

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 88, No. 241

Monday, December 18, 2023

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

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 are required regarding; 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; the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and 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.

Comments regarding this information collection received by January 17, 2024 will be considered. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be submitted within 30 days of the publication of this notice on the following website www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Find this particular information collection by selecting "Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments" or by using the search function

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.

Farm Service Agency

Title: Certified Mediation Program (7 CFR part 785).

OMB Control Number: 0560–0165.

Summary of Collection: The Farm Service (FSA) is administering the Certified Mediation Program as mandated by Subtitle A and B of Title V of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 (Pub. L. 100–233), as amended, under the USDA Agricultural Mediation Program. USDA authorized FSA to administer the program. FSA makes grants to state-designated entities that provide mediation to agricultural producers, their lenders and others that are directly affected by the action of certain USDA agencies. In mediation, a trained impartial mediator helps participants review and discuss their conflicts, identify options to resolve disputes and agree on solutions.

Need and Use of the Information: FSA will collect information to determine whether the participants meet the eligibility requirements to be recipients of grant funds, and secondly, to determine if the grant is being administered as provided by the Agricultural Credit Act. Lack of adequate information to make these determinations could result in the improper administration and appropriation of Federal grant funds.

Description of Respondents: State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 42.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 2,772.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2023–27672 Filed 12–15–23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–05–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency

[Docket ID: FSA–2023–0017]

Request for Information on Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) FSA–153 Form Modernization and Information Collection Request

ACTION: Notice; and request for comment.

AGENCY: Farm Service Agency and Farm Production and Conservation Business Center, Department of Agriculture (USDA).

SUMMARY: The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is requesting information on proposed revisions to the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act Report (FSA–153 form). The FSA–153 requires updating. Specifically, the FSA–153 form needs clarification and updating to ensure that foreign owners (or long-term lessees) who are required to file the FSA–153 form have clear instructions and that USDA is collecting the most precise and meaningful data, so that the report to Congress is as accurate and insightful as possible. Foreign owners are investors who buy, sell, or hold a direct or indirect interest in U.S. agricultural land (or who hold long-term leases on agricultural land) and must report their holdings and transactions to USDA on the FSA–153 form. USDA uses the information on the submitted forms to generate the report that it submits to Congress. FSA is moving towards modernizing the collection of information process, clarifying and modernizing the FSA–153 form, and if funding becomes available, creating an electronic submission system that will allow foreign owners to report by filing electronically. In addition, this document requests public input for our plan to revise not only the information request, but ultimately, the regulation (which will likely result in further modifications at a later date to the FSA–153 form).

DATES: We will consider comments or information that we receive by February 16, 2024.

ADDRESSES: We invite you to send comments in response to this notice. You may submit comments, identified by Docket ID: FSA–2023–0017 in the

Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and search for FSA–2023–0017. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

All comments will be posted without change and will be publicly available on www.regulations.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mary Estep; telephone (202) 720–3217; or email mary.estep@usda.gov.

Individuals who require alternative means for communication should contact the USDA TARGET Center at (202) 720–2600 (voice and text telephone (TTY)) or dial 711 for Telecommunications Relay Service (both voice and text telephone users can initiate this call from any telephone).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (Pub. L. 95–460) requires “foreign persons” who hold, acquire, or dispose of an interest in U.S. agricultural land to report transactions and holdings to USDA through the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act Report (FSA–153 form) within 90 days of the transaction. In this document, we are using the term “foreign owners” to refer to the people, companies, governments, and others who are required to report their transactions and holdings to USDA. “Foreign owners” is an umbrella term that also includes long-term leaseholders (typically in the wind and solar industries).

In recent years, there has been great interest in the annual AFIDA report to Congress. Further, section 773 of title VII of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2023 (7 U.S.C. 3501 note; Division A of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023; Pub. L. 117–328) requires the Secretary to establish a streamlined process for electronic submission and retention of disclosures made under AFIDA, as well as to create an internet database that contains disaggregated data from each disclosure submitted to USDA. In order to fulfill this mandate, FSA must collect the data that best captures all of the requirements of AFIDA with minimal burden on foreign owners. Until additional funding is available, or prioritization of funding occurs, FSA will continue to collect information through the paper-based FSA–153 form.

Given that the FSA–153 form has not been updated for years, an internal working group—composed of AFIDA headquarters specialists, information technology specialists, FSA field staff,

and other USDA employees—met in the spring and summer of 2023 to discuss revisions to the form to gather more precise data to prepare for meeting the Section 773 mandate and to clarify and modernize the form. This document requests public input for our plan to revise the information collection request as part of our information collection request, which will be submitted to OMB to renew and revise their approval for OMB control number 0560–0097.

