

the initial scoping process (40 CFR 1501.7), which will occur from October of 1996 to November of 1996. In addition, the public is encouraged to visit with Forest Service officials at any time during the analysis and prior to the decision.

The Forest Service will be seeking information, comments, and assistance from Federal, State, and local agencies and other individuals or organizations who may be interested in or affected by the proposed action. Because Panther Creek is an anadromous fishery and the project proposal includes the construction of three landings in the riparian habitat conservation area, consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service has been initiated with regard to listed species. No public meetings are scheduled.

While public participation in this analysis is welcome at any time, comments received within the 30 days of the publication of this notice will be especially useful in the preparation of the draft EIS. The draft is expected to be filed with the EPA and available for public review in January, 1997. A 45-day comment period will follow publication of a Notice of Availability of the draft EIS in the Federal Register. The comments will be analyzed and considered in preparation of a final EIS, which will be accompanied by a Record of Decision. The final EIS is expected to be filed in June, 1997.

Comments from the public and other agencies will be used in preparation of the Draft EIS. The scoping process will 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 Salmon Forest Plan EIS.
4. Identify alternatives to the proposed action.
5. Identify potential effects of the proposed action and alternatives (i.e., direct, indirect, and cumulative effects).
6. Determine potential cooperating agencies and task assignments.

The Forest Service believes it is important at this early stage to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of 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, (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 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 should be as specific as possible. 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.

I am the responsible official for this environmental impact statement. My address is Salmon and Challis National Forest, RR 2 Box 600, Salmon, Idaho 83467.

Dated: September 5, 1996.

George Matejko,
Forest Supervisor.

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Dated: September 5, 1996.

Donald W. Gohmert,
State Conservationist.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 10.904, Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention. Office of Management and Budget Circular A-95 regarding state and local clearinghouse review of Federal and federally assisted programs and projects is applicable)

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Rural Housing Service

Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Rural Housing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed collection; comments request.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Rural Housing Service's (RHS) intention to request an extension for a currently approved information collection in support of Sections 514, 515, 516, and 521 programs authorized under Title V of the Housing Act of 1949, as amended, regarding borrower supervision and servicing for Multi-Family Housing Loans and Grants.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by November 18, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: MaryAnne Gallaway, Loan Specialist, Multi-Family Housing Portfolio Management, RHS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Stop 0782, Washington, DC 20250, Telephone (202) 690-0759.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Security Servicing for Multiple Family Housing Loans.

OMB Number: 0575-0100.

Expiration Date of Approval: March 31, 1997.

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

Abstract: The rural housing loan and grant programs under Sections 514, 515, 516, and 521 of Title V of the Housing Act of 1949, as amended, provide loans and grants to eligible recipients for the development and operation of rural rental housing. These programs are intended to meet the housing needs of persons or families including senior citizens, the handicapped or disabled and domestic farm laborers, having low to moderate incomes.

In order to assist its borrowers to operate and maintain these properties to meet program objectives, improve the Agency's ability to assure the continued

Natural Resources Conservation Service

West Carroll Watershed, Louisiana

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service.

ACTION: Notice of Deletion of Structural Measures and Closing of the Project.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act, Public Law 83-566, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service Watershed Manual (390-V-NWSM, 2nd ed. 12/92), the Natural Resources Conservation Service gives notice of the deletion of all remaining structural measures and closing the West Carroll Watershed Project in West Carroll Parish, Louisiana effective on August 26, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Donald M. Gohmert, State Conservationist, 3737 Government Street, Alexandria, Louisiana 71302; Telephone 318-473-7760.