

All comments received in response to this notice, including names and addresses when provided, will be a matter of public record. Comments will be summarized and included in the submission for Office of Management and Budget approval.

Signed at Washington, DC, on May 5, 2003.

James R. Little,

Administrator, Farm Service Agency, and Executive Vice-President, Commodity Credit Corporation.

[FR Doc. 03-11692 Filed 5-9-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION

Sunshine Act Meeting

TIME AND DATE: 3 p.m., May 15, 2003.

PLACE: Room 104-A, Jamie Whitten Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC.

STATUS: Open.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Special Open meeting of May 17, 1999.
2. Memorandum re: Update of Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC)—Owned Inventory.
3. Memorandum re: Commodity Credit Corporation Financial Condition Report.
4. Memorandum re: Commodity Credit Corporation Stocks Available for Donation Overseas Under Section 416(b) of the Agricultural Act of 1949, as Amended, for Fiscal Years 1998 through 2003.
5. Docket A-POL-98-007, Revision. 1, re: Commodity Credit Corporation Claims Policy.
6. Briefing re: Status of the Specialty Crop Grant Program, Agricultural Economic Assistance Act (Pub. L. 107-25), which involves authorized Commodity Credit Corporation funding of \$169 million to states.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Monique B. Randolph, Assistant Secretary, Commodity Credit Corporation, Stop 0571, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-0571.

Dated: May 8, 2003.

Thomas B. Hofeller,

Secretary, Commodity Credit Corporation.

[FR Doc. 03-11949 Filed 5-8-03; 3:55 pm]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency

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 that the Farm Service Agency (FSA) intends to request an extension for a currently approved information collection in support of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (AFIDA).

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received on or before July 11, 2003 to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Patricia A. Blevins, Agricultural Foreign Investment Specialist, Natural Resources Analysis Group, Economic and Policy Analysis Staff, USDA, FSA, STOP 0531, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0531, (202) 720-0604.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act Report.

OMB Control Number: 0560-0097.

Expiration Date of Approval: October 31, 2003.

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

Abstract: AFIDA requires foreign persons who hold, acquire, or dispose of any interest in U.S. agricultural land to report the transactions to the FSA on an 2 AFIDA report. The information so collected is made available to States. Also, although not required by law, the information collected from the AFIDA reports is used to prepare annual report to Congress and the President concerning the effect of foreign investment upon family farms and rural communities so that Congress may review the annual report and decide if further regulatory action is required.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .5 hours per response.

Respondents: Foreign investors, corporate employees, attorneys or farm managers.

Estimate Number of Respondents: 4,375.

Estimate Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Number of Responses: 4,375.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 2,108 hours.

Proposed topics for comment include: (a) 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; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collected; or (d) way to minimize the burden of the collection of the 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 Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503 and to Patricia A. Blevins, Agricultural Foreign Investment Specialist, Natural Resources Analysis Group, Economic and Policy Analysis Staff, USDA, FSA, STOP 0531, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0531, (202) 720-0604.

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

Signed at Washington, DC, on May 5, 2003.

James R. Little,

Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

[FR Doc. 03-11691 Filed 5-9-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Information Collection; Advertised Timber for Sale

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Forest Service is seeking comments from all interested individuals and organizations on the extension of the currently approved collection for from FS-2400-14, Bid for Advertised Timber, and form, FS-2400-42a, National Forest Timber for Sale (Advertisement and Short-Form Bid). The agency uses the collected information to ensure that National Forest System timber is sold at not less than appraised value; that bidders meet specific criteria when submitting a bid; and that anti-trust violations do not occur during the bidding process.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing on or before July 11, 2003 to be assured of consideration. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

ADDRESSES: Comments concerning this notice should be addressed to the Director, Forest and Rangeland Management Staff, Mail Stop 1105, Forest Service, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20090-1105. Comments also may be submitted via facsimile to (202) 205-1045 or by e-mail to: fm/wo@fs.fed.us.

The public may inspect comments received at the Office of the Director of Forest and Rangelands Management, 201 14th Street, SW., Washington, DC. Callers are urged to call ahead to facilitate entrance into the buildings to (202) 205-0893.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rex Baumbach, Forest and Rangelands Management Staff, at (202) 205-0855.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Pursuant to statutory requirements at 16 U.S.C. 472a, the Secretary of Agriculture must advertise sales of all National Forest System timber or forest products exceeding \$10,000 in appraised value, unless (1) extraordinary conditions exist as defined by regulation; (2) select bidding methods ensure open and fair competition; (3) select bidding methods ensure that the Federal Government receives not less than appraised value of the timber or forest product; and (4) bidding patterns are monitored for evidence of unlawful bidding practices.

