

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 technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

The Desert Land Act of March 3, 1877 (19 Stat. 377; 43 U.S.C. 321-323), as amended by the Act of March 3, 1891 (26 Stat. 1096; 43 U.S.C. 231, 323, 325, 327-329), was passed by the Congress to encourage and promote the economic development of the arid and semiarid public lands. Through the Act, you may apply for a desert-land entry to reclaim, irrigate, and cultivate arid and semiarid public lands in the Western United States. The regulations in 43 CFR 2520 provide guidelines and procedures to obtain public lands under the Act. These regulations were adopted on June 13, 1970, 35 FR 9581.

You qualify to file a desert-land entry if you are a citizen of the United States; 21 years old; and a resident in the States of Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, or Wyoming (no residency is required in the State of Nevada).

You may apply for one or more tracts of public lands totaling no more than 320 acres. The lands are located in the States of Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. The lands must be surveyed or unsurveyed, unappropriated, non-mineral, non-timber, and incapable of producing an agricultural crop without irrigation. The lands must be suitable for agricultural purposes and more valuable for that purpose than any other. The tracts of land must be sufficiently close to each other to be managed satisfactorily as an economic unit.

You must find lands that you feel can be economically developed and determine the legal description. You must contact the BLM State Office where the lands are located and verify the lands are available for desert-land application.

The information collected on Form No. 2520-1 is required by the regulations in 43 CFR 2720 to process requests for public lands under the provisions of the Desert Land Act. If you desire to enter the public lands under the desert-land laws, you must file an application with the BLM District Office where the lands are located. The following information is collected on the form: (1) Your name and address, and description of the lands you are

applying for; (2) \$15 filing fee plus advanced payment of 25 cents per acre; (3) age, residence, and citizenship requirements; (4) information about previous desert land entry applications, assignments, or acquisitions; (5) declaration of your on-the-ground examination of the lands; (6) mineral information; (7) cultivation information; (8) characteristics of the land (irrigated, watered, overflowed); (9) soil characteristics; (10) irrigation requirements; (11) irrigation plan; (12) water rights information; (13) estimated farm budget; (14) explanation of the economic feasibility of farming the lands as an economic unit, if the lands do not have a common boundary); (15) type of assistance you received in completing the application; (16) petition classification information; (17) disclosure of your plans, and financial arrangements to develop, cultivate, and irrigate the lands; (18) date of application, and signature of applicant; and; (19) certified statement of your acquaintance with the lands described in your application.

After receiving the application, the BLM will examine your application for completeness and accuracy, and classify the lands included in the application. The BLM will approve your application if the lands are classified suitable of desert-land entry, or reject your application if the lands are classified unsuitable for desert-land entry.

If the BLM approves your application, you have 4 years from the date your application is approved to comply with the requirements of the desert-land laws. You are required to develop an adequate water supply to reclaim, irrigate, and cultivate all of the lands in your desert-land entry, and one-eighth of the lands must be properly cultivated and irrigated.

If you successfully meet the requirements of the desert-lands laws, you will receive a patent from the BLM which gives you legal title to the lands. If you experience an unavoidable delay in reclaiming and cultivating the lands, BLM will grant you an extension if you clearly show that the failure to reclaim and cultivate the lands within the 4-year period was due to no fault of your own. If you failed to act or were unable to get financial backing to make the required development, the BLM cannot grant you an extension.

The BLM estimates that approximately 20 applications (Form 2520-1) are received annually. Based on the BLM's experience in processing an application, it will take an average time of 90 minutes for a applicant to supply the requested information. Based on the estimated 20 applications the BLM

receives annually and the average time of 90 minutes it takes an applicant to supply the requested information, the total annual burden is collectively 30 hours.

Any interested member of the public may request and obtain, without charge, a copy of the R&PP application (Form 2520-1) by contacting the person identified under

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval. All comments will also become part of the public record.

Dated: March 15, 2000.

Carole Smith,

BLM Information Collection Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WO-350-1430-PE-01-24 1A]

Extension of Currently Approved Information Collection; OMB Approval Number 1004-0010

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is announcing its intention to request extension of approval for the collection of information from those persons who submit a Conveyances Affecting Color or Claim of Title Application (Form No. 2540-2) to apply for public lands under a color-of-title claim. The BLM uses the information to determine if the applicant is eligible to acquire public lands under the Color-of-Title Act of December 22, 1928.

DATES: Comments on the proposed information collection must be received by May 14, 2000, to be considered.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to: Regulatory Management Team (420), Bureau of Land Management, 1849 C Street NW, Room 401 LS, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Comments may be sent via Internet to: WOCComment@blm.gov. Please include "Attn: 1004-0029" and your name and return address in your Internet address.

