

and any representatives' guests, reasonable access to any premises where the project takes place (i) to assess the project's progress or any element thereof; and/or (ii) to showcase the project as a demonstration of the capabilities of wood structural products in tall building construction.

G. Privacy & Disclosure Under FOIA

Personal and contact information is not collected for commercial or marketing purposes. Information submitted throughout the Competition will be used only to communicate with Project Proponent Teams regarding entries and/or the Competition.

Project Proponent Teams entries to the Competition may be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"). If a Project Proponent Team believes that all or part of its Competition entry is protected from release under FOIA (e.g., if the information falls under FOIA exemption #4 for "trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person [that is] privileged or confidential") the Project Proponent Team will be responsible for clearly marking the page(s)/section(s) of information it believes are protected.

Dated: October 3, 2014.

Doug O'Brien,

Acting Under Secretary, Rural Development.

[FR Doc. 2014-24198 Filed 10-9-14; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XY-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Information Collection; Locatable Minerals

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice, request for comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Forest Service is seeking comments from all interested individuals and organizations on the extension of a currently approved information collection, 36 CFR part 228, subpart A—Locatable Minerals.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing on or before December 9, 2014 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: Forest Service, Director, Minerals and Geology Management Staff, Mail Stop 1140, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20250.

Comments also may be submitted via facsimile to 703-605-1575 or by email to: jdemaagd@fs.fed.us.

Comments submitted in response to this notice may be made available to the public through relevant Web sites and upon request. For this reason, please do not include in your comments information of a confidential nature, such as sensitive personal information or proprietary information. If you send an email comment, your email address will be automatically captured and included as part of the comment that is placed in the public docket and made available on the Internet. Please note that responses to this public comment request containing any routine notice about the confidentiality of the communication will be treated as public comments that may be made available to the public notwithstanding the inclusion of the routine notice.

The public may inspect the draft supporting statement and/or comments received at 201 14th Street SW., Washington, DC during normal business hours. Visitors are encouraged to call ahead to 703-605-4545 to facilitate entry to the building. The public may request an electronic copy of the draft supporting statement and/or any comments received be sent via return email. Requests should be emailed to jdemaagd@fs.fed.us.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jim DeMaagd, Assistant Director, Minerals and Geology Management, at 303-275-5473. Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339 twenty-four hours a day, every day of the year, including holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: *Title:* 36 CFR Part 228, Subpart A—Locatable Minerals.

OMB Number: 0596-0022

Expiration Date of Approval: January 31, 2015.

Type of Request: Extension without change of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: This collection of information is necessary to ensure that the environmental impacts associated with locatable mineral operations on National Forest System (NFS) lands are minimized to the extent practicable. The Forest Service regulations at 36 CFR 228.5 require mining operators, with some exceptions, to notify the authorized Forest Service officer of their intent to conduct a locatable mineral operation on NFS lands by filing a Notice of Intent or Plan of Operations. 36 CFR 228.10 requires mining operators to submit a Cessation of

Operation when mining operations are temporarily ceased, other than for seasonal closure.

There is not a required format for the information collection, but all information identified in 36 CFR part 228 must be included. Form FS-2800-5, Plan of Operations for Mining Activities on National Forest System Lands, is available for use by mining operators to simplify this process. The information required in a Plan of Operations, detailed in 36 CFR 228.4(c), (d), and (e), includes:

1. The name and legal mailing address of operators (and claimants if they are not the same) and their lessees, assigns, or designees.

2. A map or sketch showing information sufficient to locate:

a. The proposed area of operations on the ground.

b. Existing and/or proposed roads or access routes to be used in connection with the operation as set forth in 36 CFR 228.12 on access.

c. The approximate location and size of areas where surface resources will be disturbed.

3. Information sufficient to describe the:

a. Type of operations proposed and how they would be conducted.

b. Type and standard of existing and proposed roads or access routes.

c. Means of transportation used or to be used as set forth in 36 CFR 228.12.

d. Period during which the proposed activity will take place.

e. Measures to be taken to meet the requirements for environmental protection in 36 CFR 228.8.

A Notice of Intent is required, as detailed in 36 CFR 228.4(a)(2), to include information sufficient to identify the area involved, the nature of the proposed operation, the route of access to the area of operations, and the method of transport. A Cessation of Operations is required, as detailed in 36 CFR 228.10, to include verification of intent to maintain structures, equipment, and other facilities; expected reopening date; and an estimate of extended durations of operations.

