

# 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.

## AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Notice of Public Information Collections Being Reviewed by the U.S. Agency for International Development; Comments Requested

**SUMMARY:** U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is making efforts to reduce the paperwork burden. USAID invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the following proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act for 1995. Comments are requested concerning: (a) Whether the proposed or continuing collections of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the burden estimates; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

**DATES:** Submit comments on or before August 28, 2000.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Beverly Johnson, Bureau for Management, Office of Administrative Services, Information and Records Division, U.S. Agency for International Development, Room 2.07-106, RRB, Washington, DC, 20523, (202) 712-1365 or via e-mail [bjohnson@usaid.gov](mailto:bjohnson@usaid.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*OMB No.:* OMB 0412-0520.

*Form No.:* AID 1420-17.

*Title:* Contractor Employee Biographical Data Sheet.

*Type of Review:* Renewal of Information Collection.

*Purpose:* USAID is authorized to make contracts with any corporation,

international organization, or other body of persons in or outside of the United States in furtherance of the purposes and within limitations of the Foreign Assistance Act (FAA). The information collections requirements placed on the public are published in 48 CFR chapter 7, and include such items as the contractor Employee Biographical Data Sheet and Performance and Progress Reports (AIDAR 752.7026). These are all USAID unique procurement requirements. The pre-award requirements are based on a need for prudent management in the determination that an offeror either has or can obtain the ability to competently manage development assistance programs utilizing public funds. The requirements for information collection requirements during the post-award period are based on the need to administer public funds prudently.

*Annual Reporting Burden:*

*Respondents:* 3,679.

*Total annual responses:* 51,605.

*Total annual hours requested:* 73,855 hours.

Dated: June 21, 2000.

**Joanne Paskar,**

*Chief, Information and Records Division,  
Office of Administrative Services, Bureau for  
Management.*

[FR Doc. 00-16457 Filed 6-28-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6116-01-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Information Collection; Request for Comments; Application for Prospecting Permit

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Forest Service announces its intention to extend the information collection, FS-2800-14—Application for Prospecting Permit. The collected information enables the Forest Service to effectively and efficiently process oil and gas prospecting permits. Information will be collected from oil and gas companies, lessees, exploration companies, and independent, exploration operators expressing an interest in conducting geophysical

operations on National Forest System lands.

**EFFECTIVE DATES:** Comments must be received in writing on or before August 28, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** All comments should be addressed to Director, Minerals and Geology Management Staff, Attn: Mr. W. Dean Crandell, Fluid Minerals Program Manager, Forest Service, USDA, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, D.C. 20090-6090.

Comments also may be submitted via facsimile to (202) 205-1405 or by email to [dcrandel@fs.fed.us](mailto:dcrandel@fs.fed.us).

The public may inspect comments received at the Office of the Director, Minerals and Geology Management Staff, Forest Service, USDA, 201 14th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20024. Visitors are encouraged to call ahead to facilitate entrance into the building.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

W. Dean Crandell, Minerals and Geology Staff, at (202) 205-1405.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

The Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181, as amended) authorizes the Forest Service to permit oil and gas companies, lessees, exploration companies, and independent, exploration operators to conduct geophysical exploration on or off lease on National Forest System lands.

Three regulations govern geophysical operations on National Forest System lands: (1) Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 251, Subpart E provides direction for geophysical operations on lease (operations within the legal land description of an oil and gas lease); (2) Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 251, Subpart A, § 251.15, provides direction for geophysical operations on reserved mineral rights (operations where the Forest Service manages the surface resources but the mineral resources (subsurface) is owned by someone other than the Federal government); and (3) Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 251, Subpart B, provides authorization for geophysical operations off lease (operations on all Forest Service managed lands not included in the preceding two categories).

**Description of Information Collection**

The following describes the information collection to be extended:

*Title:* FS-2800-14, Application for Prospecting Permit.

*OMB Number:* 0596-0089.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* August 31, 2000.

*Type of Request:* Extension of an information collection currently approved by the Office of Management and Budget.

*Abstract:* Forest Service personnel evaluate the collected information to ensure that oil and gas companies, lessees, exploration companies, or independent, energy exploration operators, applying to conduct geophysical operations on National Forest System lands, comply with the authorizing legislation and regulations described in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this notice and with the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4521-4347). The National Environmental Protection Act requires all land managers to consider an activity's impact to the environment and to determine the measures required to mitigate those impacts prior to making a decision on the request for a permit.