Pursuant to the Forest Service Small Business Timber Sale Set-Aside Program, development in cooperation with the Small Business Administration, Forest Service regulations at 36 CFR 223.84 require that the Forest Service bid form used by potential timber sale bidders include provisions for small business concerns, such as (1) electing road construction by the Forest Service; (2) certifying as to their small business status; and (3) being informed of other road construction requirements in the bid and/or contract.

FS-2400-14-Bid for Advertised Timber and FS-2400-42a-National Forest Timber Sale implement the same statutes, policies, and regulations and collect similar information from the same applicant. The data gathered in this information collection is not available from other sources.

Description of Information Collection

1. *Title:* FS-2400-42a, National Forest Timber for Sale (Advertisement and Short-Form Bid).

OMB Number: 0596-0066.

Expiration Date of Approval: May 31, 2003.

Type of Request: Extension.

Abstract: The data collected are used by the agency to ensure that National Forest System timber is sold at not less than appraised value, that bidders meet specific criteria when submitting a bid, and that anti-trust violations do not occur during the bidding process.

Form FS-2400-42a-National Forest Timber for Sale is used to solicit and receive bids on short-notice timber sales advertised for less than 30 days and for less than \$10,000 in advertised value. Respondents are bidders on National Forest System timber sales. Forest Service sale officers mail bid forms to potential bidders, and bidders return the completed forms, dated and signed, to the Forest Service sale officer.

Before submitting a bid, bidders usually, but are not required to, inspect the sale area, review the requirements of the sample contract, and take other steps as may be reasonably necessary to ascertain the location, estimated volumes, and operating costs of the offered timber or forest product. Each bidder must include the following information: The price bid for the timber; the bidder's name, address, and signature; the bidder's tax identification number, certification that the bidder is not debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, or voluntarily excluded from bidding on Government contracts; and that the bidder has not defaulted on any contracts within the last 3 years.

The tax identification number of each bidder is entered into an automated bid monitoring system, which is used to determine if speculative bidding or unlawful bidding practices are occurring. The tax identification number also is used to facilitate electronic payments to the purchaser. The data gathered in this information collection is not available from other sources.

Estimate of Burden: 130 minutes.

Type of Respondents: Individuals, large and small businesses, and corporations bidding on National Forest timber sales.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 5,000.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 3.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 32,505 hours.

2. *Title:* FS-2400-14, Bid For Advertised Timber.

OMB Number: 0596-0066.

Expiration Date of Approval: May 31, 2003.

Type of Request: Extension.

Abstract: The data collected will be used by the agency to ensure that National Forest System timber will be sold at not less than appraised value, that bidders will meet specific criteria when submitting a bid, and that anti-trust violations will not occur during the bidding process. This form will be used for soliciting and receiving bids on sales advertised for 30 days or longer and on sales greater than \$10,000 in advertised value.

Respondents will be bidders on National Forest System timber sales. Forest Service sale officers will mail bid forms to potential bidders, and bidders will return the completed forms, dated and signed, to the Forest Service sale officer. Before submitting the bid, the bidder usually will inspect the sale area, review the requirements of the sample contract, and take other steps as may be reasonably necessary to ascertain the location, estimated volumes, and operating costs of the offered timber or forest product.

Each bidder will have to include the following information: (1) The price bid for the timber; (2) the bidder's name, address, and signature; (3) the bidder's tax identification number; (4) the amount and type of the bid guarantee; (5) certification that the bidder has not paid a contingent fee to someone to obtain the contract for him or her, or retained any person or company to secure the contract; (6) certification that the bidder will meet the responsibility requirements at Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), § 223.101; (7) certification that the bidder will complete the consideration requirements of the contract; (8) certification that the bidder has not been debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, or voluntarily excluded from conducting business with the government; (9) certification that the bidder has not been indicted or has not had a criminal or civil conviction within a 3-year period; (10) certification that the bidder has not defaulted on a public contract or agreement in the last 3 years; (11) information on whether the bidder has participated in a previous contract covered by section 202 of Executive Order 11246, Non-discrimination in Employment; (12) certification that the bidder has independently determined the bid price; (13) selection of the road construction option; (14) certification of a firm offer; (15) certification that the bidder has expressly adopted the terms of the bid and sample contract; (16) certification

that the bidder has inspected the sale area and certifies that he or she understands that the Forest Service does not guarantee the amount or quality of the timber or forest product; (17) certification that the bidder will comply with the Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief Act of 1990 as required by 36 CFR 223.87; (18) certification that the bidder has not been or will not be affiliated with the original purchaser of a contract on a timber sale that is being re-offered, when the original contract was terminated for breach or failure to cut; and (19) a list provided by the bidder of affiliates that control or have the power to control the bidder's company.

