

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: SRS Publications Evaluation Card.

OMB Control Number: 0596-0163.

Summary of Collection: Executive Order 12862 issued September 11, 1993, directed Federal agencies to change the way they do business, to reform their management practices, to provide service to the public that matches or exceeds the best service available in the private sector, and to establish and implement customer service standards to carry out principles of the National Performance Review. In response to this Executive Order, the Forest Service (FS) Southern Research Station developed a "Publication Comment" Card for inclusion when distributing scientific research publications. FS has come to realize that some changes in their publications may be necessary to achieve their goals and wishes to elicit voluntary feedback from their readers to help determine the changes to make. FS will collect information using the comment card.

Need and Use of the Information: FS will collect information, which will ask the respondents to rate the publication that they received or read. The information will be used to improve the readability and usefulness of FS articles, papers, and books. If the information is not collected, FS will forgo any opportunity to learn valuable information from readers that would help them improve their products to better meet their needs.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit; individuals or households; not-for-profit institutions; Federal Government; State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 1,654,000.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting on occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 965.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 04-18894 Filed 8-17-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agriculture Marketing Service

[Docket Number TM-04-08]

Notice of Agricultural Management Assistance Organic Certification Cost-Share Program

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Services, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This Notice invites eligible States to submit a Standard Form 424, Application for Federal Assistance, and to enter into a Cooperative Agreement with the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) for the Allocation of Organic Certification Cost-Share Funds. The AMS has allocated \$1.0 million for this organic certification cost-share program in Fiscal Year 2004. Funds will be available under this program to 15 designated States to assist organic crop and livestock producers certified by the Department of Agriculture (USDA) accredited certifying agents to the National Organic Program (NOP). Eligible States interested in obtaining cost-share funds for their organic producers will have to submit an Application for Federal Assistance, and will have to enter into a cooperative agreement with AMS for the allocation of such funds.

DATES: Completed applications for federal assistance along with signed cooperative agreements must be received by October 4, 2004 in order to participate in this program.

ADDRESSES: Applications for federal assistance and cooperative agreements shall be requested from and submitted to: Robert Pooler, Agricultural Marketing Specialist, National Organic Program, USDA/AMS/TMP/NOP, Room 4008-South, Ag Stop 0268, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0264; Telephone: (202) 720-3252; Fax: (202) 205-7808; e-mail: bob.pooler@usda.gov. Additional information may be found through the National Organic Program's homepage at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert Pooler, Agricultural Marketing Specialist, National Organic Program, USDA/AMS/TM/NOP, Room 4008-South, Ag Stop 0268, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0264; Telephone: (202) 720-3252; Fax: (202) 205-7808; e-mail: bob.pooler@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This Organic Certification Cost-Share Program is part of the Agricultural

Management Assistance Program authorized under the Federal Crop Insurance Act (FCIA), as amended, (7 U.S.C. 1524). Under the applicable FCIA provisions, the Department is authorized to provide cost share assistance to producers in the States of Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming. This organic certification cost-share program provides financial assistance to organic producers certified to the National Organic Program authorized under the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990, as amended (7 U.S.C. 6501 *et seq.*)

To participate in the program, eligible States must complete a Standard Form 424, Application for Federal Assistance, and enter into a written cooperative agreement with AMS. The program will provide cost-share assistance, through participating States, to organic crop and livestock producers receiving certification or update of certification by a USDA accredited certifying agent from October 1, 2004 through September 30, 2005. The Department has determined that payments will be limited to 75 percent of an individual producer's certification costs up to a maximum of \$500.00.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1524.

Dated: August 12, 2004.

