

Management and Budget (OMB), *OIRA_Submission@OMB.EOP.GOV* or fax (202) 395-5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, DC 20250-7602. Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of this notification. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720-8681.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Rural Utilities Service

Title: 7 CFR 1783, Grant Program to Establish a Revolving Fund Program (RFP) to Finance Water and Wastewater Project.

OMB Control Number: 0572-0138.

Summary of Collection: On May 13, 2002, the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Farm Bill) was signed into law as Public Law 107-171. Section 6002 of the Farm Bill amended the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (CONTACT), by adding a grant program to establish a revolving loan fund. The Secretary of Agriculture may make grants to qualified, private, non-profit entities. The grant recipients will use the grant funds to establish a revolving loan fund. The loans will be made to eligible entities to finance redevelopment costs of water or wastewater projects, or short-term small capital projects not part of the regular operation and maintenance of current water and wastewater systems.

Need and Use of the Information: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) will collect the following information from recipients: An application, narrative proposal, various other forms, certifications, and supplemental information. The Rural Development State Offices and the RUS National Office staff will use the information collected to determine applicant eligibility, project feasibility, and the applicant's ability to meet the grant and regulatory requirements. Failure to collect the proper information could result in improper determinations of eligibility and improper use of funds.

Description of Respondents: Not-for-profit institutions.

Number of Respondents: 5.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 313.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 05-3839 Filed 2-28-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-15-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

February 24, 2005.

The Department of Agriculture has submitted the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Comments regarding (a) 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; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) 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 should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), *OIRA_Submission@OMB.EOP.GOV* or fax (202) 395-5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, DC 20250-7602. Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of this notification. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720-8681.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Title: CWD in Cervids; Payment of Indemnity.

OMB Control Number: 0579-0189.

Summary of Collection: Federal regulations contained in 9 CFR Subchapter B govern cooperative programs to control and eradicate communicable diseases of livestock from the United States. Disease prevention is the most effective method for maintaining a healthy animal population and enhancing the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) ability to complete in exporting animals and animal products. Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE) of elk and deer typified by chronic weight loss leading to death. The presence of CWD disease in cervids causes significant economic and market losses to U.S. producers. APHIS will collect information using VS Form 1-23, Appraisal & Indemnity Claim form.

Need and Use of the Information: APHIS will collect the owner's name and address, the number of animals for which the owner is seeking payment, and the appraised value of each animal. The owner must also certify as to whether the animals are subject to a mortgage. If there is a mortgage the form must be signed by the owner and each person holding a mortgage. Failure to collect this information would make it impossible for APHIS to effectively sustain their program to accelerate the eradication of CWD from the United States.

Description of Respondents: Farms; business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 20.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 20.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 05-3900 Filed 2-28-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of the Secretary

Notice of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board Meeting

AGENCY: Research, Education, and Economics, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5

U.S.C. App 2, the United States Department of Agriculture announces a meeting of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board.

DATES: The National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board will meet March 9–11, 2005. All sessions of the meeting are open to the public.

The public may file written comments before or up to two weeks after the meeting with the contact person.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will take place at the Channel Inn Hotel, 650 Water Street, SW., Washington, DC 20024. Written comments from the public may be sent to the Contact Person identified in this notice at: The National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board; Research, Education, and Economics Advisory Board Office, Room 344–A, Jamie L. Whitten Building; United States Department of Agriculture, STOP 2255; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250–2255.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Deborah Hanfman, Executive Director, National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board; telephone: (202) 720–3684; fax: (202) 720–6199; or e-mail: dhanfman@csrees.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On Wednesday, March 9, 2005, the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board will convene its meeting at 12:30 p.m. with introductory remarks provided by the Chair of the Advisory Board, Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics, and the newly appointed U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. An evening reception following the meeting with a guest speaker who will present highlights on “The Future for Food and Nutrition” to include topics such as Nutrigenomics, Metabolomics, Bibliomics, Specialty Crops, Organics, and advances in Nutraceuticals will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

