

must maintain records on all program reports as set forth in section 1530.110. The information collected is used by the licensing authority to manage, plan, evaluate, and account for program activities. The reports and records are required to ensure the proper operation of these programs.

Estimate of Burden: (1) "Application for a license" would require 20 hours per response; (2) "regular reporting" would require between 10 and 15 minutes per transaction with the number of transactions varying per respondent; and (3) "miscellaneous submission" would require between 1 or 2 hours per bond or letter of credit, 2 to 10 hours per waiver request, and 10 to 100 hours per appeal.

Respondents: Sugar refiners, manufacturers of sugar containing products and producers of polyhydric alcohol.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 250.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: New/Renew License: 1; Regular reporting: 75 transactions, average; Miscellaneous: Bonds/letters of credit: 1; Waiver requests: 1; Appeals: 1.

Estimated Total Burden Hours on Respondents: 2,075 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Kimberly Chisley, the Agency Information Collection Coordinator, at (202) 720-2568.

Request for Comments: The public is invited to submit comments and suggestions to the above address regarding the accuracy of the burden estimate, ways to minimize the burden, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology, or any other aspect of this collection of information. Comments on issues covered by the Paperwork Reduction Act are most useful to OMB if received within 30 days of publication of the Notice and Request for Comments, but should be submitted no later than 60 days from the date of this publication to be assured of consideration. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also be a matter of public record. Persons with disabilities who require an alternative means for communication of information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's Target Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

Signed at Washington, DC, on July 8, 2004.

A. Ellen Terpstra,

Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service.

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BILLING CODE 3410-10-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

B&B Fire Recovery Project, Deschutes National Forest, Jefferson and Deschutes Counties, Oregon

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) on a proposed action to salvage dead and severely damaged trees, reduce post-harvest/smaller diameter fuels and plant trees on salvage units, and close or obliterate roads to assist in the restoration of the area burned in the Link and B&B Complex Fires on the Sisters Ranger District of the Deschutes National Forest. The wildfires, located about 12 miles northwest of Sisters, Oregon, burned approximately 95,600 acres across mixed ownership. The B&B Fire Recovery Project covers approximately 42, 143 acres of the total fire area of which 97% is on National Forest System Lands. The alternatives will include the proposed action, no action, and additional alternatives that respond to issues generated during the scoping process. The agency will give notice of the full environmental analysis and decision making process so interested and affected people may participate and contribute to the final decision.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received by August 20, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to District Ranger, c/o Tom Mafera, Sisters Ranger District, P.O. Box 249, Sisters, Oregon 97759.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tom Mafera, Environmental Coordinator, P.O. Box 249, Sisters, Oregon 97759, phone 541-549-7744. E-mail: comments-pacificnorthwest-deschutes-sisters@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose and Need. The purpose and need of the B&B Fire Recovery Project includes: (1) The harvest of dead and dying timber before it loses its economic value; (2) reduction of harvest slash and small trees within salvage units to establish fuel conditions that will reduce the potential for future uncharacteristic fire and restore fire as an ecosystem component; (3) reforestation of historically prevalent or common species (where seed sources are lacking) within salvage units to aid in the quicker development of desired large tree structure; (4) provide for

public, administrative, and operational safety by removing hazard trees or fuels along open roads and areas of concentrated use; and (5) the reduction of open road densities, particularly within riparian reserves, to help protect and improve watershed conditions, fisheries, and wildlife habitat.

Proposed Action. This action includes the commercial salvage of dead trees within the Metolius Late Successional Reserve (LSR), and dead and dying trees in other land allocations, for a total of approximately 10,000 to 14,000 acres. Salvage logging will be conducted with a variety of logging techniques including ground-based, skyline, and helicopter yarding systems. No new permanent roads will be constructed. Fuels reduction and reforestation are also propose for the units where commercial salvage is proposed. Hazard trees with commercial value will also be salvaged along open roads within the project area. Timber harvest residues and non-merchantable material would be treated by a variety of methods including lopping and scattering, burning in place, piling and burning, or yarding tops to landings for burning. Timber would be offered for sale in the summer of 2005. Areas treated would be located outside of Riparian Reserves with the exception of areas where hazard trees need to be fallen or removed to address public safety. Dead trees (snags) and down wood would be left to meet wildlife objectives for the short and long term. Approximately 80 miles of roads would be either closed or decommissioned.

