

assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS) has been prepared. Because the recomputation of shares under the Small Business Timber Sale Set-Aside Program is not subject to documentation in an EA or EIS, the decisions on the 1996–2000 Forest Service recomputation of small business shares were not subject to the new appeal procedures. These decisions also were not appealable as conditions of special-use authorizations under Part 251, Subpart C, of Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

However, since the agency had accepted appeals of recomputation decisions under Part 217 of Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations prior to adoption of Part 215, the agency decided to establish procedures for providing notice to affected purchasers with opportunity to comment on the recomputation of shares. Notice of these procedures was published in the **Federal Register** on February 28, 1996 (61 FR 7468).

The Conference Report accompanying the 1997 Omnibus Appropriation Act found the Forest Service decision to eliminate an administrative appeals opportunity for the Small Business Timber Sale Set-Aside Program “unacceptable” and directed the Forest Service to reinstate an appeals process before December 31, 1996.

The Conference Report required the agency to establish a process by which purchasers may appeal decisions concerning recomputations of Small Business Set-Aside (SBA) shares, structural recomputations of SBA shares, or changes in policies impacting the Small Business Timber Sale Set-Aside Program.

The Forest Service published an interim rule in the **Federal Register** on March 24, 1997, (62 FR 13826) to comply with the Conference Report appeal requirement. The agency published a final rule, Small Business Timber Sale Set-Aside Program; Appeal Procedures on Recomputation of Shares (36 CFR 223), in the **Federal Register** on January 5, 1999 (64 FR 406). This final rule clarified the kinds of decisions that are subject to appeal, who may appeal decisions, the procedures for appealing decisions, the timelines for appeal, and the contents of the notice of appeal.

Description of Information Collection

The following describes the information collection to be reinstated:

Title: Small Business Timber Sale Set-Aside Program; Appeal Procedures on Recomputation of Shares.

OMB Number: 0596–0141.

Expiration Date of Approval: May 31, 2000.

Type of Request: Reinstatement of an information collection previously approved by the Office of Management and Budget.

Abstract: The Appeal Deciding Officer, who is the official one level above the level of the Responsible Official who made the recomputation of shares decision, will evaluate the data provided in the notice of appeal to resolve appeals of recomputations of small business shares of the timber sale program.

The Responsible Official provides qualifying timber sale purchasers 30 days for predecisional review and comment on any draft decision to reallocate shares, including the data used in making the proposed recomputation decision. Within 15 days of the close of the 30-day predecisional review period, the Responsible Official makes a decision on the shares to be set aside for small businesses and gives written notice of the decision to all parties on the national forest timber sale bidders list for the affected area. The written notice provides the date by which the appeal may be filed and how to obtain appeal procedures information.

Only timber sale purchasers, or their representatives, who are affected by recomputation decision of the small business share of timber sale set-aside and who have submitted predecisional comments may appeal recomputation decisions.

The appellant must file a notice of appeal with the Appeal Deciding Officer within 20 days of the date of the notice of decision.

The notice of appeal must include the appellant's name, mailing address, and daytime phone number; the title and date of the decision and the name of the responsible official; a brief description and date for the decision being appealed; a statement of how the appellant is adversely affected by the decision being appealed; and a statement of the facts in dispute regarding the issue(s) raised by the appeal; specific references to law, regulation, or policy that the appellant believes to have been violated, if any, and the basis for such an allegation; a statement as to whether and how the appellant has tried to resolve with the Responsible Official the issue(s) being appealed, including evidence of submission of written comments at the predecisional stage; and a statement of the relief the appellant seeks.

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

Estimate of Annual Burden: 4 hours.

Type of Respondents: Timber sale purchasers, or their representatives, who are affected by recomputations of the small business share of timber sales.

Estimated Annual Number of Respondents: 40.

Estimated Annual Number of Responses per Respondent: 2.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 320 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: September 14, 2000.

Paul Brouha,

Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest System.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Opal Creek Scenic Recreation Area (SRA) Advisory Council

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: An Opal Creek Scenic Recreation Area Advisory Council meeting will convene in Salem, Oregon on Sunday, October 7, 2000. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m., and will conclude at approximately 2 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Anderson Room B at the Salem Public Library; 585 Liberty St. SE; Salem, Oregon; (503) 588–6071.