Oil and gas companies, lessees, exploration companies, or independent, energy exploration operators apply to conduct geophysical operations by completing the form, FS-2800-14, Application for Prospecting Permit, or by supplying the same information in a format of their choice.

Oil and gas companies, lessees, exploration companies, or independent, energy exploration operators are asked to provide information that includes the type and size of the proposed activity, the location of the proposed geophysical operation, the equipment that will be used in the proposed geophysical operation, the timing of the operation, and administrative information, such as the applicant's mailing address, the applicant's telephone number, and the applicant's responsible local operator or company representative.

Data gathered in this information collection are not available from other sources.

*Estimate of Annual Burden:* 15 minutes.

*Type of Respondents:* Oil and gas companies, mineral lessees, energy exploration companies, and independent, energy exploration operators.

*Estimated Annual Number of Respondents:* 20.

*Estimated Annual Number of Responses per Respondent:* 1.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 5 hours.

**Comment is Invited**

The agency invites comments on the following: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the stated purposes and 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 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 names and addresses when provided, will become a matter of public record. Comments will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval.

Dated: June 21, 2000.

**Sally Collins,**

*Associate Deputy Chief, NFS.*

[FR Doc. 00-16507 Filed 6-28-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-11-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE****Forest Service****Crossroads Project, Mark Twain National Forest, Phelps and Pulaski Counties, Missouri**

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice; intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

**SUMMARY:** The project area is located on Forest Service Lands within the Spring Creek and Lower Big Piney Creek watersheds east of Fort Leonard Wood Military Reservation and Big Piney River, and south and west of Flat, Missouri, T34N, R9W, Sections 4-6; T35N, R9W, Sections 28-34; T35N, R10W, Sections 1-3, 8-17, 21-27, 35, 36; and, T36N, R10W, Sections 34-36, Fifth Principal Meridian.

The Forest Service will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to analyze and disclose the environmental effects of the project.

The primary purpose of this project is to maintain the project area's forest ecosystems ecological structure and function within a natural condition

utilizing vegetative management and other restoration activities. The existing condition does not meet the desired future conditions (DFC) described in the Mark Twain National Forest Plan (MTFP) and the projected successional stages are not anticipated to meet the DFC described in the Mark Twain National Forest Plan.

**DATES:** Initial comments concerning the scope of the analysis should be received on or before July 31, 2000 to receive timely consideration in the preparation of the draft EIS.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments and suggestions on the proposed action or requests to be placed on the project mailing list to: John C. Bisbee, District Ranger, Houston/Rolla/Cedar Creek Ranger District, 108 South Sam Houston Boulevard, Houston, Missouri 65483. E-mail should have a subject line that reads "NEPA Houston" and be sent to: mailroom\_r9 mark\_twain@fs.fed.us

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mark Hamel, Project Leader/NEPA Coordinator, Houston/Rolla/Cedar Creek Ranger District, 108 South Sam Houston Boulevard, Houston, Missouri 65483, phone (417) 967-4194.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The following proposed projects would move the Crossroads area towards the desired future condition for the area (Mark Twain Forest Plan pg. IV-115 to IV-123). Note: several activities may occur on the same acre. The Forest Service's proposed action includes the following possible actions: (1) Designate approximately 1,500 acres of old growth, (2) maintain early successional habitat on approximately 650 acres through mechanical means (haying, bush hogging,) and/or grazing, (3) maintain early successional habitat through burning on approximately 1,600 acres, (4) restore and develop savanna habitat on approximately 150 acres through firewood cutting and burning, (5) restore glade habitat on approximately 130 acres through mechanical treatment and burning, (6) restore bottomland riparian habitat by planting hardwoods on approximately 50 acres, (7) for forest health and fuels management, prescribe burn approximately 2,100 acres, (8) plant approximately 50 acres of gamma grass for wildlife habitat, (9) treat approximately 1,400 acres with unevenage management (including group selection and group shelterwood) to meet woodland habitat objectives that exhibit a condition of 20-30 percent forbs, grass and shrub age class requirements, (10) treat approximately 700 acres with regeneration cuts (shelterwood and clearcut) to meet the