AFIDA data collection has operated in much the same way for the past 40 years. FSA administers AFIDA for the Secretary. Foreign owners can work through the FSA county office to fill out the form or, for more complex cases, directly with the AFIDA headquarters staff in the FPAC Business Center’s Economic and Policy Analysis Division. Forms are typically filled out manually and mailed in hard copy to headquarters staff (whether originating in the FSA county office or received directly, in the case of complex situations, from foreign owners or their representatives). The AFIDA headquarters staff check all incoming reports for accuracy and completeness and work with the foreign owner (or FSA county office) if additional information is needed. The data from each FSA–153 form is then manually hand-entered in an in-house data system designed to produce the annual report to Congress.

Definitions

A foreign person is, generally, an individual who is not a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, or an entity that is:

- a foreign government,
- an entity formed under the laws of a foreign government, or
- an entity formed under a U.S. law in which a foreign person has a reportable direct or indirect interest.

A reportable interest is an interest held by a foreign person in agricultural land as:

- a direct landowner (the title holder),
- a direct leaseholder if the lease is for 10 years or more,
- an indirect landowner or leaseholder.

A reportable indirect interest is any interest held by a foreign person in any entity that has an interest in agricultural land as an owner or leaseholder if the lease is for 10 years or more (excluding contingent future interests). To be reportable, the interest held in the entity by the foreign person must be:

- (1) 10 percent or more by a foreign person or group of foreign persons acting in concert, or
- (2) 50 percent by a group of foreign persons not acting in concert.

Form FSA–153, tracks ownership to the third ownership tier.

For AFIDA purposes, agricultural land is land used for “agricultural purposes” that is:

- more than 10 acres in size in the aggregate; or
- 10 acres or less in the aggregate producing gross annual receipts of more than \$1,000 from the sale of farm, ranch, or timber products in total.

“Agricultural purposes” is defined as land that during the current year or any 1 of the preceding 5 years was used for:

- farming, ranching, pasture, orchards, vineyards, timber production, and so on; or
- forestry production exceeding 10 acres in size in which 10 percent is stocked by trees of any size, including land that formerly had such tree cover and will be naturally or artificially regenerated. It does not matter whether the foreign person ever intends to cut and sell the trees.

These definitions apply even if the land has been planned and plotted or rezoned for nonagricultural purposes.

Agricultural land is categorized as cropland, forestland, pastureland, other agriculture, and non-agricultural land (homesteads, farm roads).

Reporting

Foreign owners (or often, their U.S. attorney representatives) meeting the requirements above report their information on the existing FSA–153 form found at: <https://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/efcommon/eFileServices/eForms/FSA153.PDF>. In addition, the foreign filer must file a separate FSA–153 form when:

- the agricultural land is acquired or disposed of on different dates;
- the agricultural land is in multiple counties; or
- partial vs. whole ownership interests are different for the different parcels acquired at the same time and in the same county.

In addition to the FSA–153 form itself, foreign owners must provide the legal description of the parcels that they acquired (or disposed of) and, if applicable, the tiers of ownership (to the third tier).

In addition to acquisitions and dispositions, reporting of an amended FSA–153 is triggered when the land use changes, the tiers of ownership change, or the name of the foreign person changes.

The annual report to Congress is available on: <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/economic-and-policy-analysis/afida/annual-reports/index>. The annual report contains information on the top-five countries

holding different forms of agricultural land, the concentration of holdings geographically, and other information.

Geographic Context for the Location of the Land

AFIDA information has no direct linkages to FSA's Farm Records or other FSA systems. Parcel and foreign owner numbers are assigned by AFIDA headquarters staff; these numbers have no relevance for other FSA programs. The current FSA-153 form requires that the foreign owners provide the legal description or FSA tract number. Very few foreign owners provide an FSA tract or farm number and only provide a hard copy of the legal description.

Also, USDA is increasingly questioned by agencies within the federal government, and others, about purchases by certain entities and the geographic location of their holdings. We can provide the legal description—typically a “Platt type” map—that has no context allowing immediate geospatial interpretation. Accordingly, we are asking foreign owners to provide their legal description for each parcel and to also identify one or more of the following:

- The longitude and latitude for each parcel;
- The property tax ID number assigned by the county; and
- The FSA tract number and the FSA farm number.

We do not have the authority to require that foreign owners provide this information or that they obtain an FSA tract and farm number. However, we are requesting that they voluntarily provide at least one of these additional data points.

