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**Sharron L. Harris,**

*Director, Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization*

[FR Doc. 97-8276 Filed 4-1-97; 8:45 am]

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## Farm Service Agency

### Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

**AGENCY:** Farm Service Agency, USDA

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces that the Farm Service Agency (FSA) intends to request an extension for currently approved collection of information pertaining to foreign investment in United States (U.S.) agricultural land as authorized by the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (AFIDA).

**DATE:** Comments on this notice must be received on or before June 2, 1997 to be assured consideration.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS:** Contact Patricia A. Blevins, Agricultural Foreign Investment Specialist, Foreign Investment Disclosure Branch, Operations Analysis Staff, USDA, FSA, STOP 0531, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-0531, (202) 720-0604.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act Report.

*OMB Number:* 0560-0097.

*Expiration Date:* June 30, 1997.

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

*Abstract:* AFIDA requires foreign persons who hold, acquire, or dispose of any interest in U.S. agricultural land to report the transactions to the FSA on an AFIDA report. The information collected from the AFIDA reports is used in the preparation of an annual report to Congress and the President by the Economic Research Service concerning the effect of foreign investment upon family farms and rural communities. Congress reviews the annual report and decides if further regulatory action is required.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden for this collection of information

is estimated to average .4818 hours per response.

*Respondents:* Foreign investors, corporate employees, farm managers or attorneys.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 4,375.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 1.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 2,108 hours.

*Proposed topics for comment include:*

(a) Whether the 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 burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collected; or (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of the 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. Comments should be sent to the Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C. 20503 and to Patricia A. Blevins, Agricultural Foreign Investment Specialist, Foreign Investment Disclosure Branch, Operations Analysis Staff, USDA, FSA, STOP 0531, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-0531, (202) 720-0604.

Signed at Washington, DC, on March 26, 1997.

**Bruce R. Weber,**

*Acting Administrator Farm Service Agency.*

[FR Doc. 97-8412 Filed 4-1-97; 8:45 am]

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## Forest Service

### Nicore Mining Plan of Operation, Siskiyou National Forest, Josephine County, Oregon

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

**SUMMARY:** The USDA, Forest Service, in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management, will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to disclose the environmental impacts for a site-specific Proposed Action to approve a Plan of Operation for access and mining with mitigation, in the West Fork Illinois River drainage, of the Illinois Valley Ranger District, Siskiyou

National Forest, Josephine County, Oregon. These are two access alternatives presently under consideration. The Agency gives notice of the full environmental analysis and decision-making process that will occur on the Proposed Action, so that interested and affected persons are aware of how they may participate and contribute to the analysis.

**DATES:** Issues with the Proposed Action must be received in writing before May 5, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written issues with the Proposed Action to Mary Zuschlag, District Ranger, Illinois Valley Ranger District, 26568 Redwood Highway, Cave Junction, Oregon, 97523.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Direct questions about the Proposed Action and EIS to Don McLennan, Interdisciplinary Team Leader, Illinois Valley Ranger District, 26568 Redwood Highway, Cave Junction, Oregon, 97523 or by calling (541) 592-2166.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The 1872 Mining Law, Section 1 states that all valuable mineral deposits in lands belonging to the United States are to be free and open to exploration.

The 1970 Mining and Minerals Policy Act declares that it is the policy of the Federal Government to foster and encourage private enterprise in the development of economically sound and stable domestic mining, minerals, metal and mineral reclamation industries. The Act also declares that it is the policy of the Federal Government to foster and encourage private enterprise in the orderly and economic development of domestic mineral resources.

In preparing the EIS, the Agency will tier to the Amended Land and Resource Management Plan for the Siskiyou National Forest, consider submitted written issues with Proposed Action, and develop additional alternatives that respond to the significant issues with the Proposed Action. In addition, the agency will analyze a no-action alternative.

Public participation will be important at several times during the analysis. The first time is during the scoping period [Reviewer may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environment Policy Act (CFR) at 40 CFR 150.7]. The Agency will be seeking written issues with the Proposed Action from Federal, State, and local agencies, any affected Indian tribes, the permit applicant, and other individuals who may be interested in or affected by the Proposed Action. This input will be