

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

February 20, 2014.

The Department of Agriculture has submitted the following information collection requirement(s) to Office of Management and Budget (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, New Executive Office Building, 725—17th Street NW., Washington, DC 20502. Commenters are encouraged to submit their comments to OMB via email to: 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.

Rural Utility Service

Title: High Energy Cost Grants and State Bulk Fuel Revolving Grant Programs.

OMB Control Number: 0572-0136.

Summary of Collection: The Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (RE Act) (7 U.S.C. 901 et seq.) was amended in November 2000 to create new grant and loan authority to assist rural communities with extremely high energy costs (Pub. L. 106-472). This amendment gives authorization to Rural Utilities Service (RUS) to provide competitive grants for energy generation, transmission, or distribution facilities serving communities in which the national average is at least 275% for residential expenditure for home energy. All applicants are required to submit a project proposal containing the elements in the prescribed format.

Need and Use of the Information: USDA will collect information from applicants to confirm that the eligibility requirements and the proposals are consistent with the purposes set forth in the statute. Various forms and progress reports are used to monitor compliance with grant agreements, track expenditures of Federal funds and measure the success of the program. Without collecting the listed information, USDA will not be assured that the projects and communities served meet the statutory requirements for eligibility or that the proposed projects will deliver the intended benefits.

Description of Respondents: Not-for-profit institutions; Business or other for-profit; and State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 100.

Frequency of Responses: Recordkeeping; Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 1,052.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2014-04181 Filed 2-25-14; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Assessment Report of Ecological/ Social/Economic Sustainability, Conditions, and Trends for the Tonto National Forest

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of initiating the assessment phase of the Tonto National Forest land management plan revision.

SUMMARY: The Tonto National Forest, located in Arizona, is initiating the forest planning process pursuant to the 2012 Forest Planning Rule. This process results in a Forest Land Management Plan which describes the strategic direction for management of forest resources for the next ten to fifteen years on the Tonto National Forest. The first phase of the process, the assessment phase, has begun and interested parties have been invited to contribute in the development of the assessment (36 CFR 219.6). The Forest hosted a series of listening sessions with key stakeholders in January 2014, and will be hosting workshops in March 2014. Additional information on public participation opportunities will be available on the project Web site. The trends and conditions identified in the assessment will help in identifying the need for change, in the development of plan components.

DATES: A draft of the assessment report for the Tonto National Forest is expected to be completed by early to mid-winter 2014/2015 and will be posted on the following Web site at www.fs.usda.gov/goto/TontoForestPlanRevision.

From January 2014 through November 2014, the public is invited to engage in a collaborative process to identify relevant information and local knowledge to be considered for the assessment. The Forest will then initiate procedures pursuant to the NEPA and prepare a forest plan revision. The Forest will again be inviting the public to help us identify the appropriate plan components that will become a proposed action for the land management plan revision.

ADDRESSES: Written comments or questions concerning this notice should be addressed to Tonto National Forest, Attn.: Plan Revision, 2324 E. McDowell Road, Phoenix, AZ 85006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ken Born, Forest Planner, 602-225-5280. Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 5 a.m. and 5 p.m., Pacific Time, Monday through Friday. More information on the planning process can also be found on the Tonto National Forest Web site at www.fs.usda.gov/goto/TontoForestPlanRevision.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Forest Management Act (NFMA) of 1976 requires that every National Forest System (NFS) unit develop a land management plan. On April 9, 2012, the Forest Service finalized its land management planning rule (2012 Planning Rule), which provides broad programmatic direction to National Forests and National Grasslands for developing and implementing their land management plans. Forest plans describe the strategic direction for management of forest resources for ten to fifteen years, and are adaptive and amendable as conditions change over time.

Under the 2012 Planning Rule, the assessment of ecological, social, and economic trends and conditions is the first stage of the planning process. The second stage is a development and decision process guided, in part, by the National Environment Policy Act (NEPA) and includes the preparation of a draft environmental impact statement and revised Forest Plan for public review and comment, and the preparation of the final environmental impact statement and revised Forest Plan. The third stage of the process is monitoring and feedback, which is ongoing over the life of the revised forest plans.