A.J. Yates,

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 04-18848 Filed 8-17-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Kuiu Timber Sale Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on a proposal to harvest timber and to develop a road management plan for the Kuiu Timber Sale on north-central Kuiu Island, on the Petersburg Ranger District, Tongass National Forest. The proposed action provides for multiple timber sale opportunities and will result in the production of approximately 35 million board feet (mmbf) of timber from approximately 1,270 acres of forested land. Up to 15

miles of temporary road may be necessary for timber harvest; no new permanent roads would be constructed. A range of alternatives, responsive to significant issues, will be developed and will include a no action alternative. The Rowan Bay LTF will be used. This project is within the Kuiu biogeographic province. The Record of Decision will disclose whether and where the Forest Supervisor has decided to provide timber harvest units, roads and associated timber harvesting facilities.

DATES: An initial letter outlining the project timeline and public involvement opportunities was distributed during February 2004. A scoping letter will be mailed January of 2005. Individuals who want to receive this mailing should contact the Petersburg Ranger District at the following address. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement is projected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the fall of 2004 and will begin a 45-day public comment period. The Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision are scheduled to be published in the spring of 2005.

ADDRESSES: Please send written comments to the Petersburg Ranger District, Tongass National Forest, Attn: Kuiu Timber Sale EIS, PO Box 1328, Petersburg, AK 99833. The Fax number is (907) 772-5995.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions about the proposal and EIS should be directed to Patricia Grantham, District Ranger, Petersburg Ranger District, Tongass National Forest, PO Box 1328, Petersburg, AK 99833, telephone (907) 772-3871, or Kris Rutledge, Interdisciplinary Team Leader, Petersburg Ranger District, PO Box 1328, Petersburg, AK 99833, telephone (907) 772-3871.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The 46,100-acre Kuiu project area is located within Value Comparison Units 399, 400, 402, and 421 on Kuiu Island, Alaska, on the Petersburg Ranger District of the Tongass National Forest. A portion of one Inventoried Roadless Areas, North Kuiu #241, as identified by the Forest Plan and SEIS, is located within the project area. The project area includes one small old-growth habitat reserve as designated in the Forest Plan. There will be no proposed timber harvest in areas of Old-Growth Reserve management prescriptions. However, roads may be proposed through Old-Growth reserves to access suitable and available forestland outside the reserves. A Forest Plan amendment would be required if a decision is made to modify

the old-growth habitat reserve boundary associated with this project.

The purpose and need for the proposed action responds to the goals and objectives identified by the Tongass Land Management Plan, as amended, and helps move the area toward the desired conditions as described in the forest plan. The Forest Supervisor is the Responsible Official for this action and will decide whether or not to harvest timber from the Kuiu Timber Sale area, and if so, how this timber will be harvested. The decision will be based on the information that is disclosed in the environmental impact statement.

The responsible official will consider comments, responses, the disclosure of environmental consequences, and applicable laws, regulations, and policies in making the decision and will state that rationale in the Record of Decision.

The Forest Plan goals and objectives applicable to the Kuiu Project Area include:

- Provisions for a vigorous and healthy forest environment, including management of timber resource for production of sawtimber and other wood products from suitable lands made available for timber harvest on an even-flow, long-term sustained yield basis, and in an economically efficient manner.
- Provisions for current and future habitat needs of endemic wildlife species, maintenance and enhancement of current riparian conditions.
- Provisions for a diversity of opportunities for resource uses that contribute to the local and regional economies of Southeast Alaska to support a wide range of natural-resource employment opportunities within Southeast Alaska's communities.

- Ensures the Forest Service acts in a responsible manner by providing a timber supply sufficient to meet the annual market demand for the Tongass National Forest and the demand for the planning cycle while maintaining a Forest-wide system of old-growth forest habitat to sustain old-growth associated species and resources and ensures that the reserve system meets the minimum size, spacing, and composition criteria.

Public Participation

Public participation has been an integral component of the study process and will continue to be especially important at several points during the analysis. The Forest Service will be seeking information, comments, and assistance from Tribal Governments, Federal, State, and Local agencies, individuals and organizations that may be interested in, or affected by, the

proposed activities. Written scoping comments have been solicited through an informal scoping package that was sent to the project mailing list and will be available at open houses in Petersburg, Alaska and Kake, Alaska. The scoping process includes: (1) Identification of potential issues; (2) identification of issues to be analyzed in depth; and (3) elimination of non-significant issues or those which have been covered by a previous environmental review. Tentative issues identified for analysis in the EIS include the potential effects of the project on, and the relationship of the project to, the old-growth habitat reserve system, roadless areas and timber sale economics.

