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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

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS–2025–0704]

Notice of Request for Revision to and Extension of Approval of an Information Collection; Specimen Submission

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Revision to and extension of approval of an information collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's intention to request a revision to and extension of approval of an information collection associated with livestock disease surveillance programs.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before March 10, 2026.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by either of the following methods.

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Enter APHIS–2025–0704 in the Search field. Select the Documents tab, then select the Comment button in the list of documents.

- *Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:* Send your comment to Docket No. APHIS–2025–0704, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, 5601 Sunnyside Ave., #AP760, Beltsville, MD 20705.

Supporting documents and any comments we receive on this docket may be viewed at regulations.gov or in our reading room, which is in Room 1620 of the USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC. Normal reading room hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be

sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 799–7039 before coming.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information regarding livestock disease surveillance programs, contact Ms. Lori Swiderski, Program Coordinator, Director's Office, National Veterinary Services Laboratories, Diagnostics and Biologics, VS, APHIS, 1920 Dayton Ave., Ames, IA 50010; (515) 337–7405. For more information on the information collection reporting process, contact Ms. Sheniqua Harris, APHIS' Paperwork Reduction Act Coordinator, at (301) 851–2528 or email APHIS.PRA@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Specimen Submission.
OMB Control Number: 0579–0090.
Type of Request: Revision to and extension of approval of an information collection.

Abstract: The Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8301 *et seq.*) provides the Secretary of Agriculture broad authority to prohibit or restrict, through orders and regulations, the importation or entry and interstate movement of any animal, article, or means of conveyance if the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) determines that the prohibition or restriction is necessary to prevent the introduction or spread of any pest or disease of livestock within the United States.

Disease prevention is the most effective method for maintaining a healthy animal population and for enhancing the United States' ability to globally compete in the trade of animals and animal products. However, animal disease prevention cannot be accomplished without the existence of effective disease surveillance programs, which are conducted by the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS).

VS specimen submission forms are critical to VS' mission. They are routinely used whenever specimens (such as blood, milk, tissue, or urine) from any animal (such as cattle, cervids, swine, sheep, goats, horses, and poultry) are submitted to the National Veterinary Services Laboratories for disease testing. If the information was not collected or collected less frequently, APHIS would not have the critical information necessary to effectively operate its

disease surveillance programs and identify the animals and herds from which the specimens were taken, preventing effective disease prevention and eradication.

The animal disease surveillance programs are based on information submitted on the Specimen Submission form and continuation sheet, or similar documents, and the Parasite Submission form submitted for the Cattle Fever Tick Eradication Program and the National Tick Surveillance Program to identify the individuals submitting tick samples and the animal sources of those samples.

We are asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve our use of these information collection activities, as described, for an additional 3 years. APHIS has amended this information collection due to an increase in the number of Respondents reporting, the number of Responses, and Total Burden Hours reported for the collection.

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public (as well as affected agencies) concerning our information collection. These comments will help us:

(1) Evaluate 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) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond (such as through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques, *e.g.*, permitting electronic submission of responses.)

Estimate of burden: The public burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.325 hours per response.

Respondents: State veterinarians and other State personnel who are qualified and authorized to collect and submit specimens for laboratory analysis, accredited veterinarians, private veterinarians, animal health technicians, herd owners, private laboratories, and research institutions.

Estimated annual number of respondents: 14,860.

Estimated annual number of responses per respondent: 6.

Estimated annual number of responses: 95,060.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 30,930 hours. (Due to averaging, the total annual burden hours may not equal the product of the annual number of responses multiplied by the reporting burden per response.)

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.

Done in Washington, DC, this 6th day of January 2026.

Michael Watson,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 2026-00240 Filed 1-8-26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Environmental Assessment for Post-Fire Recovery Actions on National Forest System Lands

AGENCY: Forest Service, Agriculture (USDA).

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental assessment.

