

extension of a currently approved information collection used in support of the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). The information collected is needed to determine eligibility to obtain NAP assistance.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before February 20, 2007 to be assured of consideration. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments concerning this notice should be addressed to Clay Lagasse, Section Head; Common Disaster Provisions Section, Disaster Branch; Production, Emergencies and Compliance Division, Farm Service Agency, USDA, Mail Stop 0517, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0522 and to the Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503. Comments also may be submitted by e-mail to: [Clay.Lagasse@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Clay.Lagasse@wdc.usda.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Clay Lagasse, Section Head, Common Disaster Provisions Section, Disaster Assistance Branch, (202) 205-9893.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Description of Information Collection**

*Title:* Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program.

*OMB Number:* 0560-0175.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* July 31, 2007.

*Type of Request:* Extension with revision.

*Abstract:* The Noninsured Crop Assistance Program is authorized under 7 U.S.C. 7333 and implemented under regulations issued at 7 CFR Part 1437. The NAP is administered under the general supervision of the Executive Vice-President of CCC (who also serves as Administrator, FSA), and is carried out by FSA State and County committees. The information collected allows CCC to provide assistance under NAP for losses of commercial crops or other agricultural commodities (except livestock) for which catastrophic risk protection under 7 U.S.C. 1508 is not available, and that is produced for food or fiber. Additionally, NAP provides assistance for losses of floriculture, ornamental nursery, Christmas tree crops, turf grass sod, seed crops, aquaculture (including ornamental fish), sea oats and sea grass, industrial crops, and tropical agricultural crops. The information collected is necessary to determine whether a producer and crop or commodity meet applicable conditions for assistance and to

determine compliance with existing rules. Producers must annually: (1) Request NAP coverage by completing an application for coverage and paying a service fee by the CCC-established application closing date; (2) file a current crop-year report of acreage for the covered crop or commodity; and (3) certify production of each covered crop or commodity. When damage to a covered crop or commodity occurs, producers must file a notice of loss with the local FSA administrative county office within 15 calendar days of occurrence or 15 calendar days of the date damage to the crop or commodity becomes apparent. Producers must also file an application for payment and certification of income with the local FSA administrative county office.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden for this information collection is estimated to average 0.6 hours per response.

*Type of Respondents:* Producers of commercial crops or other agricultural commodities (except livestock).

*Estimated Annual Number of Respondents:* 291,500.

*Estimated Annual Number of Responses per Respondent:* 3.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 2,143,562.

*Comment is invited on:* (1) Whether this collection of information is necessary for the stated purposes and the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical or scientific utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information, 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 respondents, including the use of 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 Office of Management and Budget approval.

Signed at Washington, DC, on December 15, 2006.

**Teresa Lasseter,**

*Administrator, Farm Service Agency, and Executive Vice-President, Commodity Credit Corporation.*

[FR Doc. 06-9830 Filed 12-21-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-05-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**Foreign Agricultural Service**

**Advisory Committee on Emerging Markets: Nominations**

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that nominations are being sought for twenty (20) qualified persons to serve on the Advisory Committee on Emerging Markets (the Committee). The role of the Committee is to provide information and advice, based upon knowledge and expertise of the members, useful to the Department of Agriculture (USDA) in implementing the Emerging Markets Program (EMP). The Committee also advises USDA on ways to increase the involvement of the U.S. private sector in emerging markets in food and rural business systems and reviews proposals submitted to the Program for funding technical assistance activities.

**DATES:** Written nominations must be received by the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) by 5 p.m. on January 22, 2007.

**ADDRESSES:** All nominating materials should be sent to Ms. Nancy Hirschhorn, Foreign Agricultural Service, Stop 1052, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-1052. Forms may also be submitted by fax to (202) 690-0193.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Persons interested in serving on the Committee, or in nominating individuals to serve, should contact Ms. Nancy Hirschhorn, Foreign Agricultural Service, by telephone (202) 720-6896, by fax (202) 690-0193, or by electronic mail to [emo@fas.usda.gov](mailto:emo@fas.usda.gov) and request Form AD-755 and Form SF-181. Persons with disabilities who require an alternative means for communication of information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's Target Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Committee is authorized by section 1542 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990, as amended. The overall purpose of the Committee is to provide USDA with information that may be useful in carrying out the provisions of the Emerging Markets Program. The Committee is composed of representatives of the various sectors of the food and rural business systems of the United States. More information about the purpose and function of the Committee and about the Emerging Markets Program may be found at the FAS/Emerging Markets Program Web site: <http://www.fas.usda.gov/mos/em>

*markets/em-markets.asp*. Form AD-755 is required and is available on the EMP home page at <http://www.fas.usda.gov/mos/em-markets/Form%20AD-755.doc>. Form SF-181 is requested, but optional, and is available at [http://www.opm.gov/forms/pdf\\_fill/sf181.pdf](http://www.opm.gov/forms/pdf_fill/sf181.pdf). The members of the Committee are appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture and serve at the discretion of the Secretary. Committee members serve without compensation, but can receive reimbursement for travel expenses to attend committee meetings, if requested, in accordance with USDA travel regulations.