Based on results of scoping and the resource capabilities within the project area, alternatives, including a "no action" alternative, will be developed for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Subsistence hearings, as provided for in Title VIII, Section 810 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), will be conducted, if necessary, during the comment period on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The comment period on the draft environmental impact statement will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency published the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

The Forest Service believes, at this early stage, it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of Draft Environmental Impact Statements must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewer's position and contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553, (1978). Also environmental objections that could be raised at the Draft Environmental Impact Statement stage but are not raised until after completion of the final environmental impact statement may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F.2d 1016, 1022 (9th Cir. 1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). Because of these court rulings, it is very important that those interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the 45-day comment period so that substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider them and respond to them in the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns of the proposed action, comments during scoping and comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Comments may also address the adequacy of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the statement. Reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR Parts 215 or 217. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Requesters should be aware that, under FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within 7 days.

Permits

Permits required for implementation include the following:

1. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 - Approval of discharge of dredged or fill material into the waters of the United States under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act;
 - Approval of the construction of structures or work in navigable waters of the United States under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899;
2. Environmental Protection Agency
 - General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit for Log Transfer Facilities in Alaska;

- Review Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan;
3. State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources
 - Tideland Permit and Lease or Easement;
 - Certification of Compliance with Alaska Water Quality Standards (401 Certification) Chapter 20;
 4. Office of Project Management & Permitting (DNR)
 - Coastal Zone Consistency Determination concurrence;
 5. State of Alaska, Department of Environmental Conservation
 - Solid Waste Disposal Permit.

Responsible Official

Forrest Cole, Forest Supervisor, Tongass National Forest, Federal Building, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901, is the responsible official. The responsible official will consider the comments, responses, disclosure of environmental consequences, and applicable laws, regulations, and policies in making the decision and state the rationale in the Record of Decision.

(Authority: 40 CFR 1501.7 and 1508.22; *Forest Service Handbook 1909.15*, Section 21)

Dated: August 3, 2004.

Forrest Cole,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 04-18915 Filed 8-17-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Notice of Sanders County Resource Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the authorities in the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463) and under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106-393) the Lolo and Kootenai National Forests' Sanders County Resource Advisory Committee will meet on August 26 at 6:30 p.m. in Thompson Falls, Montana for a business meeting. The meeting is open to the public.

DATES: August 26, 2004.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Thompson Falls Courthouse, 1111 Main Street, Thompson Falls, MT 59873.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Brian Avery, Designated Federal Official

(DFO), District Ranger Cabinet Ranger District, Kootenai National Forest at (406) 827-3533.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Agenda topics include reviewing the status of selected projects and receiving public comment. If the meeting location is changed, notice will be posted in the local newspapers, including the Clark Fork Valley Press, Sanders County Ledger, Daily Interlake, Missoulian, and River Journal.

Dated: August 3, 2004.

Brian Avery,

DFO, Cabinet Ranger District, Kootenai National Forest.

[FR Doc. 04-18852 Filed 8-17-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Armed Forces Retirement Home.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. 4321, *et seq.* and the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), the Armed Forces Retirement Home (AFRH) plans to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to analyze the potential impacts from the proposed Master Development Plan for its campus located at 3700 North Capital Street, NW., in Washington, DC. AFRH also intends to initiate consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 470f, for the proposed Master Development Plan.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Craig Wallwork, AFRH, at (202) 730-3038. Please call this number if special assistance is needed to attend and participate in the scoping meeting.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The notice of intent is as follows:

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Master Development Plan for the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Washington, DC

The Armed Forces Retirement Home (AFRH) intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to analyze the potential impacts from the proposed Master Development Plan for its campus located at 3700 North Capital Street, NW., in Washington, DC.