Request for Information

We are requesting public input for the following questions:

- (1) Is the request for additional information an undue burden on foreign owners or their representatives? If so, why?
- (2) Are there additional options that should be added to the list above? If so, what are those options?

Long-Term Leaseholds

Currently, there are no specific questions about leases on the form. As a result, foreign owners are writing in “lease” in box 5.f on the FSA-153 form. Long-term leases are a significant category of reports, and Congress and others have a strong interest in capturing leasing data. There are several changes proposed on the FSA-153 form to capture data on the types of leases and the value of the lease.

Request for Information

We are requesting public input for the following questions:

- (1) Are long-term leasehold filings—particularly those in the wind turbine and solar panel industries—“different enough” from land ownership purchase or sale filings that a separate version of the FSA-153 form should be created? Should a different “logic path” of questions be developed for long-term leasehold filings?

- (2) Many foreign wind energy companies have long-term leaseholds on U.S. agricultural land farmed by U.S. producers that trigger the AFIDA reporting requirement. Currently, the entire acreage of the parcel is captured; this is because the number of wind turbines that will be established on the land (if any) is often an unknown at the time of AFIDA reporting. In addition, the existence of the leasehold generally precludes other energy company involvement on the acreage. Does this approach overstate foreign energy company activity on U.S. agricultural land? If so, how should the acreage associated with these leaseholds be captured?

- (3) How should solar panels or photovoltaics—which are situated above the agricultural land—be treated for AFIDA reporting given that AFIDA uses an acreage basis for reporting?

- (4) Some foreign owners are providing a very low estimate of the value of the lease (as the flat payment is low) on the FSA-153 form while others are providing the estimated value of the entire parcel. How should “interest in the value of the agricultural land” be defined for leases?

Impacts on Farms and Rural Communities

AFIDA requires USDA to determine the impacts of foreign ownership, which the Economic Research Service provided in the report to Congress posted in December 2022 (containing data as of December 31, 2021). In order to assess impacts, and answer questions from Congress and the media (for example, are farmers being kicked off their land?), questions 9 through 12 on the existing FSA-153 form are being considered to be replaced by a new set of proposed questions 11 through 13.

Request for Information

We are requesting public input for the following questions:

- (1) Do the revised questions capture the scenarios needed to ascertain the impacts of foreign investment in U.S. agricultural land? If not, what questions should be added, or should the proposed questions be modified?

- (2) Do these questions put an undue burden on the foreign owner or their representative?

- (3) Are there situations where responding to the questions as written may result in unclear inferences—for example, if there are foreigners who are both farming land they have purchased within a county, and renting? How common are such situations?

FSA has several general questions associated with the FSA-153 form, which are listed below:

- (1) By regulation, reporting by foreign owners is required to the third tier of ownership. The form does not capture information on the ultimate owning country or countries. Should this information be captured?

- (2) Should foreign owners be required to report beyond the third tier of ownership? If so, why?

- (3) What ownership level should bear the reporting obligation?

- (4) Should the FSA Farm Records and AFIDA definitions of “tract” be aligned? If so, why?

- (5) Should parcels that are part of the same purchase or lease but are to be used differently—say, for agricultural vs. non-agricultural purposes—be treated differently by AFIDA? If so, how should the FSA-153 form be modified? Please provide examples and explain why.

- (6) The AFIDA regulation currently provides a list of exemptions to reporting. Should filing be required in situations of contingent future interests? If so, what kind and what types should be exempted, if any? Should reporting be required under any circumstances for easements? Please explain.

- (7) Should foreign owners be required to submit an amended FSA-153 form when land use changes within the agricultural category (say, if acres move from pastureland to cropland relative to the original reporting)?

Information Collection Request

FSA is requesting comments from all interested individuals and organizations on a revision to the currently approved information collection request associated with the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) of 1978. FSA is proposing a modified FSA-153 form and an appendix A showing the tiers of ownership. The modified FSA-153 and Appendix A are available at the end of this notice; you may provide comment in www.regulations.gov. You can also provide comments on all aspects of the AFIDA information collection request and the collected information as described in this notice. We have increased the burden estimate because

we expanded the form and we estimated the number of times changes have been submitted over several years.

Description of Information Collection

Title: Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act Report.

OMB Control Number: 0560–0097.

Expiration Date of Approval: August 31, 2025.

Type of Request: Revision.

For the following estimated total annual burden on respondents, the formula used to calculate the total burden hour is the estimated average time per response hours multiplied by the estimated total annual responses.

Estimate of Respondent Burden: Public reporting burden for the information collection is estimated to average 2 hours per response.

Respondents: Individuals or households, businesses or other for profit farms.

Estimated Annual Number of Respondents: 7,775.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 5.

Estimated Total Annual Responses: 38,875.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 77,750 hours.

We are requesting comments on all aspects of this information collection to help us to:

(1) Evaluate whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the FSA, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(2) Evaluate the accuracy of the FSA's estimate of burden including the

validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(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 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 for Office of Management and Budget approval.

Request for Meeting

In addition to providing input in your written comment, if you would like to meet to discuss the proposed changes, please include that request in your comment, also. If there is interest, we will schedule a meeting.

USDA Non-Discrimination Policy

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and USDA civil rights regulations and policies, USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family or parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior

civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Individuals who require alternative means of communication for program information (for example, braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or the USDA TARGET Center at (202) 720–2600 (voice and text telephone (TTY)) or dial 711 for Telecommunications Relay Service (both voice and text telephone users can initiate this call from any telephone). Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD–3027, found online at <https://www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint> and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632–9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail to: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250–9410; (2) fax: (202) 690–7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

BILLING CODE 3410–E2–P

FSA-153 (proposal)						U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Farm Service Agency		AMENDED <input type="checkbox"/> OMB Approval No.: 0560-0097 OMB Expiration Date: 08/31/2025	
AGRICULTURAL FOREIGN INVESTMENT DISCLOSURE ACT REPORT <i>Note: Read the "general instructions" on p. 3 of this form before filling in any data. (If additional space is needed, use additional sheets.)</i>						1. Type of Activity (See Instructions; check only one) A. Land Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> has filed with AFIDA prior; <input type="checkbox"/> new filer B. Land Disposition <input type="checkbox"/> C. Entry into Long-term Land Lease: ^{1/} <input type="checkbox"/> has filed with AFIDA prior; <input type="checkbox"/> new filer D. Long-term Lease Expiration/Termination <input type="checkbox"/> E. Other: 1. Land held prior to AFIDA law passage in 1978 <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Amendment to Prior Filing: <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use Change to Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use Change to Non-Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> Change in Name from Prior Filing <input type="checkbox"/> Update to Tiers of Ownership			
ITEM						ITEM			
2. Tract Location and Description						F. Complete only if Item 1B or Item 1D is checked; use additional pages if needed.			
A. Provide Legal Description (use additional pages if necessary). The legal description must be provided. B. Please provide one or more of the following (note that this is the only non-mandatory item on this form): Longitude/Latitude; Parcel Property Tax ID used by County; and/or the USDA Tract and Farm Number. Use for new filers and filers with additional acquisitions.						1) Name of Person(s) Receiving Tract(s) 2) Address (Street, City, State/Province, Country)			
County or Parish Name & State	Long/Lat Centroid	Property Tax ID assigned by County	USDA Tract Number	USDA Farm Number	Acres	3) Citizenship of Purchaser(s) <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. <input type="checkbox"/> Foreign <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown			
Tract 1 Name						4. Representative of Foreign Person (Completing form, if applicable)			
Tract 2 Name						A. Name			
						B. Address (Street, City, State/Province, Country)			
						C. Telephone no. (Area Code):			
TOTAL						D. Email:			
C. County or Parish						E. Relationship of Representative to Foreign Person (Check one)			
						1) Attorney <input type="checkbox"/>			
						2) Operator <input type="checkbox"/>			
						3) Agent <input type="checkbox"/>			
						4) Other (Explain) <input type="checkbox"/>			
E. State:						5. Type of Interest Held in the Agricultural Land (Check one)			
3. <input type="checkbox"/> Owner or <input type="checkbox"/> Lessee of Tract(s) (In Item 2A)						A. Fee interest (ownership) <input type="checkbox"/>			
A. Name:						B. Life Estate <input type="checkbox"/>			
B. Tax ID No. (Nine Digits):						C. Trust Beneficiary <input type="checkbox"/>			
C. Tax ID Type <input type="checkbox"/> Employee ID Number (EIN) <input type="checkbox"/> IRS Number (ITIN)						D. Purchase Contract <input type="checkbox"/>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Social Security Number (SSN)						E. Lease <input type="checkbox"/>			
D. Legal Address (Street, City, State/Province, Country):						1) Number of Years:			
E. Type of Owner (if Item E(1) is checked below, skip Items E(2) and E(3)).						2) Type of Lease			
(1) Individual. (Indicate citizenship of husband and/or wife if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/>						(a) Wind energy rights <input type="checkbox"/>			
a. Citizenship of individual(s):						(b) Solar energy rights <input type="checkbox"/>			
(2) Government (Country):						(c) Other (please specify): <input type="checkbox"/>			
(3) Organization (Check one):						3) Payment Type:			
a. Type <input type="checkbox"/>						(a) <input type="checkbox"/> Fixed amount per year: \$			
1) Corporation <input type="checkbox"/>						(b) <input type="checkbox"/> Royalty or revenue-based est. amount per year: \$			
2) LLC <input type="checkbox"/>						(c) <input type="checkbox"/> Combination fixed/royalty or revenue based ____ est. amount per year: \$			
3) Estate <input type="checkbox"/>						(d) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) ____ est. amount per year \$			
4) Trust <input type="checkbox"/>						4) Name on Land Title:			
5) Institution <input type="checkbox"/>						F. Other (Please explain below):			
6) Association <input type="checkbox"/>						6. Percent Interest in the Agricultural Land, if not a Lease			
7) Partnership <input type="checkbox"/>						A. What is the filer's percent interest in the agricultural land?			
8) Other (Check box and explain): <input type="checkbox"/>						B. Is the filer the title holder to the agricultural land? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
b. Government or country under whose law the organization is created.						C. If not, at what tier is the filer? (Must be consistent with information provided in 3)E.d.)			

