

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

October 18, 2018.

The Department of Agriculture has submitted the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Comments are requested regarding (1) 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; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden 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 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 regarding this information collection received by November 23, 2018 will be considered. Written comments should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), 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. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720-8958.

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 Housing Service

Title: 7 CFR 1944-I, "Self-Help Technical Assistance Grants."

OMB Control Number: 0575-0043.

Summary of Collection: Authorized under Public Law 90-448, section 523 of the Title 5 Housing Act of 1949, this regulation sets forth the policies and procedures and delegates the authority for providing technical assistance funds to eligible applicants to finance programs of technical and supervisory assistance for the Mutual and Self-Help Housing (MSH) program. The MSH program affords very low and low-income families the opportunity for home ownership by constructing their own homes. The MSH program provides funds to non-profit organizations for supervisory and technical assistance to the homebuilding families. Three types of funds are available under the MSH program: (1) Technical assistance grants, (2) Pre-development grants and (3) Site option loans.

Need and use of the Information: Rural Housing Service (RHS) will collect information from non-profit organizations that want to develop a MSH program in their area to increase the availability of affordable housing. The information is collected at the local, district and state levels. The information requested by RHS includes financial and organizational information about the non-profit organization. RHS needs this information to determine if the organization is capable of successfully carrying out the requirements of the MSH program. The information is collected on an as requested or needed basis. RHS has reviewed the program's need for the collection of information versus the burden placed on the public.

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

Number of Respondents: 100.

Frequency of Responses: Recordkeeping; Reporting: Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 3,177.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2018-23074 Filed 10-22-18; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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October 18, 2018.

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Comments regarding this information collection received by November 23, 2018 will be considered. Written comments should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), New Executive Office Building, 725-17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503. Commentors 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. 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.

Forest Service

Title: Forest Products Removal Permits and Contracts.

OMB Control Number: 0596-0085.

Summary of Collection: The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-246, 122 Stat. 1651) hereinafter the "2008 Farm Bill"), section 8105 authorizes that the Secretary of Agriculture may provide, free of charge, to federally recognized Indian Tribes trees, portions of trees, or forest products from National Forest System lands for noncommercial traditional and cultural purposes. Individuals and businesses that wish to remove forest products from national forest lands must request a permit. 16 U.S.C. 551 requires the promulgation of regulations to regulate forest use and prevent destruction of the forests. Regulations at 36 CFR 223.1 and 223.2 govern the sale of forest products such as Christmas trees, pinecones, moss, and mushrooms. Regulations at 36 CFR 223.5 through 223.11 set forth conditions under which free use of forest products may be obtained by individuals or organizations. Upon receiving a permit, the permittee must comply with the terms of the permit at 36 CFR 261.6 that designate the forest products that can be harvested and under what conditions, such as limiting harvest to a designated area or permitting harvest of only specifically designated material.

Need and Use of the Information:

Using forms FS-2400-1/BLM-5450-24, FS-2400-4ANF and FS-2400-8, FS and BLM will collect the name, vehicle information, address and tax identification number from persons applying for permits. The information will be used to keep a record of persons buying forest products and to determine if the applicant meets the criteria under which free use or sale of forest products is authorized by the regulations and to ensure that the permittee has not received product values in excess of the amount allowed by regulation in any one fiscal year and complies with the regulations and terms of the permit. Under the 2008 Farm Bill Authority, the Federally recognized Indian Tribe/ Tribal Official makes their free-use request in writing and submits it to the appropriate local FS District Ranger's Office. This information is also needed to allow FS compliance personnel to identify permittees in the field. Without the forest product removal program,

achieving multiple use management programs such as reducing fire hazard and improving forest health on the National Forest would be impaired.

Description of Respondents:

Individuals or households; Business or other for-profit; State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 192,204.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion; Recordkeeping.

Total Burden Hours: 33,434.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2018-23054 Filed 10-22-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3411-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Flathead National Forest; Montana; Mid-Swan Landscape Restoration & Wildland Urban Interface Fuels Project

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The Mid-Swan Landscape Restoration and Wildland Urban Interface Fuels Project (Mid-Swan) area encompasses approximately 246,000 acres within the larger 1.3 million acre Southwestern Crown of the Continent landscape. This project is part of a long-term effort between the USDA Forest Service and the Southwestern Crown Collaborative to restore the resilience and function of the ecosystem within this landscape. The Mid-Swan project is proposing treatments on approximately 70,000 acres to improve aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity by removing vegetation, planting drought tolerant species found there historically, and reducing fuel buildup in the wildland urban interface (WUI).

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received by November 23, 2018. The publication of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is expected in April 2019, and the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) is expected to be published in October 2019.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Mid-Swan Project, Attention: Sandy Mack, 24 Fort Missoula Road, Missoula, MT 59804. Comments may also be sent via email to bslrp@fs.fed.us, or submitted through an electronic form available on our project page at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/flathead/landmanagement/projects>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sandy Mack, Team Leader, via email at

spmack@fs.fed.us, or calling 406-329-3817; Chris Dowling, Swan Lake District Ranger, via email at cdowling@fs.fed.us, or calling 406-837-7501.

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

Today's Mid-Swan landscape is the result of mixed ownerships across a diverse landscape with a variety of forest types. Timber harvest was prevalent in this area through the 20th century with combined state forest cutting to support local schools, harvest for commercial timber interests owned by Plum Creek, and National Forest System (NFS) lands that are managed for multiple uses. Fire suppression and commercially aggressive harvest practices left fire intolerant tree species behind to reseed the area. A logging method known as high-grading was practiced in some areas that removed the best trees and their naturally selected seed source. Roads in the area were built to a mix of design standards; and, are in various states of maintenance with less stable roads contributing to sedimentation into watersheds.

The purpose of the Mid-Swan project is to restore and maintain aquatic biodiversity, and terrestrial biodiversity. It is also to reduce the risk from wildfire in the wildland urban interface where national forest system lands are close or adjacent to private land. The Mid-Swan area is at risk of losing key habitat components for native aquatic and terrestrial species in this ecologically important landscape. Currently state, federal and private infrastructure, recreationists, and residents are at risk from fire. Wildland firefighters are especially at risk when engaging with extreme wildfire behavior in this area.

The Mid-Swan landscape was assessed with three-dimensional high resolution aerial photography through photo interpretation, ground truthing, and modeling in order to determine the needs across the landscape.

The following problems have been identified regarding aquatic biodiversity within the project area:

1. Amount of sediment in streams;
2. fish barriers blocking access to available habitat; and
3. lack of small scale disturbance in riparian areas due to reduced beaver activity and warming waters.

Problems with terrestrial biodiversity include: