

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE****Rural Housing Service****Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection**

**AGENCY:** Rural Housing Service (RHS), USDA Rural Development.

**ACTION:** Proposed collection; comments requested.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Rural Housing Service's intention to request an extension for a currently approved information collection in support of the program for Technical and Supervisory Assistance (TSA) grants.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by November 29, 2010 to be assured of consideration.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Myron Wooden, Senior Loan Specialist, Single Family Housing Direct Loan Division, Rural Housing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Mail STOP 0783, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-0783, Telephone 202-720-4780.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Technical & Supervisory Assistance Grants.

*OMB Number:* 0575-0188.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* January 31, 2011.

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

*Abstract:* RHS is authorized under Section 525 of Title V of the Housing Act of 1949, as amended, to make grants to or to enter into contracts to pay part or all of the cost of developing, conducting, administering or coordinating effective and comprehensive programs of technical and supervisory assistance which will aid needy low-income individuals and families in benefiting from Federal, State and local housing programs in rural areas.

Recipient public or private nonprofit corporations, agencies, institutions, organizations, Indian tribes and other associations approved by the Secretary assist low-income individuals by providing homebuyer training, preparing applications for loan and other housing assistance, and counseling those with delinquent Rural Development housing loans. RHS refers to this program as Technical and Supervisory Assistance. RHS annually publishes a Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) in the **Federal Register** to invite grant proposals. The NOFA sets forth

the eligibility and application requirements.

Information is collected from applicants and grant recipients by Rural Development staff in its local, State and National offices. This information will be used to determine applicant eligibility for a grant, project feasibility, to select grants for funding, and to monitor performance of selected grantees. If an applicant's proposal is selected for funding, it will be notified of the selection and given the opportunity to submit a formal application.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .58 hours per response.

*Respondents:* Public and private nonprofit corporations, agencies, institutions, organizations, and Indian tribes.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 30.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 12.96.

*Estimated Number of Responses:* 389.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 661 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Jeanne Jacobs, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, at (202) 692-0040.

**Comments**

*Comments are invited on:* (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of RHS, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of RHS' 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 Jeanne Jacobs, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, STOP 0742, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250. 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: September 22, 2010.

**Tammye Treviño,**

*Administrator, Rural Housing Service.*

[FR Doc. 2010-24492 Filed 9-29-10; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE P**

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE****Forest Service****Lincoln National Forest, New Mexico, Integrated Non-Native Invasive Plant Project**

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

**SUMMARY:** The Lincoln National Forest (LNF) proposes to implement an integrated Forest-wide management strategy to control spread of non-native invasive plants (NNIP) within the LNF. The proposal utilizes several management tools, including registered herbicides, biological agents, controlled grazing, manual/mechanical methods, and adaptive management. Invasive plants designated by the State of New Mexico as noxious weeds are the primary focus of this project. By definition, noxious weeds pose a potential threat to human health and/or economic activity. The LNF proposes to manage occurrences of other NNIP species that pose an identifiable threat to native species diversity, ecological function, or resilience of native habitats.

**DATES:** Comments concerning scope of analysis must be received by November 29, 2010. The draft environmental impact statement is expected January 2011 and the final environmental impact statement is expected April 2011.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments to NNIP Project, Lincoln National Forest, 3463 Las Palomas Road, Alamogordo, NM 88310. Comments may also be sent via e-mail to *comments-southwestern-lincoln@fs.fed.us*, or via facsimile to (575) 434-7218.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will become 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 participate in subsequent administrative review or judicial review.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sabrina Flores, Interdisciplinary Team Leader, Lincoln National Forest—SO, 3463 Las Palomas Road, Alamogordo,

NM 88310. Telephone: (575) 434-7237 or electronic address: [sflores@fs.fed.us](mailto:sflores@fs.fed.us).

