

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

January 12, 2012.

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 regarding (a) 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; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) 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 should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), OIRA_Submission@OMB.EOP.GOV or fax (202) 395-5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, DC 20250-7602. Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of this notification. 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.

Natural Resource Conservation Service

Title: Emergency Watershed Protection Program Recovery.

OMB Control Number: 0578-0030.

Summary of Collection: The Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program regulations at 7 CFR 624 set forth the basic policies, program provisions, and eligibility requirements for sponsors to participate in the EWP program. The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) is responsible for administration of the EWP Program. EWP assistance is provided to sponsors to undertake emergency measures for runoff retardation and soil erosion prevention to safeguard lives and property from floods, drought, and the products of erosion on any watershed whenever fire, flood, or any other natural disaster occurrence is causing or has caused a sudden impairment of that watershed. The sponsor's request is submitted formally as a letter (NRCS-PDM-20A) to the NRCS State Conservationist for consideration. Form NRCS-PDM-20, Damage Survey Report (DSR) is the agency decisionmaking document that includes the economic, social, and environmental evaluation, as well as the engineer's cost estimate.

Need and Use of the Information: The collected information allows the responsible federal official to make EWP eligibility determinations and provide federal cost-share payments to the sponsors. Without the information NRCS would not be able to perform its responsibilities in administering the EWP program.

Description of Respondents: State, Local, or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 210.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Other (Disaster Occurrence).

Total Burden Hours: 5,565.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2012-814 Filed 1-17-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-16-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, Powers Ranger District, Coos County, OR; Eden Ridge Timber Sales

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Corrected Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental impact statement for the Eden Ridge Timber Sales. The original notice was published on April 26, 2010.

SUMMARY: The USDA, Forest Service, is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on proposed variable density thinning treatments designed to control stocking and maintain or improve overall forest vigor and resiliency within a 6,516-acre planning area known as Eden Ridge. Timber harvested from stand treatments would contribute commercial timber to the Forest's Probable Sale Quantity. The planning area is located approximately four (4) air miles southeast of the city of Powers, Oregon, on the Powers Ranger District. A Notice of Intent (NOI) was first published for this proposal on April 26, 2010, Volume 75, No. 79, pages 21577-21579. Due to the length of time that has passed since the first NOI was published, refinement of the proposed action, and a change in the responsible official, the district is publishing this Corrected NOI. The district now proposes within the planning area, timber harvest and other connected activities on approximately 3,314 acres in stands regenerated from timber harvested around the 1930s and 1940s via historical railroad logging. Candidate stands located on suitable forest land within the planning area are proposed for treatment that are designated as Matrix, with some amount of Riparian Reserve under the Land and Resource Management Plan as amended by the Northwest Forest Plan. Approximately seventy-five (75) treatment units would be designed for timber harvest with associated harvest systems that would use a combination of ground-based and skyline operations depending on soil, slope and hydrological concerns. To facilitate treatments within the potential units being considered, approximately:

- 10.5 miles new road construction
- 0.03 miles of temporary roads

- 3.7 miles reconstruction of existing template non system roads
- 7.7 miles maintenance of proposed existing cost share roads
- 31 miles maintenance of existing system roads is proposed. It is estimated the project could produce approximately 50 million board feet from the 3,314 acres being considered, from multiple timber sales over a 5-year period. The alternatives include the proposed action, no action, and additional alternatives that responded to issues generated through the scoping process. The agency will give notice of the full environmental analysis and decisionmaking process so interested and affected people may participate and contribute to the final decision.

DATES: The draft environmental impact statement is expected March 2012 and the final environmental impact statement is expected July 2012.

