

E. Preliminary Alternatives

The actual alternatives presented in the DEIS will portray a full range of responses to the significant issues. The DEIS will examine the effects of implementing strategies to achieve different desired future conditions and will develop possible management objectives and opportunities that would move the forests toward those desired conditions. A preferred alternative will be identified in the DEIS. The range of alternatives presented in the DEIS will include one that continues current management direction and others that will address the range of issues developed in the scoping process.

F. Involving the Public

The objective in the public involvement process is to create an atmosphere of openness where all members of the public feel free to share information with the Forest Service on a regular basis. All parts of this process will be structured to maintain this openness. The Forest Service is seeking information, comments, and assistance from individuals, organization, tribal governments, and federal, state, and local agencies that may be interested in or affected by the proposed action (36 CFR 219.6).

Public participation will be solicited by notifying (in person and/or by mail) known interested and affected publics. News releases will be used to inform the public of various steps of the revision process and locations of public involvement opportunities. Public participation opportunities include written comments, open houses, focus groups, and collaborative forums.

Public participation will be sought throughout the revision process but will be particularly important at several points along the way. The first formal opportunity to comment is during the scoping process (40 CFR 150.7). Scoping includes: (1) Identifying additional potential issues (other than those previously described); (2) from these, identifying significant issues, those which have been covered by prior environmental review or those which are non-significant for the plan revision; (3) exploring additional alternatives; and (4) identifying potential environmental effects of the proposed action and alternatives (i.e., direct, indirect, and cumulative effects). Three public meetings are scheduled during the scoping process.

Date	Location
June 13, 2002	Russellville, AR.
June 18, 2002	Jasper, AR.

Date	Location
June 20, 2002	Springdale, AR.

G. Planning Regulations

The Department of Agriculture published new planning regulations on November 9, 2000. A USDA Forest Service review of this planning rule identified concerns with the ability to implement several provisions of the 2000 rule. There are also lawsuits challenging the 2000 rule that may affect its implementation.

To address these problems, the Chief of the Forest Service has started a process to develop a revision to the November 2000 planning rule. On May 10, 2001, Secretary Veneman signed an interim final rule allowing Forest Plan amendments or revisions initiated before May 9, 2002, to proceed under the new planning rule (November 2000) or under the 1982 planning regulations. The Ozark-St. Francis National Forests will proceed under the 1982 planning regulations pending future direction in revised regulations.

H. Release and Review of the EISs

The DEIS is expected to be filed with the EPA and to be available for public comment by September 2004. At that time, the EPA will publish a notice of availability of the DEIS in the **Federal Register**. The comment period will be 3 months from the date the EPA publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

The Forest Service believes it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. Reviewers of the DEIS must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewer's position and contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the DEIS stage but that are not raised until after completion of the FEIS may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F.2d 1016, 1022 (9th Cir. 1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). Because of these court rulings, it is very important that those interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the 3-month comment period so that substantive comments and objections are made available to the Federal Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider them and respond to them in the FEIS.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed actions, comments on the DEIS should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft statement. Comments may also address the adequacy of the DEIS or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the statement. Reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the NEPA at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points. After the comment period on the DEIS ends, the comments will be analyzed, considered, and responded to by the Forest Service in preparing the FEIS. The scheduled completion of the FEIS is by September 2005. The Responsible Official will consider the comments, responses, and environmental consequences discussed in the FEIS together with all applicable laws, regulations, and policies in making a decision regarding revision. The Responsible Official will document the decision and reasons for the decision in a Record of Decision. This decision may be subject to appeal in accordance with 36 CFR 217.

Dated: April 25, 2002.

R. Gray Pierson,

Acting Deputy Regional Forester.

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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: U.S. Census Bureau.

Title: American Community Survey.

Form Number(s): ACS-1(2003), ACS-1(2003)PR(SP), ACS-1(GQ), ACS-3(GQ), ACS-4(GQ), ACS-290.

Agency Approval Number: 0607-0810.

Type of Request: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Burden: 1,927,300 hours.

Number of Respondents: 3,063,000.

Avg Hours Per Response: 38 minutes.

Needs and Uses: The U.S. Census Bureau requests authorization from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to conduct the American Community Survey (ACS) starting in November 2002. The Census Bureau has

been developing a methodology to collect and update every year demographic, social, economic, and housing data that are essentially the same as the "long-form" data that the Census Bureau traditionally has collected once a decade as part of the decennial census. Federal and state government agencies use such data to evaluate and manage federal programs and to distribute funding for various programs which include food stamps, transportation dollars, and housing grants. State, county, and community governments, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and the general public use information like housing quality, income distribution, journey-to-work patterns, immigration data, and regional age distributions for decisionmaking and program evaluation.

