

and position minority owners of farm and ranch land to be informed of FSA and other USDA farm programs. Except for Social Security Numbers, information on the list may be shared with community-based outreach organizations. The Social Security Numbers, when provided, will only be used internally by USDA to match the person with their farm program records in order to better target outreach efforts. Race, ethnicity and gender, when provided, will be used by USDA and minority outreach organizations that serve the particular clientele.

The Minority Farm Register will be established by FSA and jointly administered with USDA's Office of Outreach. A specific register sign-up form will be issued in Spanish and English. Informational registration material will be distributed to community-based organizations, minority-serving educational institutions, and government agencies assisting minorities with land retention and acquisition, and will be available on the internet to ensure the program is widely publicized and accessible to all. Community-based organizations, minority-serving educational institutions and other groups serving minority clientele will be partnered with as needed. The USDA is requesting a 3-year extension of approval.

This information collection was previously approved by OMB for USDA's Office of Outreach under OMB Control Number 0508-0004. The collection is being transferred to FSA and approval is being sought as a new collection of information.

Respondents: Individuals and households.

Estimated annual number of respondents: 54,000.

Estimated annual number of forms filed per person: 1.

Estimated average time to respond: 5 minutes (0.083 hours).

Estimated total annual burden hours: 4,500.

Comments are invited on (1) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) 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.

All comments received in response to this notice, including names and addresses when provided, will be a matter of public record. Comments will be summarized and included in the submission for OMB approval.

Dated: Signed at Washington, DC, on July 10, 2003.

James R. Little,

Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

[FR Doc. 03-21532 Filed 8-21-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Information Collection; Timber Sale Operating Plans

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; request for comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Forest Service is seeking comments from all interested individuals and organizations on the extension of a previously approved information collection for Timber Sale Operating Plans. The collected information will help the Forest Service facilitate contract administration of timber sales on National Forest System lands. Information will be collected from purchasers of this timber.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing on or before October 21, 2003.

ADDRESSES: All comments should be addressed to Rex Baumbach, Forest and Rangelands Management, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Mail Stop 1105, Washington, DC 20250-1105.

Comments also may be submitted via facsimile to (202) 205-1045 or by e-mail to: rbaumbach@fs.fed.us.

The public may inspect comments received in the Office of the Director, Forest and Rangelands Management Staff, Forest Service, USDA, Room 3NW, Yates Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC. Visitors are urged to call ahead to (202) 205-0855 facilitate entrance into the building.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rex Baumbach, Timber Sale Contract Administration Specialist, Forest and Rangelands Management, at (202) 205-0855.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Description of Information Collection

The following describes the information collection to be extended:

Title: Timber Operating Plans.

OMB Number: 0596-0086.

Expiration Date of Approval: January 31, 2004.

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

Abstract: The information collected is used by the agency to plan agency timber sale contract administration workload and to determine whether timber sale purchasers had scheduled operations delayed and; therefore, are eligible for an extension of the contract termination date. The information is required by timber sale contract provisions in Form FS 2400-6, Timber Sale Contract, and Form FS 2400-6T, Timber Sale Contract.

Respondents are National Forest System land timber sale purchasers who prepare a chart or letter within 60 days of a timber sale contract award, and annually thereafter until the contract is completed. The timber sale purchaser outlines timeframes and methods of accomplishing road construction, timber harvesting, and other contract requirements.

Forest Service personnel evaluate the collected information to facilitate timber sale contract administration and to determine eligibility for National Forest System land timber sale contract term extensions. Data gathered in this information collection are not available from other sources.

Estimate of Annual Burden: 30 minutes per response.

Type of Respondents: Purchasers of National Forest System timber.

Estimated Annual Number of Respondents: 2500.

Estimated Annual Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.5.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 1,875 hours.

Comment Is Invited

The agency invites comments on the following: (a) The necessity of the information collection 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 collected; and (d) ways to minimize the information collection burden 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: August 15, 2003.

Abigail R. Kimbell,

Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest System.