ADDRESSES: Powers Ranger District, 42861 Highway 242, Powers, OR 97466–9700.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information about the proposal, contact Wesley H. Crum, Project Leader, at the above address, phone (541) 439–6241 or email whcrum@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose and Need for Action

The overall *Purpose* of this project is to implement direction from the 1989 Land and Resource Management Plan for the Siskiyou National Forest, as amended by the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan. The majority of the Eden Ridge Timber Sales proposal is located on lands allocated to Matrix which emphasizes obtaining a full yield of timber within the capability of the land. Most scheduled timber harvest and other silvicultural activities would be conducted in that portion of the Matrix with suitable forest lands (NW Forest Plan, page C–39). Specifically for the Eden Ridge Timber Sales project, *Needs* include: *Improvement of Overall Forest Vigor and Resiliency*—There is a need for tree stocking level control to reduce stand densities through intermediate harvest thinning treatments to sustain or increase tree growth and improve forest vigor and resiliency. Density management would release remaining trees from inter-tree competition for sunlight, and would also reduce competition for water and soil nutrients when compared to untreated areas. Minor portions of the Planning Area infected with root diseases would be managed to harvest trees predisposed to pathogen infection and retain or plant resistant tree species to improve forest health. Older legacy (remnant) trees,

minor conifer tree species (in portions of stands uninfected with root disease), hardwoods, existing snags and coarse woody debris would be retained where feasible to maintain or improve forest diversity. Post-treatment objectives are to develop a sustainable forest resilient to drought, wind, insects, disease, fire and other natural disturbances.

Contribution of Commercial Timber to the Probable Sale Quantity—Proposed candidate stands are primarily allocated to Matrix and contribute to the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest Probable Sale Quantity (PSQ). PSQ is the estimated output of commercial timber and other commodities assigned to the Forest under the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan. The Purpose of this action is to respond to the stated Needs. Specific stand management objectives associated with the Purpose and Need for this proposal include:

- Maintenance or improvement of forest health and diversity within Matrix and Riparian Reserve land allocations through density management treatments. This typically means individual tree and overall stand diameter growth, crown development, vigor and overall stand health, and improved root strength on residual trees;
- Improve habitat conditions for wildlife and fish. This means increasing vegetative and structural species diversity; maintain or improve shading capability of streams; improve large wood retention and large wood recruitment, and provide suitable amounts of snags and/or replacement habitat for dependent species;
- Reduce the risk of effects from insect and disease infestations;
- Minimize or reduce the potential for high severity, stand replacement wildfires;
- Increase riparian vegetation quality, health and vigor; and
- Contribute to a predictable and sustainable level of timber commodities with human and economic dimensions.

Proposed Action

The action proposed by the Forest Service to meet the Purpose and Need is variable density thinning and other silvicultural treatments designed to control stocking and maintain or improve overall forest vigor and resiliency from within the 6,516-acre Eden Ridge Planning Area. Commercial timber harvested from stand treatments would contribute to the Forest's Probable Sale Quantity. The 6,516 acre Eden Ridge planning area is located approximately four (4) air miles southeast of the city of Powers, Oregon at the closest point, with a legal

description of: Township 31 South, Range 10 West, Sections 9, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 29 and 30; and Township 31 South, Range 11 West, Sections 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, and 27; Willamette Meridian; Coos County, Oregon. The planning area falls within the South Fork Coquille River and the Middle Fork Coquille River 5th-Field watersheds, and the Lower Rock Creek, Myrtle Creek, Headwaters South Fork Coquille River, Coal Creek, and Mill Creek 6th field watersheds. The proposed action would occur from multiple timber sales over a 5-year period.

Possible Alternatives

The Proposed Action and two action alternatives are proposed for achieving the stated Purpose and Need, as well as a No-Action Alternative. These alternatives were developed based on issues raised by the public and other agencies.

Responsible Official

The Forest Supervisor, Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, is the responsible official for this project.

Nature of Decision To Be Made

The Forest Supervisor will decide whether to implement the action as proposed, whether to take no action at this time, whether to implement any alternatives that are proposed, or develop a preferred alternative from all of the alternatives.

Preliminary Issues

The following are significant issues: Hydrologic Conditions, Water Quality, Cumulative Watershed Effects, Soils, Geology, and Site Productivity and Economics.

Other issues include: Aquatic Conservation Strategy, Fire/Fuels, Air Quality, Botanical Resources, Invasive Plants, Port-Orford-cedar Root Disease, Threatened Terrestrial Wildlife Species and Critical Habitat, Forest Service Sensitive Terrestrial Wildlife Species and Habitats, Rare and Uncommon Terrestrial Wildlife Species, Neotropical Migratory Birds, Aquatic Species and Habitats, Thinning Shock and Wind throw Potential, Other Undeveloped Areas, Heritage Resources, Recreation/Human Safety and Climate Change.

