

inspection and grading services on a fee for service basis. The collection of information regarding the requirement for companies to ensure domestic origin of the products they deliver to the USDA Purchase Program is provided for in the "General Terms and Conditions for Procurement of Agricultural Commodities of Services," (USDA-1). The Domestic Origin Verification System Program (DOVS) is a voluntary audit and verification user-fee service available to suppliers, processors, and any financially interested party. It is designed to provide validation of the applicant's domestic origin verification system prior to bidding on contracts to supply food products to the Department's Feeding programs, and/or may be conducted after a contract is awarded. Participation in DOVS does not relieve a company of its contractual requirements to provide only domestic origin product to the USDA.

Need and Use of the Information: An interested company requests a DOVS questionnaire, and once completed it contains the applicants procedures to ensure fruit, nut or vegetable components or products can be traced back to their domestic origin; use of a segregation plan to keep all non-domestic components or products separate from domestic products; for taking corrective action on nonconformities and deficiencies; for checking the adequacy of their internal system of ensuring domestic origin; instructing employees in the domestic origin requirement and for maintaining records relating to the applicant's domestic origin verification system. These elements should be place whether or not the applicant is on the DOVS program or providing a trace-back on every contract. DOVS assists companies to meet the domestic origin requirement for the USDA Purchase Program efficiently and eliminates the redundancy of the trace paperwork that is required for every USDA contract.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 100.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 225.

Charlene Parker,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

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BILLING CODE 3410-02-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

**Submission for OMB Review;
Comment Request**

December 7, 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.

Risk Management Agency

Title: Premium Reduction Plan.

OMB Control Number: 0563-0079.

Summary of Collection: The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) amended the General Administrative Regulations to include provisions regarding the requests by approved insurance providers to implement the premium reduction plan authorized under section 508(e)(3) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (Act) and the approval of the amount of a premium

discount to be provided to farmers under the premium reduction plan. This program allows approved insurance providers to apply to FCIC for authority to reduce the premium charged to producers in accordance with Section 508(e)(3) of the Act, as amended, and to provide limitations and procedures established by FCIC.

Need and Use of the Information: To ensure that the Risk Management Agency (RMA) receives complete revised Plans of Operations complying with twelve requirements from approved insurance providers for the purpose of obtaining approval of premium reduction plans. An approved insurance provider can apply to RMA for authority to reduce premiums payable by producers if the approved insurance provider is able to provide insurance more efficiently than the administrative and operating expense reimbursement paid by RMA. RMA will review the information submitted to determine if the company can actually produce the efficiency required to reduce the premium.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit, farms, Federal Government.

Number of Respondents: 90.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 1,095.

Charlene Parker,

Departmental Information Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. E5-7247 Filed 12-12-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-08-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

California Coast Province Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA Forest Service.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The California Coast Province Advisory Committee (CCPAC) will meet on January 12, 2005 in Eureka, California. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the issues relating to the implementation of the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP).

DATES: The meeting will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on January 12, 2006.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Six Rivers National Forest Supervisor's Office Conference Room at 1330 Bayshore Way, Eureka, California.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Laura Chapman, Committee Coordinator, USDA, Six Rivers National

Forest, 1330 Bayshore Way, Eureka, CA 95501. Phone: (707) 441-3549. E-mail: ichapman@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The agenda items include: (1) An overview of the PAC and PAC objectives for new members; (2) a report on the April, 2005 NWFP Monitoring Conference; (3) a Regional Ecosystem Office update; (4) a presentation on the Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership; (5) an update on the Watershed Progress Report; (6) a presentation on the Six Rivers National Forest Business Plan; (7) CCPAC and agency updates; and (8) a discussion of desired topics and dates for upcoming meetings and field trips. The meeting is open to the public. Public input opportunity will be provided and individuals will have the opportunity to address the committee at that time.

Dated: December 6, 2005.

Jeff Walter,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 05-23952 Filed 12-12-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

RIN 0596-AC34

National Environmental Policy Act Documentation Needed for Oil and Gas Exploration and Development Activities (Categorical Exclusion)

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of proposed directive; request for comment.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service is proposing to amend its directives in Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, Chapter 30, which describes categorical exclusions, that is, categories of actions that will not result in significant impacts on the environment and, therefore, normally do not require further analysis in either an environmental impact assessment or an environmental impact statement. The proposed amendment would add a new categorical exclusion in section 31.2 to facilitate the implementation of limited oil and gas projects on leases on National Forest System lands that do not have significant effects on the human environment. This categorical exclusion will not apply where there are extraordinary circumstances, such as adverse effects on threatened and endangered species or their designated critical habitat, wilderness areas, inventoried roadless areas, wetlands, and archeological or historic sites.

Public comment is invited and will be considered in development of the final directive.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing by February 13, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments via the U.S. Postal Service to: Oil and Gas CatEx Proposed Directive, C/O Content Analysis Group, P.O. Box 2000, Bountiful, UT 84011-2000, or by facsimile to (801) 397-2601, or by e-mail to ogcatex@contentanalysisgroup.com. If comments are sent via facsimile or e-mail, the public is asked not to submit duplicate written comments. Please confine comments to issues pertinent to the proposed directive and explain the reasons for any recommended changes.

All comments, including names, addresses and other contact information when provided, are placed in the record and are available for public review and copying at 5500 West Amelia Earhart Drive, Suite 100, Salt Lake City, Utah, during regular business hours (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays. Those wishing to inspect comments are encouraged to call in advance to, Jody Sutton, (801) 517-1032 to facilitate access to the building.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Reta Laford, Ecosystem Management Staff, (202) 205-2936, or Mike Greeley, Minerals and Geology Staff, (703) 605-4785, Forest Service, USDA.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Need for the Proposed Direction

The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations at 40 CFR 1507.3 provide that agencies, after notice and comment, may adopt categories of actions that do not have significant impacts on the human environment and, consequently, do not require preparation of an environmental assessment (EA) or an environmental impact statement (EIS). Current Forest Service procedures for complying with and implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) are set out in Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.15, Chapter 30. This chapter lists the categories of actions that do not require preparation of an EA or an EIS by the Forest Service. The Forest Service calls these categories of action "categorical exclusions" (CE). The agency is proposing a new CE for certain limited oil and gas exploration and development activities.

Oil and gas development is widespread throughout the National Forest System (NFS). With the enactment of the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act of 1987, 30 U.S.C. 226 ("FOOGLRA") both the

Secretary of the Interior (acting through the Bureau of Land Management) and the Secretary of Agriculture (acting through the Forest Service) have authority and responsibility regarding oil and gas leases on NFS lands, and both agencies have the authority to determine the stipulations under which leasing will be permitted. 30 U.S.C. 226(h); 43 CFR 3101.7-2(a). FOOGLRA provides that the Forest Service shall regulate all surface disturbing activities relating to oil and gas leasing on NFS lands. 30 U.S.C. 226(g). No permit to drill on NFS lands may be granted without the analysis and approval by the Forest Service of a surface use plan of operations (SUPO) covering proposed surface disturbing activities within the lease area.

The Forest Service has established an incremental decision-making framework for the consideration of oil and gas leasing activities on NFS lands that is set out in 36 CFR 228.102. In general, the various steps undertaken are as follows: (1) Forest Service leasing analysis; (2) Forest Service notification to Bureau of Land Management (BLM) of lands administratively available for leasing; (3) Forest Service review and verification of BLM leasing proposals; (4) BLM assessment of Forest Service conditions of surface occupancy; (5) BLM offers lease; (6) BLM issues lease; (7) Forest Service review and approval of lessee's SUPO; and (8) BLM review and approval of lessee's application for permit to drill (APD). The proposed CE set out in this notice applies exclusively to the Forest Service's review and approval of an applicant's SUPO.

In 2001 President George W. Bush issued Executive Order (E.O.) 13212 to expedite the increased supply and availability of energy to our Nation. E.O. 13212 set forth "For energy-related projects, agencies shall expedite their review of permits or take other actions as necessary to accelerate the completion of such projects, while maintaining safety, public health, and environmental protections. The agencies shall take such actions to the extent permitted by law and regulation, and where appropriate." In response, the National Energy Policy and the Forest Service Energy Implementation Plan were developed. These two initiatives call for streamlining the processing of APDs and other energy related permits in an environmentally sound manner.

On August 8th 2005, President George W. Bush signed the Energy Policy Act of 2005 into law. Section 390 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 establishes categorical exclusions under NEPA that apply to five categories of oil and gas exploration and development activities