These collections of information are crucial to protecting surface resources, including plants, animals, and their habitat, as well as public safety on NFS lands. The authorized Forest Service officer will use the collected information to ensure that the exploration, development, and production of mineral resources are conducted in an environmentally sensitive manner; that these mineral operations are integrated with the planning and management of other

resources using the principles of ecosystem management; and that lands disturbed by mineral operations are reclaimed using the best scientific knowledge and returned to other productive uses. If this information was not collected, the Forest Service would not be in compliance with the Federal Regulations and locatable mineral operations could result in undue damage to surface resources.

Estimate of Annual Burden: 12 Hours (10 hours—Plan of Operations; 1 hour—Notice of Intent; 1 hour—Cessation of Operations).

Type of Respondents: Mining operators.

Estimated Annual Number of Respondents: 283 (111—Plans of Operations; 169—Notices of Intent; 3—Cessation of Operations).

Estimated Annual Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 10,005 Hours (12 hours × 111 Plans of Operation = 1,332; 2 hour × 169 Notices of Intent = 338; 1 hour × 3 Cessation of Operations = 3; 1,332 + 338 + 3 = 1,673).

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 request for Office of Management and Budget approval.

Dated: October 2, 2014.

Gregory C. Smith,

Acting Deputy Chief, National Forest System.

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BILLING CODE 3411-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Apalachicola National Forest; Apalachicola Ranger District, Florida; Beasley Pond Analysis Area

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) to analyze the impacts of timber harvest and associated activities on approximately 3,800 acres of forestland and savannahs in the Beasley Pond Analysis Area. Based on public scoping, discussion with other federal agencies and initial issues analysis, the responsible official has determined that preparation of an EIS is appropriate for this project. The proposed project is an activity implementing a land management plan and is subject to the pre-decisional objection process at 36 CFR part 218 subparts A and B.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received by November 10, 2014. The draft EIS is expected December 2014 and the final EIS is expected March 2015.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Marcus Beard, District Ranger, 57 Taff Drive, Crawfordville, FL 32327. Comments may also be sent via email to comments-southern-florida-apalachicola@fs.fed.us, or via facsimile to (850) 926-1904.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Branden Tolver—phone: (850) 926-3561; email: btolver02@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.

Purpose and Need for Action

The National Forests in Florida's Forest Plan outlines several goals for the National Forests of Florida, one of which calls for the conservation and protection of declining natural communities, and uncommon biological, ecological, or geological site. The Beasley Pond Analysis area contains large areas of historical savannah habitat, multiple red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW) clusters, critical habitat for the frosted flatwoods salamander and recent records of three federally listed plant species that occur in open savannah habitats. The primary purpose of this project is to maintain, improve, and restore a healthy forest

ecosystem by: Thinning both longleaf and slash pine stands to allow for further tree growth, restoring remnant savannahs to improve habitat for a variety of plant species, and controlling overabundant hardwood trees and brush species to restore herbaceous groundcover. Secondary benefits include maintaining a stable RCW habitat and improving the current transportation system. There is a need to reduce current stocking levels of stands within the project area to open the forest canopy and promote herbaceous groundcover growth and establishment. There also exists a need for rehabilitation and maintenance in declining natural savannah sites in the project area.

Proposed Action

➤ First or intermediate thinning of approximately 1981 acres of slash and longleaf pine stands. Stands range in age from 25 to 141 years old. Younger slash and longleaf pine plantations have a basal area (BA) ranging from 70 to 173 square-feet per acre. Thinning these stands would reduce the BA to an average of 50 square feet per acre thus opening the stands for sunlight penetration needed for continued growth and groundcover establishment.

➤ Conduct uneven-aged management cuts on 978 acres of mature longleaf pine. Openings ranging from ¼–2 acres (average size of ½ acre) in size will be created around existing longleaf seedlings or in areas of the stand that would be suitable for longleaf natural regeneration. The number of openings would be limited to 10% of the stand size. Stand 7 of compartment 28 (91 acres) will be treated with a foliar application of triclopyr (as needed) for hardwood control.

➤ Savannah restoration treatments on approximately 811 acres of savannah sites to remove pine trees and encroaching hardwoods. Girdling will be used in stands that cannot be accessed for traditional logging operations (stands 19 and 41 in compartment 26 and stand 37 in compartment 27). All of these sites have either been planted with slash pine or have been encroached upon by woody brush species and hardwood tree species. To restore these savannah sites a variable residual BA strategy will be implemented with groundcover condition serving as the trigger point for thinning intensity. More herbaceous groundcover is needed when thinning to a lower BA in order to continue the use prescribed fire as a means of maintaining the open park-like structure associated with savannahs. When groundcover conditions are deemed less