Scoping Process

The scoping process for this project occurred when the original NOI was published in 2010. Issues identified during the scoping period were used to determine the alternatives considered and breadth of analysis. Public field

trips were held on August 1st and 2nd, 2011. Additional public meetings may be planned in the future. This proposal has been listed on the Rogue River-Siskiyou NF Schedule of Proposed Actions since October, 2010.

Dated: January 4, 2012.

Jennifer Eberlien,

Acting Forest Supervisor, Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest.

[FR Doc. 2012-860 Filed 1-17-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

U.S. Census Bureau

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Quarterly Financial Report

AGENCY: U.S. Census Bureau, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: To ensure consideration, written comments must be submitted on or before March 19, 2012.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Jennifer Jessup, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6616, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at jjessup@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Demetria V. Hanna, U.S. Census Bureau, HQ-6K181, Washington, DC 20233, Telephone (301) 763-6600.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The Census Bureau's Quarterly Financial Report program (QFR) is planning to expand to include, along with corporations currently surveyed, additional Services sectors in the scope of collection. The current collection includes the Manufacturing, Mining, Wholesale Trade, Retail Trade, Information, and Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services

(excluding legal) sectors. The expanded collection will include the Real Estate and Rental and Leasing, Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services, Health Care and Social Assistance, and Accommodation and Food Services sectors.

The QFR forms to be submitted for approval are: The QFR 200 (MT) long form; QFR 201 (MG) short form; and the QFR 300 (S) long form.

The QFR Program has published up-to-date aggregate statistics on the financial results and position of U.S. corporations since 1947. The QFR is a principal economic indicator that also provides financial data essential to the estimation of key Government measures of national economic performance. The importance of this data collection is reflected by the granting of specific authority to conduct the program in Title 13 of the United States Code, Section 91, which requires that financial statistics of business operations be collected and published quarterly. Public Law 109-79 extended the authority of the Secretary of Commerce to conduct the QFR Program under Section 91 through September 30, 2015.

The main purpose of the QFR is to provide timely, accurate data on business financial conditions for use by Government and private-sector organizations and individuals. The primary public users are U.S. Governmental organizations with economic measurement and policymaking responsibilities. In turn, these organizations play a major role in providing guidance, advice, and support to the QFR Program. The primary private-sector data users are a diverse group including universities, financial analysts, unions, trade associations, public libraries, banking institutions, and U.S. and foreign corporations.

II. Method of Collection

The Census Bureau uses two forms of data collection: mail out/mail back paper survey forms, and a secure encrypted Internet data collection system called Centurion. Centurion provides improved quality with automatic data checks and is context-sensitive to assist the data provider in identifying potential reporting problems before submission, thus reducing the need for follow-up. Centurion is completed via the Internet eliminating the need for downloading software and increasing the integrity and confidentiality of the data.

Companies are asked to respond to the survey within 25 days of the end of the quarter for which the data are being requested. Letters and/or telephone calls

encouraging participation are directed to companies in the survey sample that have not responded by the designated time.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0607-0432.

Form Number: QFR 200 (MT), QFR 201 (MG) and QFR 300 (S).

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Manufacturing corporations with assets of \$250 thousand or more Mining, Wholesale Trade, Retail Trade, Information, Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (excluding legal), Real Estate and Rental and Leasing, Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services, Health Care and Social Assistance, and Accommodation and Food Services corporations with assets of \$50 million or more.

Estimated Number of Respondents:

Form QFR 200 (MT)—5,000 per quarter = 20,000 annually.

Form QFR 201 (MG)—5,000 per quarter = 20,000 annually.

Form QFR 300 (S)—2,700 per quarter = 10,800 annually.

Total 50,800 annually.

Estimated Time Per Response:

Form QFR 200 (MT)—Average hours: 3.0.

Form QFR 201 (MG)—Average hours: 1.2.

Form QFR 300 (S)—Average hours: 3.0.

Estimated Total Annual Burden

Hours: 116,000 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Cost: \$3.8 million.

Respondent's Obligation: Mandatory.

Legal Authority: Title 13 U.S.C. 91 and 224.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.