SUMMARY: The USDA Forest Service is preparing a nationwide environmental assessment to analyze the effects of post-fire recovery actions on National Forest System lands in the continental United States. The intent of this assessment is to identify general actions, issues, alternatives, and supporting analysis that are common to post wildfire activities that occur on National Forest System Lands to facilitate consistency and more efficient subsequent site specific decisions. Severe wildfires are happening more often, causing serious damage to our national forests and grasslands. These fires can harm forests, grasslands, and local economies, alter wildlife habitat, and create hazards for communities and infrastructure. Immediate post-fire recovery actions can help restore healthy forest conditions and reduce hazards. This environmental assessment will not authorize, fund, or carry out any site specific action. Post-fire recovery projects will be accomplished in accordance with land management plans. Site specific considerations, including any needed supplemental analysis, design criteria, mitigation measures, or findings, will be provided

for in project-specific documentation and, if needed, supplemental environmental assessments or other analyses.

DATES: Comments on this action must be received by January 26, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Comments must be submitted electronically through the Federal eRulemaking Portal, <https://www.regulations.gov>, identified by docket number FS-2025-0034. Follow the instructions for submitting comments. Additional information about this project can be found here: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/disaster-recovery/post-fire-recovery>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Steve Lohr, Director of Natural Resources, via the project email address at SM.FS.PostFireRecovery@usda.gov, or by phone at 202-205-0650. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may call 711 to reach the Telecommunications Relay Service and then provide the phone number of the person named as a point of contact for further information.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose and Need for Action

Wildfires are happening more often, burning larger areas, and lasting longer across the country—especially in the Western United States. The emergency conditions resulting from these fires, often made worse by too little active forest management, are directly and indirectly disrupting the lives of Americans nationwide and making recovery efforts more challenging and expensive. To proactively restore forest health and lower the risk of future fires, active management may be needed in areas that have already burned. Acting immediately and within the first year after a wildfire helps protect entire landscapes, improves safety, and often accelerates recovery on National Forest System lands that Tribes, rural economies, and communities depend upon.

The Forest Service develops post-fire recovery projects and routinely conducts individual environmental reviews for these projects. A national review of Forest Service post-fire recovery analyses under the National Environmental Policy Act shows that, regardless of location, these projects occur in a relatively similar manner and have similar environmental effects across the agency (timing, impacts, and methods of implementation), with the most noticeable differences being site specific design criteria or mitigation measures. As such, the Forest Service is preparing an environmental assessment

to analyze the effects of general post-fire recovery actions on National Forest System lands in the continental United States to help facilitate subsequent site specific analysis if needed. The agency recognizes the need for:

- Appropriate standardization of project design and implementation, while providing flexibility to address local conditions;
- More rapid, efficient, and effective response by local managers to quickly changing post-fire conditions; and
- Strategic use of limited resources (for example, staff and budget).

There generally is a need to address burned areas in an expedited manner to accelerate post-fire recovery to restore safer, healthier forests in a timely manner at a landscape scale. The purpose of proposing this action is to analyze actions that are common to post recovery to facilitate more efficient site specific analysis that allows the agency to more timely:

- Mitigate hazards to infrastructure;
- Reduce combustible materials, such as trees damaged by fire, and woody debris;
- Harvest fire-killed and damaged trees before they lose their economic value; and
- Establish restored forest conditions after a fire.

Proposed Action

As indicated above, the Forest Service is proposing analysis of post-fire recovery actions, including mechanical and non-mechanical hazardous fuels reduction, hazardous tree removal, timber salvage, reforestation, and use of natural materials to restore water and soil systems. Maintenance or reconstruction of permanent roads and trails, or construction or removal of temporary roads, is proposed where necessary to enable post-fire recovery actions and reduce risk to infrastructure, people, and the environment. Public access to roads and motorized trails will conform with existing travel management decisions and land management plans; no authorized public access on motorized roads or trails will be added or removed as a result of this proposal.

The proposed action consists of the standard activities listed above including

- A general explanation of what the activity entails;
- The objective the activity accomplishes;
- The condition or situation that triggers the use of the activity;
- Identification of related actions that could occur when implementing the activity; and