

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket No. CN-98-001]

Notice of Request for Extension and Revision of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), this notice announces the Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) intention to request an extension for and revision to a currently approved information collection for Cotton Classification and Market News Service.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received on or before February 20, 1998 to be assured of consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Contact Ronald K. Cole, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service, Cotton Programs, Market News Branch, 3275 Appling Road, Memphis, Tennessee, 38133; (901) 384-3016 telephone and (901) 384-3036 fax.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Cotton Classification and Market News Service.

OMB Number: 0581-0009.

Expiration Date of Approval: 06/30/98.

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

Abstract: The Cotton Classification and Market News Service program provides market information on Cotton prices, quality, stocks, demand and supply to growers, ginners, merchandisers, textile mills and the public for their use in making sound business

decisions. The Cotton Statistics and Estimates Act, 7 U.S.C. 471-476, authorizes and directs the Secretary of Agriculture to: (a) Collect and publish annually, statistics or estimates concerning the grades and staple lengths of stocks of cotton, known as the carryover, on hand on the 1st of August each year in warehouses and other establishments of every character in the continental U.S., and following such publication each year, to publish at intervals, in his/her discretion, his/her estimate of the grades and staple length of cotton of the then current crop (7 U.S.C. 471); (b) Collect, authenticate, publish and distribute by telegraph, radio, mail, or otherwise, timely information of the market supply, demand, location, and market prices of cotton (7 U.S.C. 473b). The Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, 7 U.S.C. 1621-1627, authorizes and directs the Secretary of Agriculture to collect and disseminate marketing information, including adequate outlook information on a market-area basis, for the purpose of anticipating and meeting consumer requirements, aiding in the maintenance of farm income, and bringing about a balance between production and utilization of agricultural products.

The information collection requirements in this request are essential to carry out the intent of the Act and to provide the cotton industry the type of information they need to make sound business decisions. The information collected is the minimum required. Information is requested from growers, cooperatives, merchants, manufacturers, and other government agencies. This includes information on cotton, cottonseed and cotton linters.

The information collected is used only by authorized employees of the USDA, AMS. The Cotton Industry is the primary user of the compiled information and AMS and other government agencies are secondary users.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .0902 hours per response (218 hours divided by 2,217 responses).

Respondents: Cotton Merchandisers, Textile Mills, Ginners.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 495.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 4.883 (2,417 responses divided by 495 respondents).

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 218 hours.

Comments are invited on: (1) 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; (2) 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; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to Ronald K. Cole, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service, Cotton Programs, Market News Branch, 3275 Appling Road, Memphis, Tennessee, 38133. All comments received will be available for public inspection during regular business hours at the same address.

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: December 16, 1997.

Mary E. Atienza,

Deputy Administrator, Cotton Programs.

[FR Doc. 97-33290 Filed 12-19-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service

Forestry Research Advisory Council

AGENCY: Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: According to the Federal Advisory Committee Act of October 6, 1972, (Pub. L. 92-463, 86 Stat. 770-776) the United States Department of Agriculture announces a meeting of the Forestry Research Advisory Council.

DATES: January 12-13, 1998, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

PLACE: ANA Hotel, 2401 M Street, NW, Washington, D.C.

TYPE OF MEETING: Open to the public. Persons may participate in the meeting if time and space permit.

COMMENTS: The public may file written comments before or after the meeting by contacting the person below.

PURPOSE: The Council agenda will include: Discussion of implications of new Research and Education Title of Farm Bill; Government Performance and Results Act; science planning as it relates to forestry and natural resources; review of the Cooperative Forestry Research Program (McIntire-Stennis); and other current research issues.

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Ralph A. Otto, Natural Resources and Environment, Aerospace Center, Suite 816, Stop 2210, Washington, D.C. 20250-2210; Telephone (202) 401-4555.

Done at Washington, DC, this 16th day of December 1997.

Colien Hefferan,

Associate Administrator, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service.