Since the Census Bureau collects the long-form data only once every ten years, the data become out of date over the course of the decade. To provide more timely data, the Census Bureau developed an alternative called Continuous Measurement (CM). CM is a reengineering effort that blends the strength of small area estimation with the high quality of current surveys. We realize that there is an increasing need for data describing lower geographic detail. Currently, the decennial census is the only source of data available for small-area levels. In addition, there is an increase in interest in obtaining data for small subpopulations such as groups within the Hispanic, Asian, and American Indian populations, the elderly, and children. CM will provide current data throughout the decade for small areas and small subpopulations.

The ACS is the data collection vehicle for CM. After years of development and testing, the ACS is ready for full implementation in FY 2003. The ACS will provide more timely information for critical economic planning by governments and the private sector. In the current information-based economy, federal, state, tribal, and local decisionmakers, as well as private business and nongovernmental organizations, need current, reliable, and comparable socioeconomic data to chart the future. Without the ACS, data users will have to use data collected during Census 2000 for the next ten years.

The ACS demonstration period began in 1996 in four sites. In 1997, the survey was conducted in eight sites to evaluate costs, procedures, and new ways to use the information. In 1998, the ACS expanded to include two counties in South Carolina that overlapped with counties in the Census 2000 Dress Rehearsal. This approach allowed the

Census Bureau to investigate the effects on both the ACS and the census due to having the two activities going on in the same place at the same time. In 1999, the number of sites was increased to 31 comparison sites. The purpose of the comparison sites was to give a good tract-by-tract comparison between the 1999–2002 ACS cumulated estimates and the Census 2000 long-form estimates and to use these comparisons to identify both the causes of differences and diagnostic variables that tend to predict a certain kind of difference.

In 2000–2002, the Census Bureau conducted the Census 2000 Supplementary Survey, the 2001 Supplementary Survey, and the 2002 Supplementary Survey using the ACS methodology. Each of these surveys had a sample of approximately 700,000 residential addresses per year. These surveys were conducted to study the operational feasibility of collecting long-form type data in a different methodology from the decennial census, demonstrate the reliability and stability of state and large area estimates over time, and demonstrate the usability of multiyear estimates.

Beginning in November 2002, the Census Bureau will begin full implementation of the ACS by increasing the sample to a total of 250,000 residential addresses per month in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. For 2003–2005, the ACS will have an annual sample of approximately 3 million households. In addition, we will select approximately 3,000 residential addresses per month in Puerto Rico and refer to the survey as the Puerto Rico Community Survey.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Frequency: The ACS is conducted monthly. Respondents are required to report only once.

Respondent's Obligation: Mandatory.
Legal Authority: Title 13 U.S.C., Sections 141, 193, and 221.

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

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Madeleine Clayton, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, (202) 482–3129, Department of Commerce, room 6608, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at mclayton@doc.gov).

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to Susan Schechter, OMB Desk Officer, room 10201, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

Dated: April 26, 2002.

Madeleine Clayton,

*Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer,
Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

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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: 2002 Economic Census Covering the Mining Sector.

Form Number(s): MI–21101, MI–21102, MI–21201, MI–21202, MI–21203, MI–21204, MI–21205, MI–21206, MI–21207, MI–21208, MI–21209, MI–21210, MI–21211, MI–21301, MI–21302.

Agency Approval Number: None.

Type of Request: New collection.

Burden: 55,080 hours in FY 2003.

Number of Respondents: 14,500.

Avg Hours Per Response: 3 hours and 50 minutes.

Needs and Uses: The 2002 Economic Census covering the Mining Sector will use a mail canvass, supplemented by data from Federal administrative records, to measure the economic activity of approximately 25,000 mining establishments classified in the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). The mining sector of the economic census distinguishes two basic activities: mine operation and mining support activities. The economic census will produce basic statistics for number of establishments, shipments, payroll, employment, detailed supplies and fuels consumed, depreciable assets, inventories, and capital expenditures. It also will yield a variety of subject statistics, including shipments by product line, type of operation, size of establishments and other industry-specific measures.

The mining sector is an integral part of the economic census which is the major source of data about the structure and functioning of the United States economy, and features unique industry and geographic detail. The economic census provides essential information for government, industry, business, and the general public. The Federal Government uses the information from the economic census as an important part of the framework for the national accounts, input-output measures, key economic indexes, and other estimates