

that authorize the movement of regulated articles and is vital to help ensure that injurious plant pests are not spread interstate from Hawaii and U.S. territories to noninfested areas of the United States.

We are asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve our use of these information collection activities for an additional 3 years.

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, through use, as appropriate, of automated, electronic, mechanical, and other collection technologies; e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Estimate of burden: The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.0786158 hours per response.

Respondents: State plant regulatory officials, irradiation facility personnel, and individuals involved in growing, packing, handling, and transporting plants and plant products.

Estimated annual number of respondents: 1,129.

Estimated annual number of responses per respondent: 11.108945.

Estimated annual number of responses: 12,542.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 986 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 27th day of March 2008.

Kevin Shea,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. E8-6649 Filed 3-31-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Foreign Agricultural Service

Notice of Request for New Information Collection on Genetic Resources for U.S. Food and Agriculture

AGENCY: Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), this notice announces the Foreign Agricultural Service's intention, in collaboration with the University of Illinois, to request a new information collection for genetic resources relevant to U.S. food and agriculture.

DATES: Comments and recommendations must be received on or before June 2, 2008. Comments received after this date will not be considered.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Jennifer Long, Visiting Assistant Research Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Illinois, 845 W. Taylor Street (MC 066), Chicago, IL 60607, e-mail at vernlong@uic.edu.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Food and Agricultural Genetic Resources.

OMB Number: To be assigned by OMB.

Expiration Date of Approval: Three years from approval date.

Type of Request: New information collection.

Abstract: The Foreign Agricultural Service, in collaboration with the University of Illinois, will be gathering information on the international sources and uses of genetic resources relevant to U.S. food and agriculture. FAS and other USDA agencies would like to obtain information from a broad base of stakeholders on how the sources and uses of genetic resources may affect U.S. food and agricultural research and development activities. This information will assist FAS in further developing U.S. policy positions to be advanced in international forums such as the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (UN FAO) Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) Convention on Biological Diversity. Information collected from stakeholders will consist of an online survey, followed by a phone interview, to identify the sources and uses of genetic

resources in the stakeholders' research and development activities. A maximum of two additional phone interviews may be held with respondents to clarify information from survey responses. Authority to collect this information falls under 7 U.S.C. Part 5693 and it is voluntary for stakeholders to participate. The data will be collected through a secure, online survey instrument and will be stored on a secure, password protected server at the University of Illinois. Only individuals with proper authorization (i.e., a password) will have access to the data.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1.50 hours per response.

Type of Respondents: Individual faculty and administrators in public and private U.S. universities, businesses, and individual researchers at federal agricultural research institutions.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 5,000 per annum.

Estimated Number of Responses: 5,900 per annum.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 9,900 per annum.

Comments are invited on: (1) Whether the proposed 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 the burden of the proposed 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 those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Copies of the information collection may be obtained from Tamoria Thompson-Hall, the Agency Information Collection Coordinator, at (202) 690-1690 or e-mail at Tamoria.Thompson@usda.gov.

Comments may be sent to Dr. Jennifer Long, Visiting Assistant Research Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Illinois, 845 West Taylor Street (MC 066), Chicago, IL 60607 or e-mail at vernlong@uic.edu or to the Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503. All comments received will be available for public inspection during regular business hours by contacting Peter

Tabor, Lead International Trade Specialist, at the Foreign Agricultural Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., South Building, Room 5930, Washington, DC 20250. Persons with disabilities who require an alternative means of communication of information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's Target Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval of the proposed information collection. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Government Paperwork Elimination Act: FAS is committed to compliance with the Government Paperwork Elimination Act, which requires Government agencies, in general, to provide the public the option of submitting information or transacting business electronically to the maximum extent possible.

Signed at Washington, DC, on March 19, 2008.

Michael W. Yost,

Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service.
[FR Doc. E8-6506 Filed 3-31-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-10-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Klamath National Forest, California, Eddy Gulch Late-Successional Reserve Fire/Habitat Protection Project

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: The Klamath National Forest will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to document and publicly disclose the environmental effects of implementing mechanical, manual, and prescribed burn treatments in the Eddy Gulch Late-Successional Reserve (LSR).

