

performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information will have practical 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 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. Comments should be sent to the address in the preamble. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: March 20, 2009.

**John R. Kort,**

*Acting Administrator, Economic Research Service.*

[FR Doc. E9-7715 Filed 4-6-09; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-18-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Utilities Service

#### Information Collection Activity; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended), the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) invites comments on this information collection for which approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) will be requested.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by June 8, 2009.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Thomas P. Dickson, Deputy Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, USDA RUS, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Stop 1522, Room 5818 South Building, Washington, DC 20250-1522. Telephone: (202) 690-4492. Fax: (202) 720-8435. E-mail: [thomas.dickson@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:thomas.dickson@wdc.usda.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) regulation (5 CFR 1320) implementing provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) requires that interested members of the public

and affected agencies have an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping activities (see 5 CFR 1320.8(d)). This notice identifies an information collection that will be submitted to OMB for extension.

**Comments are invited on:** (a) Whether the proposed 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 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 to be collected; and (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. Comments may be sent to: Michele Brooks, Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, USDA RUS, Stop 1522, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-1522. Fax: (202) 720-8435.

**Title:** RUS Form 675, Certification of Authority.

**OMB Control Number:** 0572-0074.

**Type of Request:** Revision of a currently approved information collection.

**Abstract:** The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) manages loan programs in accordance with the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended (7 U.S.C. 901 *et seq.*) (RE Act). A major factor in managing loan programs is controlling the advance of funds. One reason to control funds is so that the actual borrowers get their money. The use of RUS Form 675 allows this control to be achieved by providing a list of authorized signatures against which signatures requesting funds are compared. RUS Form 675 provides an effective control against the unauthorized release of funds by providing a list of authorized signatures. OMB Circular A-123, Management Accountability and Control, states that information should be maintained on a current basis and that cash should be protected from unauthorized use. Form 675 allows borrowers to keep RUS up-to-date of any changes in signature authority and controls the release of funds only to authorized borrower representatives.

**Estimate of Burden:** Public reporting for this collection of information is estimated to average .10 hours per response.

**Respondents:** Business or other for profit; Not-for-profit institutions; and State, Local, or Tribal government.

**Estimated Number of Respondents:** 250.

**Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:** 1.

**Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:** 25.0 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Thomas P. Dickson, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, at (202) 690-4492. Fax: (202) 720-8435. E-mail: [thomas.dickson@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:thomas.dickson@wdc.usda.gov).

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval.

All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: March 31, 2009.

**James R. Newby,**

*Acting Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.*

[FR Doc. E9-7722 Filed 4-6-09; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-15-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Utilities Service

#### Information Collection Activity; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended), the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) invites comments on this information collection for which approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) will be requested.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by June 8, 2009.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Thomas P. Dickson, Deputy Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, USDA RUS, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., STOP 1522, Room 5158 South Building, Washington, DC 20250-1522. Telephone: (202) 690-4492. FAX: (202) 720-8435. E-mail: [thomas.dickson@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:thomas.dickson@wdc.usda.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) regulation (5 CFR part 1320) implementing provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) requires that interested members of the public and affected agencies have an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping activities (see 5 CFR

1320.8(d)). This notice identifies an information collection that will be submitted to OMB for extension.

*Comments are invited on:* (a) Whether the proposed 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 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 to be collected; and (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. Comments may be sent to: Michele Brooks, Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, USDA RUS, STOP 1522, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-1522. FAX: (202) 720-8435.

*Title:* Extensions of Payments of Principal and Interest.

*OMB Control Number:* 0572-0123.

*Type of Request:* Extension of a currently approved information collection.

*Abstract:* This collection of information consists of information on the procedures which borrowers must follow in order to request extensions of principal and interest. Authority for these is contained in section 12 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (REAct), as amended and in section 236 of the "Disaster Relief Act of 1970 (Pub. L. 91-606), as amended by the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (Pub. L. 103-354). Eligible purposes include financial hardship, energy resource conservation (ERC) loans, renewable energy projects, distributed generation projects, and contribution-in-aid of construction. These procedures are codified at 7 CFR part 1721, subpart B.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting for this collection of information is estimated to average 4.71 hours per response.

*Respondents:* Not-for-profit institutions.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 90.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 2.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 424 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Thomas P. Dickson, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, at (202) 690-4492.

FAX: (202) 720-8435. E-mail: [thomas.dickson@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:thomas.dickson@wdc.usda.gov).

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: March 31, 2009.

**James R. Newby,**

*Acting Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.*

[FR Doc. E9-7720 Filed 4-6-09; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-15-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Willow Creek Pass Fuel Reduction Project

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA—Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests; Hahns Peak-Bears Ears Ranger District, Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

**PROJECT:** Willow Creek Pass Fuel Reduction Project.

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

**SUMMARY:** The mountain pine beetle epidemic is continuing to cause large areas of mortality to lodgepole pine throughout the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests. Adjacent private lands are experiencing mortality along shared boundaries and an increasing number of homeowner associations are taking preventive steps to provide defensible space around their properties and reduce overhead hazard trees.

The Willow Creek Pass Village Homeowners Association (WCPV-HOA) has requested assistance with increasing defensible space and removal of hazard trees on Forest lands (east) adjacent to their private boundary.

This project is an "authorized and covered project" under Title I of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA). We will be using expedited procedures authorized by this Act to complete project planning and decision-making. Use of this authority requires an emphasis on collaboration with local communities and a determination that an epidemic exists by consulting with forest health specialists.

**DATES:** The draft environmental impact statement is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and available for public review during April 2009. At that time, the EPA will publish a Notice of Availability (NOA) of the draft EIS in the **Federal Register**. The comment period on the draft EIS will be for a period of not less than 45 days from the date the EPA publishes the NOA in the **Federal Register**. It is important that those

interested in the management of this area comment at that time.

The final EIS is expected to be available in June 2009. In the final EIS, the Forest Service will respond to any comments received during the public comment period that pertain to the environmental analysis. Those comments and the Forest Service responses will be disclosed and discussed in the final EIS and will be considered when the final decision about this proposal is made.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments to Jamie Kingsbury, District Ranger, 925 Weiss Drive, Steamboat Springs, Colorado 80487. Comments may also be sent via e-mail or facsimile. E-mail to: [comments-rocky-mountain-medicine-bow-routt-hahns-peak-bears-ears@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-rocky-mountain-medicine-bow-routt-hahns-peak-bears-ears@fs.fed.us), include "Willow Creek Pass" in the subject line of the e-mail message, or via facsimile to 970-870-2284.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be part of the public record for this proposed action. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, anonymous comments will not provide the respondent with standing to appeal the subsequent decision.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Brian Waugh—Environmental Coordinator (970-870-2185) or Andy Cadenhead—Supervisory Forester (970-870-2220), Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests, 925 Weiss Drive, Steamboat Springs, Colorado 80487.

Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **Purpose and Need for Action**

The purpose of the Willow Creek Pass Project is to provide defensible space along the boundary shared with the U.S. Forest Service and reduce fuel and overhead hazards adjacent to the private properties in the WCPV-HOA. This would include reducing hazard fuels in close proximity to private in-holdings and adjacent properties of the WCPV-HOA, creating defensible space to provide increased protection from wildland fire events, and removing hazard trees that could fall on private residences and other improvements in the Willow Creek Pass Village Homeowners Association.

There is a need to:

- Reduce the development of continuous high hazard fuel conditions.