The tax identification number of each bidder will be entered into a computerized bid monitoring system. This system will be used to determine if speculative bidding or if unlawful bidding practices are occurring. The tax identification number also will be used to facilitate electronic payments to the purchaser. The data gathered in this information collection are not available from other sources.

Estimate of Burden: 370 minutes.

Type of Respondents: Individuals, large and small businesses, and corporations bidding on National Forest timber sales.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 500.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 2.0.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 6,167 hours.

Comment Is Invited

The agency invites comments on the following: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the stated purposes or the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall 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 Comments

All comments received in response to this notice, including name and address when provided, will be summarized and included in the request for Office of

Management and Budget approval. All comments also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: April 23, 2003.

Abigail R. Kimbell,

Associate Chief, National Forest System.

[FR Doc. 03-11682 Filed 5-9-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Caribou-Targhee National Forest, Idaho; Aspen Range Timber Sale/Vegetation Treatment

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The Soda Springs Ranger District, Caribou-Targhee National Forest will be preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to analyze the effects of commercial harvest of conifer trees, prescribed fire, realignment or surface improvement of old roads, and construction of fuel breaks in the Aspen Range analysis area. The legal description for this proposal is T. 8 S., R. 43 E., sections 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33 and 34. T. 9 S., R. 43 E., sections 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 17 and 18 of the Boise Meridian, Caribou County.

DATES: Written comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**. The draft environmental impact statement is expected October 2003 and the final environmental impact statement is expected February 2004.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Soda Springs Ranger District, Attn: David Wittekiend, 421 W. 2nd S., Soda Springs, ID 83276.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions concerning the proposed action and EIS should be directed to Doug Heyrend, Forester, (208) 547-4356.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose and Need for Action

The primary purpose of the project is to:

- Provide sawtimber on a sustained-yield basis.
- Release aspen from competing conifer and convert back to early seral species.
- Reduce conifer stand densities to improve vigor.

- Reduce fuel loads in the project area and stands bordering residential homes/cabins along the northwest forest boundary of the Trail Canyon area.

- Reduce sediment and maintenance on roads in project area.

Proposed Action

The proposal is to tractor harvest 881 acres of Douglas-fir, aspen/Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine stands using a variety of silviculture prescriptions. The harvest would be followed by 1,350 acres of prescribed fire to increase aspen cover types and reduce fuel loads in the 12,000 acre analysis area. The harvest volume is anticipated to be about 4.5 million board feet from two timber sales.

Irregular shelterwood/aspen regeneration silvicultural treatments proposed for 590 acres would be the dominant harvest prescription. The prescription would provide flexibility for aspen regeneration, snag preservation, remnant old growth retention and old growth replacement in situations of Douglas-fir bark beetle mortality. The objective for aspen regeneration is to incorporate the majority of the aspen clone for treatment. All aspen treatment areas would use prescribed fire for fuels treatment and site preparation to simulate the natural disturbance for aspen vegetative reproduction by suckers. Larger units that utilize coarse woody debris as barriers increase the success of aspen regeneration by having better dispersion of wild and domestic browsing/grazing animals across treated areas. Temporarily fencing portions of treated areas may be required to ensure regeneration.

Stand improving commercial thinnings and shelterwoods are planned for 196 acres. The focus of harvest activity would be on removing suppressed and intermediate trees to provide crown spacing and growing room (15-30 foot spacing) for residual dominant trees. Natural regeneration will occur over time but would not be immediately necessary to meet stocking standards. Machine fuels treatment (piling) would take place in the 55 acres of shelterwood prescription stands closest to the archery range and a 39 acre stand in North Sulfur Canyon. Prescribed broadcast fire would be used for site preparation of early seral vegetation and fuel treatment on the remaining 102 acres.

The only lodgepole stand planned for harvest is behind the archery range (this area is under special use permit to the Caribou Archers).

A seedtree/improvement cut is proposed for the 39 acre stand.