On Thursday, March 10, 2005, from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., a Focus Session, entitled “Food and Nutrition Research, Extension, Education, and Economics: Effectiveness of the Planning and Execution Process” will be held to hear remarks from a variety of distinguished leaders and experts, including USDA officials and/or designated experts. On Friday, March 11, 2005, the Focus Session will reconvene at 8 a.m. to recap highlights of the previous day’s Focus Session and to give Advisory Board members an opportunity to

discuss Focus Session issues. All meeting sessions are open to the public. A limited block of time will be allocated for public comments. The Advisory Board Meeting will adjourn by 11:30 a.m.

Written comments by attendees or other interested stakeholders will be welcomed for the public record before and up to two weeks following the Board meeting. All statements will become a part of the official record of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board and will be kept on file for public review in the Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board Office.

Due to administrative delays, less than 15 calendar days notice is provided. Facilities for the meeting have been reserved and committee members are prepared to attend. It would, therefore, be contrary to the public interest and to the interest of the committee and the Department, to postpone the meeting in order to allow for a 15 day notice.

Done at Washington, DC, this 24th day of February, 2005.

Joseph J. Jen,

Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics.

[FR Doc. 05–4014 Filed 2–25–05; 12:26 pm]

BILLING CODE 3410–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Bugtown Gulch Mountain Pine Beetle and Fuels Project, Hell Canyon Ranger District, Black Hills National Forest, Custer, SD

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: The Bugtown Gulch Mountain Pine Beetle and Fuels project area is approximately 16,000 acres in size, with 13,500 acres of National Forest lands and 2,500 acres of private land. The project proposes prevention, suppression and salvage strategies to reduce the beetle infestation and minimize adverse effects to resources and includes fuel treatments to lessen the potential for widespread high intensity wildfire. There are approximately 49 structures on private land within the project area and another 35 within 1 mile of the project boundary. Between 1999 and 2004, Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) mortality in the project areas has increased 14-fold. The beetle population, based on

the number of dead trees, continues to increase an average of 2–3 times per year in the project area and is spreading. Some pine stands have already suffered 50–75% mortality. The Acting Black Hills National Forest, Forest Supervisor, Brad Exton, has determined that a mountain pine beetle epidemic is occurring in the project area and that the epidemic could pose significant threats to forest resources in the project area, including wildlife habitat, forest products and watershed health. Currently, approximately 85% of the project area is ponderosa pine stands in a high risk condition for mountain pine beetles susceptibility. This includes approximately 718 acres within the Wabash timber sale which is under contract, but not yet harvested.

This project is an “authorized project” under Title I of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HERA). We will be utilizing expedited procedures authorized by this act to complete project planning and decisionmaking. **DATES:** Comments concerning the scope of the analysis will be most useful if received within 30 days following publication of this notice. Comments submitted by individuals, groups or other agencies in response to previous scoping efforts for this project have been incorporated into the analysis and there is no need to resubmit comments in response to this NOI. The draft environmental impact statement is expected May 2005 and the final environmental impact statement is expected July 2005.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Michael D. Lloyd, District Ranger, Black Hills National Forest, Hell Canyon Ranger District, 330 Mount Rushmore Road, Custer, South Dakota 57730. Telephone number: (605) 673–4853. Fax number: (605) 673–5461. Electronic comments must be readable in Word, Rich Text or pdf formats and must contain “Bugtown Gulch” in the subject line. Electronic comments may be e-mailed to: comments-rocky-mountain-black-hills-hell-canyon@fs.fed.us.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kelly Honors, Project Leader, at (315) 668–3307 or Patricia Hudson, District NEPA Coordinator, at (605) 673–4853, Hell Canyon Ranger District, Black Hills National Forest, 330 Mount Rushmore Road, Custer, SD 57730.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The actions proposed are in direct response to management direction provided by the Black Hills National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, as amended (Forest Plan). It is anticipated that a non-significant Forest Plan Amendment related to big game