With this notice, the agency invites other governments, non-governmental parties, and the public to contribute to the development of the assessment report. The assessment will rapidly evaluate the sustainability of existing ecological, economic, and social conditions and trends within the context of the broader landscape. It will help inform the planning process through the use of Best Available Scientific Information, while also taking into account other forms of knowledge, such as local information, national perspectives, and native knowledge. Lastly, the assessment will help identify the need to change the existing 1985 plan. Collaboration as part of the assessment phase supports the development of relationships of key stakeholders throughout the plan revision process, and is an essential step

to understanding current conditions, available data, and feedback needed to support a strategic, efficient planning process.

As public meetings, other opportunities for public engagement, and public review and comment opportunities are identified to assist with the development of the forest plan revision, public announcements will be made, notifications will be posted on the Forest's Web site at www.fs.usda.gov/goto/TontoForestPlanRevision and information will be sent out to the Forest's mailing list. If anyone is interested in being on the Forest's mailing list to receive these notifications, please contact Ken Born, Forest Planner, at the mailing address identified above, by sending an email to tontoplan@fs.fed.us.

Responsible Official

The responsible official for the revision of the land management plan for the Tonto National Forest is Neil Bosworth, Forest Supervisor, Tonto National Forest, 2324 E. McDowell Road, Phoenix, AZ 85006.

Dated: February 18, 2014.

Neil J. Bosworth,
Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 2014-04006 Filed 2-25-14; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

New Mexico Collaborative Forest Restoration Program Technical Advisory Panel

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The New Mexico Collaborative Forest Restoration Program Technical Advisory Panel (Panel) will meet in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The Panel is established consistent with the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (5 U.S.C. App II) and the Community Forest Restoration Act (Title VI, Pub. L. 106-393). Additional information concerning the Panel can be found by visiting the Panel's Web site at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/r3/cfrp>.

DATES: The meeting will be held April 7-11, 2014, beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, April 7, 2014 and ending at approximately 4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 11, 2014.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Hyatt Place Albuquerque/Uptown, 6901 Arvada Avenue NE., Albuquerque,

NM 87110, (505) 872-9000. Written comments should be sent to Walter Dunn, Cooperative and International Forestry, USDA Forest Service, 333 Broadway SE., Albuquerque, NM 87102. Comments may also be sent via email to wdunn@fs.fed.us, or via facsimile at (505) 842-3165.

All comments, including names and addresses, when provided, are placed in the record and are available for public inspection and copying. The public may inspect comments received at the Cooperative and International Forestry Office, USDA Forest Service, 333 Broadway SE., Albuquerque, NM 87102. Please call ahead at (505) 842-3425 to facilitate entry into the building.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Walter Dunn, Designated Federal Official, (505) 842-3425, Cooperative and International Forestry, USDA Forest Service, 333 Broadway SE., Albuquerque, NM 87102.

Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the meeting is to provide recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture on which applications submitted in response to the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program Request For Applications best meet the program objectives.

The meeting is open to the public. Panel discussion is limited to Panel members and Forest Service staff. Project proponents may respond to questions of clarification from Panel members or Forest Service staff. However, the agenda will include time for people to make oral statements of three minutes or less. Individuals wishing to make an oral statement should submit a request in writing by March 28, 2014 to be scheduled on the agenda. Anyone who would like to bring Collaborative Forest Restoration Program grant application review related matters to the attention of the Panel may file written statements with the Panel staff before or after each day of the meeting. A summary of the meeting will be posted on the Web site listed above within 45 days after the meeting.

Meeting Accommodations: If you are a person requiring reasonable accommodation, please make requests in advance for sign language interpreting, assistive listening devices or other reasonable accommodation for access to the facility or proceedings by