

and will begin at 8 a.m. and continue until 4 p.m. on the second day. Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Review draft CMP alternatives and, (2) Open Public forum. All meetings are open to the public. Public comments will be received at 1:30 p.m. on March 9.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Direct questions regarding this meeting to Kendall Clark, Area Ranger, USDA, Hells Canyon National Recreation Area, 88401 Highway 82, Enterprise, OR 97828, 541-426-5501.

Dated: February 3, 2000.

Karyn L. Wood,

Forest Supervisor.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Notice of Proposed Changes in the National Handbook of Conservation Practices

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the intention of NRCS to issue a series of new or revised conservation practice standards in its National Handbook of Conservation Practices. These standards include Alley Cropping, Constructed Wetland, Firebreak, Forest Site Preparation, Forest Stand Improvement, Forest Trails and Landings, Prescribed Burning, Riparian Forest Buffer, Spring Development, Tree/Shrub Establishment, Tree/Shrub Pruning, Use Exclusion, Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment, and Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation. These standards are used to convey national guidance when developing Field Office Technical Guide Standards used in the States. NRCS State Conservationists who choose to adopt these practices for use within their States will incorporate them into Section IV of their Field Office Technical Guide. These practices may be used in conservation systems that treat highly erodible land or on land determined to be wetland.

DATES: Comments will be received on or before April 10, 2000. This series of new or revised conservation practice standards will be adopted after the close of the 60-day period.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Single copies of these standards are available from NRCS-CED in

Washington, D.C. Submit individual inquiries and return any comments in writing to William Hughey, National Agricultural Engineer, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Post Office Box 2890, Room 6139-S, Washington, D.C. 20013-2890. Telephone Number 202-720-5023. The standards are also available and can be downloaded from the Internet at: http://www.ftw.nrcs.usda.gov/practice_std.html.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 343 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 requires NRCS to make available for public review and comment proposed revisions to conservation practice standards used to carry out the highly erodible land and wetland provisions of the law. For the next 60 days, NRCS will receive comments relative to the proposed changes. Following that period, a determination will be made by NRCS regarding disposition of those comments, and a final determination of change will be made.

Signed at Washington, DC, on January 27, 2000.

Danny D. Sells,

Associate Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

[FR Doc. 00-2863 Filed 2-8-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

DOC has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. chapter 35).

Agency: Census Bureau.

Title: Pollution Abatement Costs and Expenditures (PACE) Survey.

Agency Form Number(s): MA-200.

OMB Approval Number: 0607-0176.

Type of Request: Reinstatement, with change, of an expired collection.

Burden Hours: 160,000 hours.

Number of Respondents: 20,000.

Average Hours Per Response: 8 hours.

Needs and Uses: The Pollution Abatement Costs and Expenditures (PACE) Survey was conducted annually prior to 1995 but suspended due to Census Bureau budget limitations. The PACE Survey provided measures of the cost to private industry for the Nation's commitment to protecting the environment. This survey is an essential source of data for monitoring the impact of environmental programs on the U.S.

economy and responsiveness to these programs. The absence of the data over the past 4 years has highlighted the need for measures of private industry spending on pollution abatement activities. With support from the EPA, the Census Bureau proposes to reinstate this survey.

The survey will collect information similar to that previously collected: Pollution abatement expenditures, operating costs for pollution abatement, each by media, air pollution control, water pollution control and multi-media, and waste disposal. In addition, the survey will include the nature of the costs incurred, distinguishing between prevention and treatment. The survey will include approximately 20,000 establishments selected to represent manufacturing, mining and electric utilities industries defined by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) with emphasis on industries most heavily involved in pollution abatement activities. The survey sample will also include representation of establishments in the apparel and textile industry and manufacturing establishments with less than 20 employees. These groups had been excluded from the earlier survey design under the assumption that they contributed little or nothing to the estimates. Representation from these groups will be used to confirm the assumption.

The EPA will use the data to monitor the impact of environmental programs and to estimate cost projections for its regulatory impact analysis for proposed pollution regulations. Capital expenditures for pollution abatement is an important component of total capital expenditures when analyzing investment and productivity at the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Bureau of Economic Analysis. State and local governments, trade associations, the academic community, and private businesses will use the data to evaluate regional pollution abatement spending, local legislation, and performance of specific industries.

Affected Public: Businesses or other for-profit organizations.

Frequency: Annually.

Respondent's Obligation: Mandatory.

OMB Desk Officer: Susan Schechter, (202) 395-5103.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Linda Engelmeier, DOC Forms Clearance Officer, (202) 482-3272, U.S. Department of Commerce, Room 5027, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at LEngelme@doc.gov).