

latifolius). Sulfur cinquefoil is the only species present that is known to persist under a forested canopy. It is not yet a listed Noxious Weed species in Idaho, but is considered a serious threat to big game winter range habitat.

In 1995, FS Road 101 was surveyed from U.S. Hwy 12 to Mex Mountain. This survey revealed Spotted Knapweed present almost continually on both sides of the road as well as scattered infestations of Dalmation toadflax, Canada thistle, Everlasting peavine, St. Johnswort and Orange Hawkweed (*Hieracium aurantiacum*). Roads 417, 514, 455 and 418 were also traveled during this survey. Spotted Knapweed, Orange Hawkweed and Canada thistle were found on these roads.

Proposed Action: Watershed Restoration and Rehabilitation—Of all the watersheds within the analysis area, Pete King has had the greatest amount of mass wasting. Due to more stable landforms or timber management associated activities, the other watersheds have experienced less mass wasting. Treatments proposed include: removing sediment from stream channels; placing large organic debris in the creeks; placing seed, fertilizer, and straw mulch on exposed soil surfaces; and rehabilitating over-steepened road cut-slopes and old skid trails and roads that remain exposed to rainfall and running water.

Purpose: To identify and stabilize stream sediment sources and provide a pathway of actions that lead to a healthy functioning watershed.

Need: The analysis area is composed of relatively managed watersheds, with the exceptions of Fish/Hungry Creeks and some of the face watersheds. Mass wasting, such as debris torrents associated with channels, increased substantially after the large fire in 1934. Large landslide events, mostly related to roads, occurred in the 1970s, 1987, and 1996. This year's event can be related to higher than normal rainfall and saturated soils. Except for Canyon/Deadman Creeks, the other major drainages are in the upper ranges of natural variability for sediment. Data on Canyon and Deadman Creeks show sediment gradually declining, but these low energy systems do not clean themselves out.

A range of alternatives will be considered, including a no action alternative and the proposals identified above. Based on the issues identified through scoping, all action alternatives will vary in the number and location of acres to be treated, the type of treatment, and the kind of mitigation measures. Issues will drive the formulation of feasible alternatives.

The EIS will analyze the direct, indirect and cumulative environmental effects of the alternatives. Past, present and projected activities on National Forest lands will be considered. The EIS will disclose the analysis of site-specific mitigation measures and their effectiveness.

Comments from the public and other agencies will be used in preparation of the Draft EIS. The scoping process will continue to be used to:

1. Identify potential issues.
2. Identify major issues to be analyzed in depth.
3. Eliminate minor issues or those which have been covered by a relevant previous environmental analysis, such as the Clearwater Forest Plan EIS.
4. Identify alternatives to the proposed action.
5. Identify potential environmental effects of the proposed action and alternatives (i.e., direct, indirect and cumulative effects).
6. Determine potential cooperating agencies and task assignments.

Preliminary issues identified as a result of internal and public scoping include: effects of the proposal on watersheds, air quality, economics, roadless areas, research natural areas, ecosystem management, social aspects, visual quality, heritage resources, the possible use of herbicides, helicopter logging systems, and safety. These issues will be verified, expanded and/or modified based on continued scoping for this proposal.

Public participation is important all through the analysis process. Two key time periods have been identified for receipt of formal comments on the proposal and analysis:

1. Scoping period, which starts with publication of this notice and continues for the next 45 days; and
2. Review of the Draft EIS in December 1996 thru February 1997. The Forest Service expects to file the Draft EIS with the Environmental Protection Agency in December 1996. The comment period on the Draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability in the Federal Register. The Final EIS and Record of Decision are expected in May 1997.

The Forest Service believes it is important to give reviewers notice, at this early stage, 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. *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 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 EIS.

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.)

The Forest Supervisor is the responsible official for this environmental impact statement. His address is Clearwater National Forest, Forest Supervisor's Office, 12730 Highway 12, Orofino, ID 83544.