Comments may be hand delivered to the Bureau of Land Management Administrative Record, Room 401, L Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20036.

Comments will be available for public review at the L Street address during regular business hours (7:45 A.M. to 4:15 P.M., Monday through Friday).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Alzata L. Ransom, Lands and Realty Group, 202-452-7772.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with 5 CFR 1320.12(a), the BLM is required to provide 60-day notice in the **Federal Register** concerning a collection of information contained in published current rules to solicit comments on (a) 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; (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 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.

The Color-of-Title Act of December 22, 1928 (45 Stat. 1069), as amended by the Act of July 28, 1953 (67 Stat. 227), (U.S.C. 1068-1068b), was passed by Congress to provide for transferring legal title to the public lands from the United States to eligible individuals, groups, or corporations who have a valid color-of-title claim. The regulations in 43 CFR 2540 provide guidelines and procedures to file a color-of-title claim. These regulations were adopted on June 13, 1970 (35 FR 9592).

Any individual, group, or corporation who has evidence giving the appearance of having title to public lands which are administered by the BLM and legal title to the lands remains vested in the United States may file a color-of-title application.

The two claims recognized by the Act are referred to as Class 1 and Class 2. A Class 1 claim is one which has been held in good faith and peaceful, adverse possession by a claimant, his ancestors or grantors, under claim or color-of-title for a minimum of 20 years, on which valuable improvements have been placed, or on which some part of the land has been reduced to cultivation under claim or color-of-title, and upon which the claimant or predecessors in interest have placed valuable improvements, or on which some part of

the land has been reduced to cultivation. A Class 2 claim is one which has been held in good faith and peaceful, adverse possession by a claimant, his ancestors or grantors, under claim or color-of-title for the period commencing not later than January 1, 1901, to the date of application, during which time they have paid taxes levied on the land by State and local governmental units. A claim is not held in good faith where held with knowledge that the land is owned by the United States. A claim is not held in peaceful, adverse possession where it was initiated while the land was withdrawn or reserved for Federal purposes.

The Information collected on Conveyances Affecting Color of Title Form No. 2540-2 is required by the regulations in 43 CFR 2540 to process requests to acquire legal title to the public lands under the provisions of the Act of December 22, 1928, as amended by the Act of July 28, 1953. If you believe you have a valid color-of-title claim you may file an application with the BLM Office having responsibility for the public lands you desire to acquire legal to. The following information is collected on the form: (1) Applicant's name; (2) legal description of the lands claimed; (3) itemized data relating to all record and non-record title conveyances in chronological order, and (4) certification by the proper county official or an abstractor.

After receiving your application, the BLM will analyze the information on your application, conduct an on-site field examination of the lands, and prepare reports. The BLM will approve your application if you meet the requirements of a Class 1 or Class 2 claim or reject your application if you do not meet the requirements of a Class 1 or Class 2 claim. Class 2 claims are discretionary and may be rejected if the public interest in retention of the lands clearly outweighs the interest of the applicant.

The BLM estimates that approximately 37 applications (Form 2540-2) are received annually. Based on the BLM's experience in processing an application, it will take an average of one hour for an applicant to supply the requested information. Based on the estimated 37 applications the BLM receives annually and the average time of one hour it takes an applicant to supply the requested information, the total annual burden is collectively 37 hours.

Any interested member of the public may request and obtain, without charge, a copy of Conveyances Affecting Color or Claim of title Form 2540-2 by

contacting any BLM Office or the person identified under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval. All comments will also become part of the public record.

Dated: March 15, 2000.

Carole Smith,

BLM Information Collection Officer.

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WO-350-1430-01-24 1A]

Extension of Currently Approved Information Collection; OMB Approval Number 1004-0011

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is announcing its intention to request extension of approval for the collection of information from those persons who submit a Color-of-Title Tax Levy and Payment Record Application (Form No. 2540-3) to apply for public lands under a color-of-title claim. The BLM uses the information to determine if the applicant is eligible to acquire public lands under the Color-of-Title Act of December 22, 1928.

DATES: Comments on the proposed information collection must be received by May 19, 2000, to be considered.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to: Regulatory Management Team (420), Bureau of Land Management, 1849 C Street NW, Room 401 LS, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Comments may be sent via Internet to: WOCComment@blm.gov. Please include "Attn: 1004-0029" and your name and return address in your Internet address.

Comments may be hand delivered to the Bureau of Land Management Administrative Record, Room 401, L Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036.

Comments will be available for public review at the L Street address during regular business hours (7:45 am to 4:15 pm, Monday through Friday).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Alzata L. Ransom, Lands and Realty Group, 202-452-7772.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with 5 CFR 1320.12(a), the