phone: 541-560-3400, FAX: 541-560-3444, e-mail: dboucher@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Big Butte Timber Sales and Related Activities Project will take place within the upper portion of the Big Butte Springs Watershed. This sub-watershed is also referred to as the Medford Watershed because it supplies domestic water to the city of Medford, Oregon and surrounding communities. The Big Butte Springs watershed is located approximately 18 miles east of Medford, Oregon, and is just north of State Highway 140. Only Forest Service managed lands would be treated. The legal description of the area being considered is: T 35 S, R 3 E, sections 13, 22-36; T 35 S, R 4 E, sections 7-34; T 36 S, R 3 E, sections 1-17, 21-28, 35, & 36; T 36 S, R 4 E, sections 3-8, 16-21, & 27-33; Willamette Meridian.

The Forest Service Proposed Action implement activities which include, in part, one or more timber sales involving approximately 6,200 acres of harvest units. Silvicultural prescriptions include: density management of overstocked stands of trees (approximately 1,700 acres); treating mature stands with small group selections or even-aged management (approximately 2,000 acres); and, density management of small, younger stands for forest health and stand development (approximately 2,500 acres). Other projects include road decommissioning (approximately 13 miles), prescribed fire for wildlife habitat improvement and fuels reduction (approximately 500 acres), density management of stands of young trees less than six inches in diameter (approximately 1,500 acres), and other wildlife improvement projects. Minor amounts of new road construction or reconstruction may be necessary to access harvest units. These activities are proposed on Matrix lands in the