[FR Doc. 97-33339 Filed 12-19-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

North Fork St. Joe River Project; Idaho Panhandle National Forests, Shoshone County, Idaho

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: The St. Joe Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest, USDA Forest Service will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to disclose the environmental effects of vegetation, road and trail, and watershed restoration activities on National Forest lands within the North Fork St. Joe River drainage. The project area is located immediately north of the town of Avery, Idaho. Based on an interdisciplinary assessment of resource conditions within the area, the purpose and need for this proposal is summarized as:

1. Maintain or improve long term water quality within the project area. Where water quality is currently limited, work towards restoring properly functioning hydrologic condition.
2. Maintain or improve habitat for native fish.
3. Maintain or develop habitat conditions (including forest structure, habitat connectivity, security habitat and limited road densities) to contribute to the conservation of forest dwelling species.
4. Forest structure: Where conditions

permit, maintain or begin restoration of large diameter trees and forest structures once more common within the North Fork St. Joe area. 5. Forest composition: Where conditions permit, maintain or begin restoration of large, potentially long lived seral species (western white pine, western larch, ponderosa pine, white bark pine) which once dominated the forested landscape of the St. Joe River basin. 6. Promote fire use and control strategies for safety and efficiency of suppression and protection and maintenance of resource values. Trend toward allowing fire to play its natural role as a forest disturbance mechanism. Reduce the risk of very large stand replacing fires through vegetation management and restore beneficial fire effects. 7. Maintain or improve the unique and diverse recreational opportunities available within the area. Provide dispersed and developed campsites for the increasing recreational use. Mitigate, where feasible and necessary, effects of the increasing recreational use and supporting infrastructure (trails, campsites, access routes) on other resource values. 8. Reduce the risk of blending genetic material from the poorly adapted, non-local ponderosa pine trees planted earlier this century with that of the native ponderosa pine. Replace the poorly adapted trees with more sustainable native species. 9. Timber harvest, when feasible and cost effective, will be used when it can help achieve the other landscape objectives so as to also contribute wood to the local timber supply. In as much as it is compatible with other objectives, harvest activities will maintain or improve the long term growth and production of commercially valuable wood products from the sites.

DATES: Comments should be postmarked on or before January 21, 1998. Please include your name and address and the name of the project you are commenting on.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments and suggestions on the proposed management activities or requests to be placed on project mailing list to Brad Gilbert, District Ranger, St. Joe Ranger District, P.O. Box 407, St. Maries, ID 83861. Brad Gilbert is the Responsible Official.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Pete Zimmerman, Project Team Leader, St. Joe Ranger District, (208) 245-2531.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection.

Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR parts 215 or 217. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within 10 days.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The decision area contains approximately 75,000 acres within the Idaho Panhandle National Forests in Shoshone County, Idaho. All the proposed projects would occur on National Forest lands in the N. Fork St. Joe River drainage immediately north of Avery, Idaho. The legal location of the decision area is as follows: all or portions of

Township 45 North, Range 5 East; Township 45 North, Range 6 East; Township 46 North, Range 5 East; Township 46 North, Range 6 East; Township 46 North, Range 7 East; Township 47 North, Range 5 East; Township 47 North, Range 6 East; Township 47 North, Range 7 East;

The proposed action is designed to achieve the purpose and need for action as described above. The proposed activities would be initiated over the next ten years. While many of the proposed management activities may work towards achieving more than one of the project objectives, they have been grouped here into four basic categories to simplify the description.

Vegetation

The St. Joe District proposes to use prescribed fire, timber harvest, planting, and other methods to achieve the desired vegetation conditions described above in the purpose and need. Proposed individual treatments by method are as follows (please note that acreage values are gross and would generally include 10 to 25 percent untreated area within the gross area).

Prescribed burning would be the primary treatment on approximately 3,420 acres. (1) Approximately 310 acres of decadent shrubfields within primary big game winter range would be burned to stimulate fresh browse production.