

of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It makes mortgage loans and loan guarantees to finance telecommunications, electric, water and waste facilities in rural areas. RUS manages loan programs in accordance with the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, 7 U.S.C. 901 *et seq.* (RE Act) and has a loan portfolio that totals approximately \$42 billion. Section 201 of the RE Act authorizes the Administrator to make loans to qualified telephone companies for the purpose of providing telephone service to the widest practicable number of rural subscribers.

Need and Use of the Information: RUS will collect information using several forms to determine an applicant's eligibility to borrow from RUS under the terms of the RE Act. The information is also used to determine that the Government's security for loans made by RUS are reasonably adequate and that the loans will be repaid within the time agreed. Without the information, RUS could not effectively monitor each borrower's compliance with the loan terms and conditions to properly ensure continued loan security.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit; not-for-profit institutions.

Number of Respondents: 50.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 3,621.

Rural Utilities Service

Title: 7 CFR Part 1778, Emergency and Imminent Community Water Assistance Grants.

OMB Control Number: 0572-0110.

Summary of Collection: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) is authorized under section 306A of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)) to provide grants to rural areas and small communities to secure adequate quantities of safe water. Grants made under this program shall be made for 100 percent of the project cost can serve rural areas with population not in excess of 5,000 and household income should not exceed 100 percent of a State's non-metropolitan median household income. Grants under this program may be made to public bodies and private nonprofit corporations serving rural areas.

Need and Use of the Information: RUS will collect the information from applicants applying for grants under 7 CFR part 1778. The information is unique to each borrower and emergency situation. Applicants must demonstrate that there is an imminent emergency or that a decline occurred within 2 years

of the date the application was filed with Rural Development.

Description of Respondents: State, Local or Tribal Government; not-for-profit institutions.

Number of Respondents: 100.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 400.

Sondra Blakey,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

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BILLING CODE 3410-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Payette National Forest, Idaho; Lick Timber Sale

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of cancellation of an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: On July 10, 2002, the USDA Forest Service published in the **Federal Register** (67 FR 45699) a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Lick Timber Sale project on the Council Ranger District of the Payette National Forest. The Forest Service has conducted a scoping process, and as a result of initial environmental analysis, has reduced the scope and scale of the project. The reconfigured proposed action is appropriate for analysis in an environmental assessment (EA) instead of an EIS. Therefore, an EIS will not be prepared, and the NOI is hereby canceled.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions about the cancellation of the NOI should be directed to Bill Spoerer, Environmental Coordinator, Council Ranger District, Payette National Forest, P.O. Box 567, Council, Idaho, 83612, phone (208) 253-0100.

Dated: November 3, 2003.

Robert S. Giles,

Acting Forest Supervisor.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Baht Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: The Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on a proposal to harvest timber in the Baht Timber Sale project area, Wrangell Ranger District, Tongass National Forest. The proposed action is to harvest an estimated 15 million board feet (31,000 ccf) on approximately 1150 acres with about 6 miles of new road construction. The range of alternatives being developed to respond to the significant issues, besides no-action, will likely be 8-33 million board feet (16,000-67,000 ccf) of timber on an estimated 500-1300 acres in one or more timber sales. The purpose and need of the timber sale is to: contribute to the production of a sustained yield of timber and mix of other resource activities from the Tongass National Forest, consistent with Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines; seek to provide a timber supply sufficient to meet the annual and planning cycle market demand for Tongass National Forest timber; provide a diversity of opportunities for resource uses that contribute to the economies of Southeast Alaska; and support a wide range of natural resource employment opportunities within Southeast Alaska's communities. The Tongass Forest Supervisor will decide on whether or not to harvest timber from this area, and if so, how this timber would be harvested. The decision will be documented in a Record of Decision based on the information disclosed in the EIS and the goals, objectives and desired future conditions as stated in the Forest Plan.

DATES: Opportunities for comment are available throughout the process. Individuals interested in receiving a scoping package should contact us within 30 days of the publication of this NOI. Comments will be most helpful if received by December 12, 2003. Additional opportunities for comment will be provided after release of the Draft EIS, anticipated in early spring of 2004.

ADDRESSES: Please send written comments to Wrangell Ranger District; Attn: Baht EIS; PO Box 51, Wrangell, AK 99929.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Chip Weber, District Ranger, or Linda Christian, IDT Leader, Wrangell Ranger District, Tongass National Forest, P.O. Box 51, Wrangell, AK 99929 telephone (907) 874-2323.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed action is to harvest an estimated 15 million board feet (31,000 ccf) on approximately 1150 acres with about six miles of new road