Dated: July 30, 1996.
James E. Caswell,
Forest Supervisor, Responsible Official.
[FR Doc. 96-20286 Filed 8-8-96; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

Blue Mountains Natural Resources Institute, Board of Directors, Pacific Northwest Research Station, Oregon

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Correction of meeting date.

SUMMARY: The Blue Mountains Natural Resources Institute (BMNRI) Board of Directors will meet on September 3, 1996, at Eastern Oregon State College, Hoke Hall, Room 309, 1410 L. Avenue, in La Grande, Oregon. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. and continue until 4:00 p.m. Agenda items to be covered will include: (1) program status; (2) research results of specific projects; (3) outreach activities; (4) briefing on Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project and EIS alternatives; (5) election of board officers; (6) public comments. All

BMNRI Board Meetings are open to the public. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend. Members of the public who wish to make a brief oral presentation at the meeting should contact Larry Hartmann, BMNRI, 1401 Gekeler Lane, La Grande, Oregon 97850, 541-962-6537, no later than 5:00 p.m. August 30, 1996, to have time reserved on the agenda.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Direct questions regarding this meeting to Larry Hartmann, Manager, BMNRI, 1401 Gekeler Lane, La Grande, Oregon 97850, 541-962-6537.

Dated: August 2, 1996.

Larry Hartmann,
Manager.

[FR Doc. 96-20334 Filed 8-8-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed collection; comments request.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intention of the Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS) to request an extension of a currently approved information collection in support of the Rural Business Enterprise Grants and Television Demonstration Grants (RBEG) Program.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by October 8, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carole Boyko, Loan Specialist, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA, Specialty Lenders Division, STOP 1521, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-1521. Telephone: (202) 720-0661.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: RBS/Rural Business Enterprise Grants and Television Demonstration Grants.

OMB Number: 0570-0132.

Expiration Date of Approval: August 31, 1996.

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

Abstract: The objective of the RBEG program is to facilitate the development of small and emerging private businesses in rural areas. This purpose is achieved through grants made by RBS

to public bodies and nonprofit corporations. Television Demonstration grants are available to private nonprofit public television systems to provide information on agriculture and other issues of importance to farmers and the rural residents. The regulations contain various requirements for information from the grantees, and some requirements may cause the grantees to require information from other parties. The information requested is vital for RBS to be able to process applications in a responsible manner, make prudent program decisions, and effectively monitor the grantees' activities to protect the Government's financial interest and ensure that funds obtained from the Government are used appropriately. It includes information used to determine eligibility; the specific purposes for which grant funds will be used; timeframes; who will be carrying out the grant purposes; project priority; applicant experience; employment improvement; and mitigation of economic distress.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1.86 hours per response.

Respondents: Non-profit corporations, public bodies.

Estimated number of Respondents: 210.

Estimated number of responses per respondent: 33.14.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 12,920 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Sam Spencer, Rural Business Team Information Collection Coordinator, at (202) 720-9588.

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 respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to Sam Spencer, Rural Business Team Information Collection Coordinator, Regulations and Paperwork Management Division, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development,

STOP 0743, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-0743. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Dated: August 1, 1996.

Dayton J. Watkins,
Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

[FR Doc. 96-20355 Filed 8-8-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-07-P

COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

Procurement List Proposed Additions

AGENCY: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

ACTION: Proposed Additions to Procurement List.

SUMMARY: The Committee has received proposals to add to the Procurement List services to be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE: September 9, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, Crystal Square 3, Suite 403, 1735 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202-3461.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Beverly Milkman (703) 603-7740.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is published pursuant to 41 U.S.C. 47(a)(2) and 41 CFR 51-2.3. Its purpose is to provide interested persons an opportunity to submit comments on the possible impact of the proposed actions.

If the Committee approves the proposed additions, all entities of the Federal Government (except as otherwise indicated) will be required to procure the services listed below from nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

I certify that the following action will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities. The major factors considered for this certification were:

1. The action will not result in any additional reporting, recordkeeping or other compliance requirements for small entities other than the small organizations that will furnish the services to the Government.