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**

As provided by direction in Executive Order 13112, the Forest Service Manual, and LNF Land and Resource Management Plan, as amended (Forest Plan), the primary purpose of and need for this project is to protect and restore resilience, abundance, and biological diversity of desired native plant communities. This project is part of the LNF's ongoing ecosystem restoration effort. Management activities would result in Forest-wide progress toward site- or situation-specific needs, for all management areas within the LNF. This proposal is needed because existing populations of NNIP occur within the LNF and are degrading natural communities. Inventoried and new or unknown infestations continue to spread unchecked. Past projects to control NNIP on the LNF have been authorized with budgetary and geographic limitations. These limitations have kept the LNF from keeping pace with the extent in which several NNIP species spread and encroach into new areas.

#### **Proposed Action**

The LNF proposes to implement an integrated weed management (IWM) strategy as defined in the Forest Service Manual for prevention, eradication, suppression, and reduction of existing and future NNIP infestations. The IWM strategy is based on ecological factors and includes consideration of site conditions, other resource values, resource uses, NNIP characteristics, and potential effectiveness of control measures for specific circumstances. The proposed action includes both non-treatment and treatment practices: Strategies for awareness and education in order to prevent new infestations; early detection of and rapid response to newly discovered infestations; control of outbreaks of existing infestations that threaten sensitive and native habitats; containment of established infestations by maintaining treatments along spread pathways and previously treated areas; and cost-effective maintenance of vegetation treatments including those designed to reduce hazardous fuels and improve wildlife habitat; use of all treatment "tools" such as chemical, mechanical, biological, and controlled

grazing management practices; treatment followed by restoration and revegetation (as appropriate), as well as monitoring of NNIP-impacted lands; and close coordination across jurisdictional boundaries through cooperative partnerships.

#### **Cooperating Agencies**

The LNF initiated correspondence with 61 entities as an invitation as a cooperating agency on September 17, 2010.

#### **Possible Alternatives**

The No Action alternative will serve as a baseline for comparison of alternatives. Under the No Action alternative, the LNF would continue to deal with NNIP species as authorized under existing National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents including: current noxious weed and other site-specific projects. Additional action alternatives may be developed to respond to significant issues, if any.

#### **Responsible Official**

The Forest Service Southwestern Regional Forester is the responsible official for portions of the project that propose herbicide treatment of NNIP species within congressionally designated wilderness and research natural areas within the LNF. The LNF Forest Supervisor is the responsible official for all other portions of the LNF and non-herbicide treatment within wilderness and research natural areas.

#### **Nature of Decision To Be Made**

The Forest Service Southwestern Regional Forester and the LNF Forest Supervisor will decide whether or not management of NNIP species on the LNF will be Forest-wide with a more comprehensive approach, and if so, what resource protection measures and monitoring requirements will be required for implementation.

#### **Preliminary Issues**

Several analysis efforts related to the treatment of NNIP species on National Forests in New Mexico and Arizona (Region 3) have been completed or are currently on-going at this time. Unintended detrimental environmental effects to non-target species could result from the application of herbicide or release of biological agents. The application of herbicide could result in an increase of toxic chemicals in groundwater.

#### **Scoping Process**

This notice of intent initiates the scoping process, which guides development of the environmental

impact statement (EIS). To assist the LNF in identifying and considering issues and concerns about the proposed action, public comment opportunities will continue to be provided throughout the EIS process. In addition to taking written comments, the LNF will consider holding a series of public meetings during the fall/winter of 2010 to ensure that those who are interested have every opportunity to provide additional information or comments and to identify any issues or concerns they may have relative to the proposed action. It is important that reviewers provide their comments at such times and in such a way that they are useful to the agency's preparation of the EIS. Therefore, comments should be provided prior to close of the comment period and should clearly articulate the reviewer's concerns and contentions. The submission of timely and specific comments can affect a reviewer's ability to participate in subsequent administrative review or judicial review. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, respondents who submit anonymous comments will not be granted standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) Part 215 or judicial review. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that, under the FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied; the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within a specified number of days.

Dated: September 23, 2010.

**Garth Smelser,**

*Deputy Forest Supervisor.*

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