values will be improved by reducing fragmentation that is created by the current ownership pattern. This proposal is scheduled for completion no later than October 1998.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope and implementation of this proposal must be received by June 1, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions and comments about this EIS should be directed to Floyd Rogalski, Project Planner, Cle Elum Ranger District, 803 West Second Street, Cle Elum, Washington 98922; phone 509–674–4411, ext. 315.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Forest Service is initiating this action in response to a request by Plum Creek to exchange lands that will provide public benefits while improving management opportunities. Lands with high wildlife, aquatic and recreation values are proposed to be exchanged for lands more suitable to timber management. Also being considered is the opportunity to consolidate lands into more easily managed contiguous blocks.

Issues that have been identified to date include: (1) The impact of providing contiguous blocks of National Forest land on a landscape where much of the land is fragmented by a ''checkerboard'' pattern of ownership; (2) spectrum of recreational opportunities, regardless of ownership, continue to exist; (3) the impact on the economies of the affected counties; (4) the impact to cultural and historic sites; and (5) tribal concerns.

The decision to be made is what lands, if any, should be exchanged as part of this proposal. The proposed action is to analyze whether to exchange approximately 41,000 acres of National Forest System land for 43,000 acres of Plum Creek land, adjusted for equal value as required by law. Other alternatives will be developed during the scoping process for the environmental impact statement.

All alternatives will need to respond to the specific condition of providing benefits equal to or better than the current condition. Alternatives being considered at this time include: (1) No Action and (2) Exchanging lands as identified in the proposed action.

Public participation will be especially important at several points during the analysis. The Forest Service will be seeking information, comments, and assistance from the Federal, State, and local agencies, and other individuals or organizations who may be interested in or affected by the proposed action. This information will be used in preparation of the draft EIS. The scoping process includes:

1. Identifying potential issues.
2. Identifying issues to be analyzed in depth.
3. Eliminating insignificant issues or those which have been covered by a relevant previous environmental process.
4. Exploring and identifying additional alternatives.
5. Identifying potential environmental effects of the proposed action and alternatives (i.e. direct, indirect, and cumulative effects and connected actions).
6. Determining potential cooperating agencies and task assignments. Public meetings will be held in both eastern and western Washington, Notice of meeting dates and locations will be published in the newspapers of record. Wenatchee National Forest—*The Wenatchee World* and *The Yakima Herald-Republic*; Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest—*Seattle Post-Intelligencer;* and Gifford Pinchot National Forest—*Columbian*.

At this time, the scoping meetings are planned to be held in April and May 1997. The scheduled meeting dates are as follows: April 30, Hal Holmes Center, Ellensburg, Washington, 6–9 p.m.; May 1, Holiday Inn, Issaquah, Washington, 6–9 p.m.; May 7, Randle Ranger Station, Randle, Washington, 6–9 p.m.; and May 8, Mt. St. Helens Visitor Center, Castle Rock, Washington, 6–9 p.m.

The draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and to be available for public review by December, 1997. EPA will publish a notice of availability of the draft EIS in the **Federal Register**. The comment period on the draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the EPA notice appears in the **Federal Register**. At that time, copies of the draft EIS will be distributed to interested and affected agencies, organizations, and members of the public for their review and comment.

It is very important that those interested in the management of the Gifford Pinchot, Mr. Baker-Snoqualmie, and Wenatchee National Forests participate at that time. 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. *City of Angoon* v. *Hodel,* 803f. 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 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 and concerns 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 final EIS is scheduled to be completed in October 1998. In the final EIS, The Forest Service is required to respond to comments and responses received during the comment period that pertain to the environmental consequences discussed in the draft EIS and applicable laws, regulations, and policies considered in making the decision regarding this proposal.

Judith E. Levin, Acting Director of Recreation, Lands and Mineral Resources, Pacific Northwest Region is the responsible official. As the responsible official she will document the decision and reasons for the decision in the Record of Decision. That decision will be subject to Forest Service appeal regulations (36 CFR Part 215).

Dated: April 21, 1997.

Judith E. Levin,

Acting Director of Recreation, Lands, and Mineral Resources.

[FR Doc. 97–10825 Filed 4–25–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–11–M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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 requested.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Rural Business-Cooperative Service's intention to request an extension for a currently approved information collection in support of the program for 7 CFR Part 4284 Rural Cooperative Development Grants.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by June 27, 1997 to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James E. Haskell, Assistant Deputy Administrator, Cooperative Services, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Stop 3250, Room 4016, South Agriculture Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250. Telephone (202) 720–8460.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Rural Cooperative Development Grants.

OMB Number: 0570–0006.

Expiration Date of Approval: August 31, 1997.

Type of Request: Intent to extend the currently approved information collection and record keeping requirements.

Abstract: The overall purpose of the Rural Cooperative Development Grant program is for the establishment and/or operation of centers for cooperative development that can improve the economic condition of rural areas through the development of new cooperatives and improving operations of existing cooperatives. The U.S. Department of Agriculture desires to encourage and stimulate the development of effective cooperative organizations in rural America as a part of its total package of rural development efforts.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 2.58 hours per response.

Respondents: Nonprofit corporations and institutions of higher education.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 25.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 15.68.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 1,012 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Sam Spencer, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, 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 Rural Business-Cooperative Service, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of Rural Business-Cooperative Service'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. Comments may be sent to Sam Spencer, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, US Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Stop 0743, Washington, DC 20250. 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.

Dated: April 21, 1997.

Dayton J. Watkins,

Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

[FR Doc. 97–10818 Filed 4–25–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–XY–U

ARCHITECTURAL AND TRANSPORTATION BARRIERS COMPLIANCE BOARD

Access Board Meeting

AGENCY: Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board) has scheduled its regular business meetings to take place in Washington, D.C. on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, May 12–14, 1997 at the times and location noted below.

DATES: The schedule of events is as follows:

Monday, May 12, 1997

9:00 a.m.–Noon Committee of the Whole—Final Rule for Children's Elements (Closed Meeting).

1:30 p.m.–5:30 p.m. Committee of the Whole—ADAAG Revision (Closed Meeting).

Tuesday, May 13, 1997

9:00 a.m.–Noon Committee of the Whole—ADAAG Revision (Closed Meeting).

1:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m. ADAAG Revision (Closed Meeting).

4:30 p.m.–5:30 p.m. Long-Range Planning Group.

Wednesday, May 14, 1997

9:00 a.m.–10:30 a.m. Planning and Budget Committee.

10:30 a.m.–Noon Technical Programs Committee.

1:30 p.m.–2:30 p.m. Executive Committee.

3:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m. Board Meeting.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at: Embassy Suites Hotel, 1250 22nd Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information regarding the meetings, please contact Lawrence W. Roffee, Executive Director, (202) 272–5434 ext. 14 (voice) and (202) 272–5449 (TTY).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: At the Board meeting, the Access Board will consider the following agenda items. Specific voting items are noted next to each committee report.

Open Meeting

- Approval of the Minutes of the March 12, 1997 Board Meeting
- Long-Range Planning Group Report
- Planning and Budget Committee Report
- Technical Programs Committee Report—FY 1998 and Future Research Projects
- Executive Committee Report—Board Bylaws
- Play Facilities Regulatory Negotiation Committee Report

Closed Meeting

- Final Rule on Children's Elements
- Committee on the Whole Report on ADAAG Revision
- Final Rule on State and Local Government Facilities

All meetings are accessible to persons with disabilities. Sign language interpreters and an assistive listening system are available at all meetings.

James J. Raggio,

General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 97–10904 Filed 4–25–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8150–01–P