Scoping. Public participation will be sought at several points during the analysis, including listing of this project in the summer 2004 and subsequent issues of the Central Oregon Schedule of Projects and on the Deschutes National Forest Web site. Also, correspondence with agencies, organizations, tribes, and individuals who have indicated their interest would be conducted.

Issues. Preliminary issues identified include the potential effect of the proposed action on: Soil productivity; water quality and fish habitat; late successional reserves and late and old structure stands; snags and down wood habitat; future fuel loading in relation to the reintroduction of fire or future wildfire intensity, disturbance to cultural resources, the potential for noxious weed expansion, and the safety and use of the area by the public and land managers. A no action alternative will be analyzed in the EIS. Other alternatives would result from the scoping process and refined issues.

Comment: Public comments about this proposal are requested in order to

assist in identifying issues, determine how to best manage the resources, and to focus the analysis. Comments received to this notice, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decisions under 36 CFR parts 215 and 217. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that, under FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within a specified number of days.

A draft EIS will be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and made available for public review by February 2005. The EPA will publish a Notice of Availability (NOA) of the draft EIS in the **Federal Register**. The comment period on the draft EIS will be 45 days from the date EPA publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**. The final EIS is scheduled to be available June 2005.

The Forest Service believes, at this early stage, it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of a draft EIS must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewer's position and contentions (*Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978)). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft EIS stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final EIS may be waived or dismissed by the courts (*City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F.2d 1016, 1022 (9th Cir. 1986)) and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980)). Because of these court rulings, it is very important that those interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the 45-day comment period so that substantive

comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider them and respond to them in the final EIS.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the draft EIS should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft statement. Comments may also address the adequacy of the draft EIS or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the statement. Reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

In the final EIS, the Forest Service is required to respond to substantive comments received during the comment period for the draft EIS. The Forest Service is the lead agency and the responsible official is the Forest Supervisor, Deschutes National Forest. The responsible official will decide where, and whether or not to salvage timber, reduce fuels, and reforest the area. The responsible official will also decide how to mitigate impacts of these actions and will determine when and how monitoring of effects will take place. The B&B Fire Recovery decision and the reasons for the decision will be documented in the record of decision. That decision will be subject to Forest Service Appeal Regulations (36 CFR part 215).

Dated: July 26, 2004.

Michael C. Johnson,

Deputy Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 04-17367 Filed 7-29-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Deschutes Provincial Advisory Committee (DPAC)

AGENCY: Forest Service.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Deschutes Provincial Advisory Committee will meet on August 18-20, 2004. The first two days will be a field trip to the Barlow Ranger District on the Mt. Hood National Forest to monitor and discuss implementation of watershed improvement projects. The last day will be a business meeting starting at 8 a.m. at the Barlow Ranger District Office, 780 NE Court in DuFor, Oregon 97021. Agenda items will

include a Recreation Strategy update and/or Update on NWFP social monitoring module, Upper Deschutes RMP/Davis Fire Recovery update, B and B fire update, and an open public forum from 11:30 till noon. All Deschutes Provincial Advisory Committee Meetings are open to the public.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Chris Mickle, Province Liaison, Deschutes NF, Crescent Road, P.O. Box 208, Crescent, OR 97754, phone (541) 433-3216.

Dated: July 26, 2004.

Leslie A.C. Weldon,

Forest Supervisor.

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BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY: Rural Telephone Bank, USDA.

ACTION: Staff Briefing for the Board of Directors.

TIME AND DATE: 2 p.m., Monday, August 9, 2004.

PLACE: Conference Room 104-A, Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 12th & Jefferson Drive, SW., Washington, DC.

STATUS: Open.

MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED:

1. Annual retirement of class A stock.
2. Annual class C stock dividend rate.
3. Status of loan loss reserve for FY 2004.
4. Privatization discussion.
5. Administrative and other issues.

ACTION: Board of Directors Meeting.

TIME AND DATE: 9 a.m., Tuesday, August 10, 2004.

PLACE: Conference Room 104-A, Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 12th & Jefferson Drive, SW., Washington, DC.

STATUS: Open.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED: The following matters have been placed on the agenda for the Board of Directors meeting:

1. Call to order.
2. Action on Minutes of the May 14, 2004, board meeting.
3. Secretary's Report on loans approved.
4. Treasurer's Report.
5. Status report on the allowance for loan loss reserve for FY 2004.
6. Consideration of resolution to retire class A stock in FY 2004.
7. Consideration of resolution to set annual class C stock dividend rate.
8. Privatization discussion.