

Forest Service**Extension of Currently Approved Information Collection for Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) Application**

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent; request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Forest Service announces its intent to request an extension of a currently approved information collection. Under the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3056 *et seq.*) the Forest Service cooperates with the Department of Labor to provide part-time training and employment opportunities, for economically disadvantaged persons aged 55 or older, through the Department of Labor Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP). As part of this effort, the Forest Service collects information from applicants in order to evaluate their eligibility for employment with the agency through the Program.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing on or before May 27, 1997.

ADDRESSES: All comments should be addressed to: Director, Human Resource Programs (MAIL STOP 1136), Forest Service, USDA, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, D.C. 20090-6090.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Priscella McCray, Human Resource Programs Staff, at (703) 235-8860.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Description of Information Collection**

The following describes the information collection to be extended:
Title: FS-1800-21b Application for the Senior Community Service Employment Program.

OMB Number: 0596-0099.

Expiration Date of Approval: June 30, 1997.

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

Abstract: Under the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3056 *et seq.*) the Forest Service cooperates with the Department of Labor to provide part-time training and employment opportunities, for economically disadvantaged persons aged 55 or older, through the Department of Labor Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP). The Department of Labor is the grantor for the Senior Community Service Employment Program and provides the guidelines for the program's operation, which runs July 1 through June 30.

Applicants seeking training and employment with the Forest Service through this program use the FS-1800-21b Application for the Senior Community Service Employment Program Form. The applicants respond to questions requesting their name, age, annual income, State of residence, gender, education level, ethnic group, veteran's status, disability status, and English-speaking status. The Form becomes part of the applicant's official personnel folder.

The Forest Service uses the information to determine the applicant's eligibility for the program, to re-certify their eligibility on an annual basis, and to prepare quarterly progress reports, which highlight the agency's program accomplishments and demographic efforts. The Forest Service submits the reports to the Department of Labor on a quarterly basis.

Data gathered in this information collection is not available from other sources.

Estimate of Burden: 10 minutes.

Type of Respondents: Economically disadvantaged individuals, including legal aliens, over age 55.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 6,500.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 1,083 hours.

The agency invites comments on the following: (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; (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 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: March 21, 1997.

Barbara C. Weber,

Acting Chief.

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BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

Liberty Forest Health Improvement Project, Tahoe National Forest, Sierra County, CA

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for a proposed forest health improvement project within the boundaries of the Liberty Analysis Area. This area is identified by watershed boundaries that encompass about 12,769 total acres. The analysis area is located on the Sierraville Ranger District and is about eight miles south and east of Sierraville, California. It is located within all or portions of T18N and T19N, R14E and R15E, MDB&M.

The primary objectives of the project are to improve the forest health and to reduce the risk of stand-destroying fires by treating about 3,100 acres within the analysis area. The project proposal focuses on reducing stocking levels of existing weakened and overcrowded stands that are mixed with dead and dying trees. The trees to be removed are relatively small second-growth, evenaged timber, averaging 10 inches to 18 inches in diameter, 50 to 90 feet tall, and 80 to 110 years old.

The agency invites comments and suggestions on the scope of the analysis. In addition, the agency gives notice of the full environmental analysis and decision-making process that will occur on the proposal so that interested and affected people are aware of how they may participate and contribute to the final decision.

DATES: Comments should be made in writing and received by April 23, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Written comments concerning the project should be directed to Sam Wilbanks, District Ranger, Sierraville Ranger District, P.O. Box 95, Sierraville, CA 96126.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sam Wilbanks, District Ranger, Sierraville Ranger District, Sierraville, CA 96126, telephone (916) 994-3401, or Phil Horning, Project Team Leader, at (916) 478-6210.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Liberty analysis area is mixed ownership with about 8,262 acres of National Forest System lands and 4,507 acres of lands of other ownerships that are located in the upper reaches of the Little Truckee River watershed, a tributary to the Truckee River. Most of the area is accessible by either National Forest or County roads; however, about