The Committee has a balanced membership of up to 20 members, representing a broad cross-section of the U.S. agricultural and agribusiness industry. All appointments will expire two years from the date of appointment. The Secretary may renew an appointment for one or more additional terms.

Most meetings will be held in Washington, DC, though other locations may be selected on an occasional basis. Committee meetings will be open to the public, unless the Secretary of Agriculture determines that the Committee will be discussing issues, the disclosure of which justify closing all or a portion of a meeting, in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552b(c).

Nominations are open to all individuals without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, physical handicap, marital status, or sexual orientation. To ensure that the work of the Committee takes into account the needs of the diverse groups served by USDA, membership shall include, to the extent practicable, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent the interest of minorities, women, and persons with disabilities.

Members should have experience, expertise, and knowledge of international agriculture and of trade and development issues as they affect emerging markets. No persons, company, producer, farm organization, trade association, or other entity has a right to representation on the Committee. In making selections, every effort will be made to maintain balanced representation of the various broad industries within the United States as well as geographic diversity.

**W. Kirk Miller,**

*Acting Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service.*

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**BILLING CODE 3410-10-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service.

#### Flathead National Forest, Swan Lake Ranger District, Montana; Cooney McKay Project Environmental Impact Statement

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

**SUMMARY:** The Forest Service will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a proposal to harvest timber, reduce hazardous forest fuels, and construct temporary roads within the Cooney McKay Project area. The project area is approximately 35 miles southeast of Bigfork, Montana, in the vicinity of the community of Condon, Montana. The Forest Service is seeking further information and comments from Federal, State, and local agencies and other individuals or organizations that maybe interested in or affected by the proposed actions. These comments will be used to prepare the draft EIS.

**DATES:** The draft environmental impact statement is expected in March 2007 and the final environmental impact statement is expected in May 2007.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments to Steve Brady, District Ranger, Swan Lake Ranger District, 200 Ranger Station Road, Bigfork, MT 59911.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sue Tebay, Project Writer-Editor, Swan Lake Ranger District, 200 Ranger Station Road, Bigfork, MT 59911.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Forest Plan

The EIS will tier to the Flathead National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) and EIS of January, 1986, and its subsequent amendments, which provide overall guidance of all land management activities on the Flathead National Forest.

##### Background and Existing Condition Information

The Forest Services believes that a combination of factors such as natural succession processes, extended regional drought patterns, introduction of invasive plants, human development patterns, along with unintended consequences of past management practices (e.g., fire suppression policies) have crated and continue to lead to vegetative conditions that do not wholly meet the desired future condition for the project area, as described in the Forest Plan. The consequences of these environmental changes and past

management practices place portions of the forested landscape at an elevated risk to unwanted disturbances such as insect epidemics, wide-scale disease infections, and high-severity wildfire.

#### Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose and need for the Cooney McKay project include: (1) Improving the general health, resiliency, and sustainability of forest vegetative communities within the project area; (2) reducing the risk of insect epidemics and disease infestations within the project area; (3) reducing the hazardous forest fuels buildup on National Forest System lands adjacent to private lands within the project area; (4) providing for a safer environment for the public and firefighters should a wildfire occur within the project area; increase the probability of stopping wildfires on National Forest Services lands before they burn onto private lands; and (5) providing commercial and personal-use wood products for the local communities.

#### Proposed Action

To move toward the desired future (vegetative) condition of restoring and maintaining a healthy forest in the project area, the Cooney McKay proposal includes mechanical and/or hand vegetation treatments of mature and immature forest, ecosystem maintenance burning on approximately 2,500 acres of upper elevation forest and shrubland stands; hand planting of approximately 302 acres; and invasive plants/noxious weed treatment on traveled roadways. In addition, approximately 900 acres may be understory or jackpot burned following treatment. The proposal includes the construction and subsequent reclamation of approximately 2 miles of temporary roads on National Forest System lands to access treatment units. Best Management Practices would be applied to all temporary roads constructed and roads temporarily opened, as well as all system roads used in association with this project for access and product removal.

The proposed management actions summarized above are being considered together because they represent either connected or cumulative actions as defined by the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR 1508.25).

#### Possible Alternatives

Alternatives may be developed to respond to concerns that the proposed action could potentially result in adverse impacts to white-tailed deer winter habitat or that the proposed