[FR Doc. 03-21579 Filed 8-21-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan Revision. Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest in Beaverhead, Butte-Silver Bow; Anaconda-Deer Lodge, Granite, Jefferson, Powell, Madison and Gallatin Counties, MT

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The USDA, Forest Service, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to document the analysis and disclose the environmental impacts of the proposed action to revise and combine Land and Resource Management Plans for the Beaverhead and Deerlodge National Forests. The proposal seeks to integrate resource management and incorporate larger place-based management areas. A Notice of Intent was published May 3, 2002, in the **Federal Register**, Vol. 67, No. 86, p. 22396. This is a revision of that notice in order to provide a detailed proposed action for public review and comment.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT: The public is invited to comment on the Proposed Action or meet with Marty Gardner at any point in time during the 90-day comment period beginning on August 22, 2003. Contact Marty at (406) 683-3680 or e-mail mgardner@fs.fed.us, to schedule a meeting. To get on the mailing list contact Jack Degolia (406) 683-3984, or e-mail jdegolia@fs.fed.us.

DATES: Initial comments concerning the proposed action should be received in writing, no later than 90 days from the publication of this notice of intent.

ADDRESSES: Please send comments to Herrera Environmental Consultants, 101

E. Broadway, Missoula, MT 59802. Comments may also be electronically submitted to shopkins@herrerainc.com.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Marty Gardner, Interdisciplinary Team Leader, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, 420 Barrett, Dillon, MT 59725, phone (406) 683-3860, or e-mail mgardner@fs.fed.us.

Responsible Official: Bradley E. Powell, Regional Forest, Northern Region, 200 E. Broadway, Missoula, MT 59807

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: We are revising the original Notice of Intent (**Federal Register**, Vol. 67, No. 86, page 22396, May 3, 2002), in order to provide a detailed proposed action for public review and comment. We are coordinating efforts with the Bureau of Land Management, Tribes, Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks as well as County Commissioners. In order to generate meaningful dialogue with the public we hope to meet with any interested groups or individuals upon request. To request a presentation for meetings at any time during the analysis and prior to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement call Marty Gardner at (406) 683-3860 or e-mail mgardner@fs.fed.us. We plan no formal public hearings at this time.

To assist the Forest Service with identification and consideration of issues and concerns regarding the proposed action, comments should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or sections of the proposed action. Reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementation of procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3.

Additional public comment will be accepted after publication of the DEIS anticipated by December 2004. The Environmental Protection Agency will publish the Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement in the **Federal Register**. The Forest will also publish a legal notice of availability in the Montana Standard Newspaper, Butte, Montana. The comment period on the Draft EIS will begin the day after the legal notice is published. The Final EIS and Decision are expected late in 2005.

Dated: August 6, 2003.

Bradley E. Powell,

Regional Forester.

[FR Doc. 03-20989 Filed 8-21-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Curry and Hill Private Property Access, Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests, Jackson County, CO

AGENCY: USDA, Forest Service.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to assess and disclose the environmental effects of issuing a road easement to allow motorized access to private property surrounding Matheson Reservoir. Matheson Reservoir and the Curry and Hill private property are located in Township 4 North, Range 79 West, Section 19 on the Parks Ranger District of the Routt National Forest in Colorado.

Proponents have requested a road easement for year-round motorized access across National Forest System (NSF) lands to their property for non-commercial purposes. Access would be granted through the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 (Pub. L. 96-487). As proposed, the proponents would access NFS lands in Township 3 North, Range 79 West, Section 8 and proceed north approximately 5 miles to Township 4 North, Range 79 West, Section 19 utilizing National Forest System Trail 58, also known as the Grimes Trail. The Grimes Trail has been closed to motorized use since 1994, and major improvements would be necessary to accommodate full-size vehicles.

The portion of the Grimes Trail that accesses the private land is located in a non-motorized management area prescription (1.32, Backcountry Recreation, Non-motorized). It is also located in the Troublesome Inventoried Roadless Area. For these reasons, authorization of a road easement would require an amendment to the Routt National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan, 1997).

The purpose for this action is to decide the type of access Curry and Hill need to secure reasonable use and enjoyment of their land in Section 19, T4N, R79W. Reasonable use per 36 CFR 251.114(a) is "based on contemporaneous uses made of similarly situated lands in the area."

The need for the action is to respond to Curry and Hill's request that the Forest Service issue an easement for motorized use of the Grimes Trail. The Forest Service must also determine the terms and conditions under which the proponents may access the Curry and