

Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC, 20250, (202) 720-1301; or e-mail ofsts@fas.usda.gov. Please indicate the organization represented, if any, including the names and titles of individuals attending.

Written Comments: Those persons wishing to submit written comments should provide five (5) typed copies to Foreign Agricultural Service, International Trade Policy, Food Safety and Technical Services Division, Room 5545, South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC. If the submission contains business confidential information, five copies of a confidential version must also be submitted. A justification as to why the information contained in the submission should be treated confidentially must be included in the submission. In addition, any submissions containing business confidential information must be clearly marked "Confidential" at the top and bottom of the cover page (or letter) and of each succeeding page of the submission. The version that does not contain confidential information should also be clearly marked, at the top and bottom of each page, "public version" or "nonconfidential". Written comments submitted in connection with this request, except for information deemed "business confidential" by FAS will be available for public inspection in the USDA Reading Room, Room 1141, USDA South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC. Normal Reading Room hours are from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Please call (202) 690-2817 to assure that assistance will be available in the Reading Room.

Dated: September 27, 1999.

Timothy J. Galvin,

Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service.
[FR Doc. 99-25484 Filed 9-28-99; 9:51 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-10-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Information Collection; Request for Comments; Forest Service Stewardship Programs Demographics

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Forest Service announces its intention to seek approval for a collection of demographic information on non-

industrial private forest owners, who participate in the following two Forest Service State and Private Forestry programs: the Forest Stewardship Program and the Stewardship Incentive Program. This demographic information will help ensure that these agency programs serve eligible landowners without regard to race, ethnicity, gender, or disability status.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing on or before November 30, 1999.

ADDRESSES: All comments should be addressed to: Stewardship Coordinator, Cooperative Forestry Staff, Mail Stop 1123, Forest Service, USDA, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, D.C. 20090-6090.

Comments also may be submitted via facsimile to (202) 205-1271 or by email to: cf/wo@fs.fed.us.

The public may inspect comments received at the Office of the Director, Cooperative Forestry Staff, Forest Service, USDA, 201 14th Street, SW, Washington, D.C. Visitors are urged to call ahead to facilitate entrance into the building.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Susan Stein, Cooperative Forestry Staff, at (202) 205-0837.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Description of Information Collection

The following describes the new information collection:

Title: Stewardship Incentive Program Participant Demographics.

OMB Number: New.

Expiration Date of Approval: New.

Type of request: This is a new information collection that has not received approval from the Office of Management and Budget.

Abstract: The Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act (16 U.S.C., 21 03B) authorizes the Forest Service to provide technical and financial assistance to non-industrial private forest (NIPF) owners under the Forest Stewardship and Stewardship Incentive Programs.

The Forest Stewardship Program is the program that helps NIPF landowners prepare the forest stewardship plans for their land. Landowners need a completed forest stewardship plan to become eligible to receive cost-share dollars under the Stewardship Incentive Program.

The Stewardship Incentive Program is the program that assists NIPF owners with up to 75 percent of the funding on a cost-share basis to implement forest stewardship plan practices. Both programs are administered cooperatively with State forestry agencies.

Under this information collection, participants, enrolled in either of these

programs, will be asked by their State forestry or State natural resource agency to voluntarily complete a Stewardship Program Participant Demographics Form. Program participants will answer questions that include their race, their ethnicity, their gender, and whether or not they have a disability.

The data collected will help the Forest Service evaluate the effectiveness of its outreach efforts to involve representative segments of society in Forest Stewardship Program and Stewardship Incentive Program.

The data in this information collection are not available from other sources.

Estimate of burden: 5 minutes.

Type of respondents: Non-industrial private forest owners.

Estimated number of respondents: 18,500.

Estimated number of responses per respondent: 1.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 1,542 hours.

Comment is Invited

The agency invites comments on the following: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the stated purpose or the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical or scientific utility; (b) 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; (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 the 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, including name and address when provided, will become a matter of public record. Comments received in response to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval.

Dated: September 13, 1999.

Larry Payne,

Associate Deputy Chief, State and Private Forestry.

[FR Doc. 99-25629 Filed 9-30-99; 8:45 am]

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