

Estimated annual number of respondents: 600.

Estimated annual number of responses per respondent: 1.

Estimated annual number of responses: 600.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 100 hours. (Due to averaging, the total annual burden hours may not equal the product of the annual number of responses multiplied by the 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 30th day of January 2008.

Kevin Shea,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. E8-2049 Filed 2-4-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Giant Sequoia National Monument Management Plan EIS

AGENCY: USDA Forest Service.

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

SUMMARY: The Department of Agriculture, Forest Service is preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) to establish management direction for the land and resources within the Giant Sequoia National Monument (GSNM) created by Presidential Proclamation on April 15, 2000. The Forest Service, as the responsible agency, proposes to amend the Sequoia National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (FLMP) to provide for the protection of the objects of interest identified in the Proclamation.

DATES: The draft EIS for the Giant Sequoia National Monument Management Plan is expected to be available for public comment in the early spring of 2009; the final EIS and Record of Decision (ROD) are expected to be published in the fall of 2009. Soon after the ROD is published, a separate document representing the Management Plan in non-technical language will be published.

ADDRESSES: Tina Terrell, Forest Supervisor, USDA Forest Service, Sequoia National Forest, 1839 South Newcomb Street, Porterville, CA 93257.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Julie Allen, Land Management Planning Staff Officer, Sequoia National Forest, at the address listed above. The phone number

is (559) 784-1500. Information regarding the monument and the planning process can also be found on the Giant Sequoia National Monument website located at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia/gsnm>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On April 15, 2000, a Presidential Proclamation creating the Giant Sequoia National Monument was signed. The Proclamation designated 327,769 acres within the boundary of the Sequoia National Forest as a National Monument to provide protection for a variety of objects of historic and scientific interest, including giant sequoia trees and their surrounding ecosystem. The plan will provide for and encourage continued public access and use consistent with the purposes of the Giant Sequoia National Monument. A range of alternatives will be analyzed, including the no-action alternative, which is the current management direction.

Purpose and Need for Action

The Presidential Proclamation creates a national monument recognizing and protecting forever its unique resources. The proclamation also clearly identifies opportunities for scientific research, interpretation, recreation, and the need for a transportation plan. We are committed to preparing a management plan that is responsive to these needs and opportunities and that cares for the objects of interest as identified in the proclamation.

Within the context of the Proclamation's statement of need, we are committed to developing the proposed action and alternatives to it through a comprehensive, inclusive, collaborative process involving stakeholders. This collaborative process will be facilitated largely by a third party neutral associated with the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution, an organization chartered by Congress for the purpose of resolving multi-party environmental issues and disputes. Because the Giant Sequoia National Monument is a unique treasure of international interest, it deserves the very best planning approach possible. We believe that the very best management will result from this innovative, collaborative approach which taps the knowledge and creative energy of those who know and love the giant sequoias.

In the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process terms, this Notice of Intent initiates the scoping period. We expect the scoping period to last up to one year during which there will be a variety of meetings and workshops. The

collaborative process will thereby be the focus, but not the sole means, of this extended scoping period during which the proposed action will be developed and planning issues identified. Notification of scoping activities will be posted on the Web site, <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia/gsnm>, and advertised through the media. The collaborative process will continue to play a role through development of the draft and final environmental impact statements.

Current Management Direction

Until a new Monument Management Plan is implemented, current management direction for the GSNM includes the Presidential Proclamation, the Sequoia National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, as amended by the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (2001), and the Mediated Settlement Agreement.

Commenting

Comments received in response to public scoping or any future solicitation for public comments on a draft EIS, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered. 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 the 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.

The comment period on the draft EIS will be 90 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

The Forest Service believes that, at this early stage, it is very 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 the agency to the reviewer's position and contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v.*

NRDC, 435 U.S. 519, 533 (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 (E.D. Wis. 1980). Because of these court rulings, it is very important that persons interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the 90-day comment period on the draft EIS 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 environmental impact statement should be as specified as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft statement. Comments may also address the adequacy 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.

Dated: January 30, 2008.

Tina J. Terrell,

*Forest Supervisor, Sequoia National Forest,
USDA Forest Service.*

[FR Doc. 08-489 Filed 2-4-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Notice of Intent To Request Approval To Revise and Extend an Information Collection

AGENCY: National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intent of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) to request revision and extension of a currently approved information collection, the Livestock Slaughter Survey. Revision to burden hours may be needed due to changes in the size of the target population, sampling design, and/or questionnaire length.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by April 7, 2008 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by docket number 0535-0005, by any of the following methods:

- *E-mail:* ombofficer@nass.usda.gov. Include docket number above in the subject line of the message.
- *Fax:* (202) 720-6396.
- *Mail:* Mail any paper, disk, or CD-ROM submissions to: NASS Clearance Officer, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 5336A, Mail Stop 2024, South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-2024.
- *Hand Delivery/Courier:* Hand deliver to: NASS Clearance Officer, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 5336A, South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-2024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Joseph T. Reilly, Associate Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, (202) 720-4333.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Livestock Slaughter Survey.
OMB Control Number: 0535-0005.
Approval Expires: August 31, 2008.
Type of Request: Intent to Request Approval to Revise and Extend an Information Collection.

Abstract: The primary objective of the National Agricultural Statistics Service is to prepare and issue State and national estimates of crop and livestock production, prices, and disposition. The livestock survey program collects information on livestock slaughter. Slaughter data are used to estimate U.S. red meat production and reconcile inventory estimates which provide producers and the rest of the industry with current and future information on market supplies. This data is also used in preparing production, disposition, and income statistics which facilitate more orderly production, marketing, and processing of livestock and livestock products. The livestock program was approved by OMB for a 3-year period in 2005; NASS intends to request that the survey be approved for another 3 years.

Authority: These data will be collected under the authority of 7 U.S.C. 2204(a). Individually identifiable data collected under this authority are governed by Section 1770 of the Food Security Act of 1985, 7 U.S.C. 2276, which requires USDA to afford strict confidentiality to non-aggregated data provided by respondents. This Notice is submitted in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-113) and Office of Management

and Budget regulations at 5 CFR part 1320 (60 FR 44978, August 29, 1995).

Estimate of Burden: The Livestock Slaughter Survey includes a weekly survey of 900 Federally Inspected (FI) slaughter plants and monthly/quarterly surveys of approximately 2,000 Non-Federally Inspected (NFI) slaughter facilities. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 7 minutes per response for an estimated annual average burden of 370 minutes per respondent.

Respondents: Farmers, USDA inspectors, and custom/state inspected slaughter plants.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 2,900.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 18,000 hours.

Copies of this information collection and related instructions can be obtained without charge from NASS Clearance Officer, at (202) 720-2448.

Comments: Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed 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 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.

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

Signed at Washington, DC, January 16, 2008.

Joseph T. Reilly,

Associate Administrator.

[FR Doc. E8-2041 Filed 2-4-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-20-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Inviting Applications for Rural Business Opportunity Grants

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Rural Business-Cooperative Service, an Agency within