

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

(4) 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.

All responses to this notice, including names and addresses when provided, will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

**William Beam,**

*Administrator, Farm Service Agency.*

[FR Doc. 2026-07100 Filed 4-10-26; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3411-E2-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Information Collection: State Forest Law and Policy

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, Agriculture (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 a new information collection request (ICR), State Forest Law and Policy (OMB 0596-NEW). This collection will obtain information regarding how States and U.S. Territories regulate and incentivize forest management on private and State lands.

**DATES:** Comments must be received in writing on or before June 12, 2026 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 Gregory Frey, Research Forester, USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station, 3041 East Cornwallis Rd., Durham, NC 27713. Comments also may be submitted by email to [gregory.e.frey@usda.gov](mailto:gregory.e.frey@usda.gov). Please include "Comments re: 'State Forest Law and Policy'" in the subject line.

Comments submitted in response to this notice may be made available to the public through relevant websites 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 request an electronic copy of the draft supporting statement and/or any comments received be sent via return email. Requests should be emailed to [gregory.e.frey@usda.gov](mailto:gregory.e.frey@usda.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Gregory Frey, Research Forester, USDA Forest Service, by phone at 919-549-4025, or by email at [gregory.e.frey@usda.gov](mailto:gregory.e.frey@usda.gov).

Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may call 711 to reach the Telecommunications Relay Service then provide the phone number of the person named as a point of contact for further information.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* State Forest Law and Policy.

*OMB Number:* 0596-NEW.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* N/A.

*Type of Request:* New information collection.

*Abstract:* This new collection will address how States and U.S. Territories regulate and incentivize forest management on private and state lands. Congress has authorized the USDA Forest Service to collect and generate information including about how laws, public policies, regulations, and other factors influence and affect the use, ownership, and management of forest lands.

Legislation authorizing the development and dissemination of such science-based information includes the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, and the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act of 1978. Further, the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 directs the Forest Service to coordinate and work cooperatively with state agencies, and such coordination and cooperation may be facilitated by having a greater understanding of the state-level policy context for forestry. Also, the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018 directs agencies to evaluate how agency programs, policies, and regulations contribute to agency missions, and understanding state-level programs,

policies, and regulations can provide information relevant to this goal. The information proposed to be collected under this approval contributes to USDA Forest Service mission and strategic goals, including to sustain our Nation's forests.

Information will be collected on various topics, organized as "Modules," which are planned to be re-collected on multi-year cycles.

Modules include:

(1) State financial incentive payment programs for private forests

(2) State regulation of forest management and timber harvests, including Forest Practices Acts, rules, and voluntary practices

(3) Resilient forest management policies and practices

We will collect information from knowledgeable individuals at State or Territory forestry or natural resource agencies; State or Territory tax agencies; State or Territory Cooperative Extension services, or related organizations. These individuals will be identified through contacts and correspondence with State or Territory Foresters or their representatives.

This information is valuable for a number of purposes:

(1) As a basic dataset for researchers to evaluate the impact of policies.

(2) For forest users and managers to understand what is allowed in their State or Territory and opportunities to enhance productivity, economic returns, and provision of ecosystem services.

(3) For policymakers to understand how policies and programs differ from State to State.

(4) For the USDA Forest Service to generate a baseline of information and periodic monitoring updates for national and international reporting considerations.

Notably, some of this information is available by reading State statutory and administrative codes (laws and regulations). However, interpretation and implementation can be variable by State or laws and regulations can interact, which can lead people to misconstrue how forests are regulated, incentivized, and managed in practice. Knowledgeable in-state contacts can help verify researchers' interpretations or help identify and synthesize information from multiple sources in the state. Furthermore, considerations other than the law itself can impact how policies and programs work in practice. For example, a program might be authorized by a law but not funded through appropriations. Finally, various important aspects may not be easily discernible from the legislative, administrative, or other written record.

For example, State agencies may have records of how many landowners or land acres enroll in a certain program but not otherwise publish this information. In any event, this information is maintained in highly variable formats from State to State, and our information request will help standardize in a single place. In situations where we are easily able to generate preliminary information for each state, we will attempt to provide this information to respondents for verification in order to reduce the time burden, rather than ask them to provide new information.

*Affected Public:* State and Territory government officials.

*Estimate of Burden per Response:* The time required to respond will be variable, depending on whether or not the State or Territory keeps information in a format that is easily translatable to the ICR. Time required could range from 0.5 to 8 hours per individual involved. We anticipate an average of 3 hours per individual.

*Estimated Annual Number of Respondents:* 150 (one to four individuals in each State or Territory).

*Estimated Annual Number of Responses per Respondent:* 1.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 450 hours.

*Comment is Invited:* 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 submission request for Office of Management and Budget approval.

**Valerie Hipkins,**

*Deputy Chief, Research and Development.*

[FR Doc. 2026-07103 Filed 4-10-26; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3411-15-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Information Collection; National Woodland Owner Survey

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, Agriculture (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 (with revisions) of a currently approved information collection, *National Woodland Owner Survey*.

**DATES:** Comments must be received in writing on or before June 12, 2026 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 Brett Butler of the USDA Forest Service, 160 Holdsworth Way, Amherst, MA 01003. Comments also may be submitted via facsimile to 608-231-9592 or by email to: [brett.butler2@usda.gov](mailto:brett.butler2@usda.gov).

Comments submitted in response to this notice may be made available to the public through relevant websites 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 160 Holdsworth Way, Room 201, Amherst, MA 01003 during normal business hours. Visitors are encouraged to call ahead to 413-545-1387 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 [brett.butler2@usda.gov](mailto:brett.butler2@usda.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Brett Butler, Northern Research Station, 413-545-1387. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may call 711 to reach the Telecommunications Relay Service then

provide the phone number of the person named as a point of contact for further information.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* National Woodland Owner Survey.

*OMB Number:* 0596-0078.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* 05/31/2027.

*Type of Request:* Extension with Revision of a currently approved information collection.

*Abstract:* There are an estimated 704 million acres of forestland across the United States, excluding interior Alaska. Of this forestland, over half is owned by millions of corporations, families, individuals, and other private groups with the remaining managed by over a thousand different Federal, State, and local government agencies and Tribal organizations. Understanding the attitudes and behaviors of the owners and managers of the forestland is critical for understanding the current and future state of the Nation's forests. The Forest Service conducts the National Woodland Owner Survey (NWOS) to increase our understanding of:

- Who owns and manages the forestland of the United States,
- Why they own/manage it,
- How they have used it, and
- How they intend to use it.

This information is used by policy analysts, foresters, educators, and researchers to facilitate the planning and implementation of forest policies and programs and to provide landowners, managers, and the general public a better understanding of the social context of forests.

The Forest Service's direction and authority to conduct the NWOS is from the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (Pub. L. 93-378; 16 U.S.C. 1600, *et seq.*, as amended), and the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act of 1978 (Pub. L. 93-378; 16 U.S.C. 1642, *et seq.*, as amended). These acts assign responsibility for the inventory and assessment of forest and related renewable resources to the Forest Service. Additionally, the importance of an ownership survey in this inventory and assessment process is highlighted in the 2014 Farm Bill, the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998, and the recommendations of the Second Blue Ribbon Panel on the Forest Inventory and Analysis program (FIA).

Previous iterations of the NWOS were conducted in 1978, 1993, 2002-2006, 2011-2013, 2017-2018, 2019-2023, and the current 2024-2028 cycle. Approval for the current iteration of the NWOS