The Opal Creek Wilderness and Opal Creek Scenic Recreation Area Act of 1996 (Opal Creek Act) (P.L. 104-208) directed the Secretary of Agriculture to establish the Opal Creek Scenic Recreation Area Advisory Council. The Advisory Council is comprised of thirteen members representing state, county and city governments, and representatives of various organizations, which include mining industry, environmental organizations, inholders in Opal Creek Scenic Recreation Area, economic development, Indian tribes, adjacent landowners and recreation interests. The council provides advice to the Secretary of Agriculture on preparation of a comprehensive Opal Creek Management Plan for the SRA, and consults on a periodic and regular basis on the management of the area. The tentative agenda includes:

(1) Issue development, (2) public involvement strategy, and (3) other topic items identified at the September 18, 2000 advisory council meeting.

The public comment period is tentatively scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. Time allotted for individual presentations will be limited to 3 minutes. Written comments are encouraged, particularly if the material cannot be presented within the time limits of the comment period. Written comments may be submitted prior to the October 7 meeting by sending them to Designated Federal Official Stephanie Phillips at the address given below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For more information regarding this meeting, contact Designated Federal Official Stephanie Phillips; Willamette National Forest, Detroit Ranger District, HC 73 Box 320, Mill City, OR 97360; (503) 854-3366.

Dated: September 15, 2000.

Darrel L. Kenops,

Forest Supervisor.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Census Bureau

Construction Project Reporting Surveys (CPRS); Proposed Collection; Comment Request

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to

take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before November 20, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Madeleine Clayton, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6086, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at MClayton@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Michael Davis, Census Bureau, Room 2126 FOB 4, Washington, DC 20233-6900, (301) 457-1605 (or via the Internet at michael.davis@census.gov).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The Census Bureau conducts the Construction Project Reporting Surveys (CPRS) to collect information on the dollar value of construction put in place by private companies, individuals, private multifamily residential buildings, and state and local governments. The three CPRS forms are: Form C-700, Private Construction Projects; Form C-700(R), Multifamily Residential Projects; and Form C-700(SL), State and Local Government Projects. These three forms are currently cleared separately. With this revision, we plan to combine these three forms under one clearance. No other substantive changes to the forms are planned.

The Census Bureau is the preeminent collector and provider of timely, relevant and quality data about the people and economy of the United States. Economic data are the Census Bureau's primary program commitment during nondecennial census years. The Form C-700, Private Construction Projects collects construction put in place data for nonresidential projects owned by private companies or individuals. The Form C-700(R), Multifamily Residential Projects collects construction put in place data for private multifamily residential buildings. Form C-700(SL), State and Local Government Projects collects construction put in place data for state and local government projects.

The Census Bureau uses the information from these surveys to

publish the value of construction put in place series. Published estimates are used by a variety of private business and trade associations to estimate the demand for building materials and to schedule production, distribution, and sales efforts. They also provide various governmental agencies with a tool to evaluate economic policy and to measure progress towards established goals. For example, Bureau of Economic Analysis staff use data to develop the construction components of gross private domestic investment in the gross domestic product. The Federal Reserve Board and the Department of Treasury use the value in place data to predict the gross domestic product, which is presented to the Board of Governors and has an impact on monetary policy.

II. Method of Collection

An independent systematic sample of projects is selected each month according to predetermined sampling rates. Once a project is selected it remains in the sample until completion of the project. Preprinted forms are mailed monthly to respondents to fill in current month data and any revisions to previous months. Some respondents are later called by a Census interviewer and report the data over the phone. Having the information available from a database at the time of the interview greatly helps reduce the time respondents spend on the phone. Interviews are scheduled at the convenience of the respondent, further reducing their burden.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0607-0163. In the past, we have had three OMB numbers, but with this revision we will be using only one. The other two OMB numbers affected are 0607-0153 and 0607-0171.

Form Number: C-700, C-700(R), C-700(SL).

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Individuals, Businesses or Other for Profit, Non Profit Institutions, Small Businesses or Organizations, and State or Local Governments.

Estimated Number of Respondents: C-700 = 6,000; C-700(R) = 1,440; C-700(SL) = 6,000.

Estimated Time Per Response: 15 minutes per month.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: C-700 = 18,000; C-700(R) = 4,320; C-700(SL) = 18,000; TOTAL = 40,320.

Estimated Total Annual Cost: 2.7 million.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

Legal Authority: Title 13, United States Code, Section 182.