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received within 30 days of the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**. The draft EIS is expected in late fall of 2008, and the final EIS and Forest Service Record of Decision are expected in spring of 2009.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to RED, Inc. Communications, the contractor hired by the Forest Service to conduct project planning and prepare the EIS. The mailing address is RED, Inc. Communications, P.O. Box 3067, Idaho Falls, ID, 83403, ATTN: Eddy Gulch LSR Project. The address for

e-mailing comments is eddylsr@redinc.com. The project Web site is <http://www.eddylsrproject.com>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Visit the project Web site at <http://www.eddylsrproject.com> or contact Ray Haupt, Scott and Salmon River District Ranger, Klamath National Forest, 11263 N. Highway 3, Fort Jones, California 96032 or call 530-468-5351

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On July 1, 2007, the Eddy Gulch LSR Project was included under the category of "developing proposal" in the Klamath National Forest's Schedule of Proposed Actions, which was posted on the Klamath National Forest's Web site. The Healthy Forest Restoration Act, Northwest Forest Plan (as incorporated in the Klamath National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan of 1995), and National Fire Plan direct agencies to conduct projects for habitat restoration and protection from catastrophic wildfire. Section 7(a)(1) of the Endangered Species Act directs federal agencies to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species.

The Eddy Gulch LSR is on the Scott-Salmon River Ranger District, Klamath National Forest, Siskiyou County, California. The LSR is located mostly west of Etna Summit, south of North Russian Creek and the town of Sawyers Bar, east of Forks of Salmon, and north of Cecilville. The LSR encompasses much of the area between the North and South Forks of the Salmon River, as well as headwaters of Etna Creek. Elevations range from 1,100 feet to about 8,000 feet. The LSR is about 61,900 acres in size, making it one of the largest LSRs on the Klamath National Forest. The Assessment Area (37,239 acres) for the EIS is the Eddy Gulch LSR minus the portions in designated roadless areas and that portion of the LSR east of Etna Summit.

The goal of the Eddy Gulch Late-Successional Reserve Fire/Habitat Protection Project (Eddy Gulch LSR Project) EIS is to present an ecosystem-based approach for ensuring the safety of persons and communities and maintaining, protecting, and improving conditions of late-successional forest ecosystems, which serve as habitat for late-successional-associated species. This would be accomplished through fuels reduction and habitat development treatments using mechanical, manual, and prescribed fire treatment methods.

The initial mailing list for the project contained entities and individuals who were interested in past Klamath

National Forest projects. Names and addresses were added to the mailing list based on zip codes in the vicinity of the Eddy Gulch LSR and attendance records from citizen collaboration meetings. The current mailing contains approximately 1,200 names and addresses of potentially affected Native American tribes, individuals, agencies with special expertise, organizations, and businesses. The first project newsletter was mailed in October 2007 to members of the mailing list, and a Web page was developed to provide additional information on the project: <http://www.eddylsrproject.com>.

On December 3, 2003, President Bush signed into law the Healthy Forests Restoration Act to reduce the threat of destructive wildfires while upholding environmental standards and encouraging early public input during review and planning processes. The legislation is based on sound science and helps further the President's Healthy Forests Initiative pledge to care for America's forests and rangelands, reduce the risk of catastrophic fire to communities, help save the lives of firefighters and citizens, and protect threatened and endangered species. The Healthy Forests Restoration Act contains a variety of provisions to speed up hazardous fuels reduction and forest restoration projects on specific types of federal lands that are at risk of wildland fire and/or insect and disease epidemics. The Healthy Forests Restoration Act established important objectives to fulfill that pledge; a few of those objectives are to:

1. Strengthen public participation in developing high-priority forest health projects by providing opportunities for earlier participation, thus accomplishing projects in a more timely fashion.

2. Reduce dense undergrowth that fuels catastrophic [stand-replacing] fires through thinning and prescribed burns.

3. Select projects on a collaborative basis, involving local, tribal, state, and federal agencies and nongovernmental entities.

4. Focus projects on federal lands that meet strict criteria for risk of wildfire.

The potential for large, high-intensity fire is a primary concern in the Eddy Gulch LSR. Current management issues [needs] include the reduction of high fire hazard conditions, protection and/or development of late-successional habitat, and the protection of areas that may have watershed-related features at risk. Also of concern is the protection of private property and emergency access routes that pass through the LSR. The Proposed Action addresses these management needs.