

between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The leaders of the Forest Service see benefit in merging the Northeastern Area with the Eastern Region under the leadership of one Regional Forester. The merger of the two units will improve forest management and enhance technology transfer through unified leadership. This decision by the ELT will:

- Integrate existing programs—management, discovery and applications—to address ecosystem to landscape-level questions from a suite of contemporary conservation issues.

- Augment the transfer of science developed by the Northern Research Station.

- Deliver to the constituents of the Northeast and Midwest a broader suite of programs.

- Enhance capabilities that allow national level concerns to be addressed, including climate change; using wood for energy; land restoration; destructive invasive species; and urban natural resources stewardship.

- Improve the agency structure in the twenty-state region and overall operating efficiencies.

- Move to a unified *Eastern Region*, led by a Regional Forester.

Both units currently have strong programs. Combining the strengths of current resources will provide a powerful way to serve the people in the region and contribute to national priorities.

Both units will continue to build on their collective strengths and will strive to develop a model approach for effective forest management and science-based technology transfer. This is important as the Agency continues to seek ways to maximize the effectiveness of Forest Service programs. The potential to help address national stewardship issues will be profound. Specifically, actions that we envision include:

- Landscape-level stewardship within a wide range of land ownerships.

- More cohesive and integrated projects and programs that build on current capacity. The Climate Change Program is a prominent example. Work in the control and management of destructive invasive species is another example. Urban natural resources stewardship offers still another great opportunity.

- A suite of business operation practices that more effectively serve all the twenty states through one organizational mission.

- A single executive team organized and located in a way that best facilitates

an integrated *Landscape Science* vision and works in harmony with the Combined Eastern Leadership Team (CELT).

- The Agency leadership will avoid any activity that creates inefficiencies and runs contrary to the mission of the Forest Service. Accordingly, we will strive to minimize the movement of current employees and move towards a unified Eastern Region as quickly as practicable. We will proceed at a pace that affords the best possible program to be implemented and addresses the needs of the people we serve.

- Begin the formal process of combining two organizational units.

Dated: June 2, 2009.

**Hank Kashdan,**

*Associate Chief, U.S. Forest Service.*

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**BILLING CODE 3410-11-P**

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Coastal Zone Management Act External Review

**AGENCY:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before August 10, 2009.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 7845, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at [dHynek@doc.gov](mailto:dHynek@doc.gov)).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information should be directed to Patmarie Nedelka, (301) 713-3155 ext. 127 or [Patmarie.Nedelka@noaa.gov](mailto:Patmarie.Nedelka@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

#### I. Abstract

As part of its continuing efforts to monitor and improve performance of programs authorized by the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as

amended (CZMA) NOAA has contracted for an independent external review of CZMA programs. As part of this review, the contractor will conduct telephone interviews with representatives from Federal, State, local and non-governmental organizations that work for or with State Coastal Zone Management Programs or National Estuarine Research Reserves.

#### II. Method of Collection

Respondents will be contacted by telephone.

#### III. Data

*OMB Control Number:* None.

*Form Number:* None.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission.

*Affected Public:* State, Local, or Tribal Government; not-for-profit institutions.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 100.

*Estimated Time per Response:* Telephone interviews, 2 hours.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 160.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$0.

#### IV. Request for Comments

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 shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (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 respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: June 4, 2009.

**Gwellnar Banks,**

*Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

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