c. Principal place of business <i>(For organizations only)</i>	
d. Use Appendix A to report tiers of ownership (to the 3 rd tier) for all foreign persons who individually or in aggregate hold a significant interest or substantial control in the person holding the land. ^{2/}	

^{1/} Refers to leases of 10 years or more. See 7 CFR Part 781.2 Definitions for more information (including exceptions).

^{2/} Significant interest or substantial control as defined in 7 CFR Part 781.2(k).

FSA-153 (proposal)

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7. How was this Tract Acquired or Transferred, if not a Lease? <i>(If more than one payment method is used for the acquisitions listed, please complete a separate FSA-153 form)</i>									
A. Cash Transaction <input type="checkbox"/>				D. Gift or Inheritance <input type="checkbox"/>					
B. Credit or Installment Transaction <input type="checkbox"/>				E. Foreclosure <input type="checkbox"/>					
C. Trade <input type="checkbox"/>				F. Other <i>(Check box and explain)</i> <input type="checkbox"/>					
ITEM				ITEM		Current Land Use Acres		Intended Land Use	
8. Value of Agricultural Land:				11. Of the Acres on this Farm, How Many Are:					
A. Purchase price of land or, if a land disposition, the original price paid by seller		\$		A. Operated by the Landowner					
B. Non-purchase; estimated value at the time of acquisition		\$		B. Rented or Leased for Agricultural Purposes					
C. What is the estimated current value or, if a land disposition, the selling price of the tract of land?		\$		C. Rented or Leased for Non-Agricultural Purposes					
D. How much of the purchase price in Item 7B remains to be paid?		\$							
9. Date of Acquisition or Transfer		Month		Day		Year		ITEM	
								YES N/A	
10. Current and Intended Land Use		Current Land Use Acres		Intended Land Use		12. Which of the Following is a U.S. Person? <i>(Check all that apply)</i>			
A. Crop						A. The Current Landowner		<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
B. Pasture						B. The Current Principal Farm Operator		<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
C. Forest or Timber						C. The Previous Landowner		<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
D. Other Agriculture (Specify):						D. The Previous Principal Farm Operator		<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
E. Non-Agriculture						13. What Best Describes the Foreign Person's Prior Relationship to the Land? <i>(Check all that apply):</i>			
1) Renewable energy development <i>(Include access roads)</i>						A. The foreign person had an existing business relationship with the previous owner prior to acquiring this land		<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
2) Farm roads, buildings, or parking lots						B. The foreign person was involved in day-to-day operations on this land prior to acquiring it		<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
3) Other non-agricultural land						C. The foreign person had no prior relationship with the land or its owner prior to acquiring it		<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
F. Total Acres <i>(Should equal the number of acres reported in Item 2D and, if reported, the total in 2B)</i>									
14. CERTIFICATION: <i>I certify that the information entered in this report is complete and correct. I understand that falsification of reporting is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed 25% of the fair market value of the interest held in the tract of land.</i>									
14A. SIGNATURE <i>(Owner or Legally Authorized Representative)</i>				14B. TITLE				14C. DATE <i>(MM/DD/YYYY)</i>	

NOTE:

Privacy Act Statement: The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a – as amended). The authority for requesting the information identified on this form is 7 CFR Part 781 and the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (Pub. L. 95-460). The information will be used to ensure that a foreign person who acquires, disposes of, or holds an interest in United States agricultural land discloses such transactions and holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture and to determine the effects of such transactions and holdings on family farms and rural communities. The information collected on this form may be disclosed to other Federal, State, Local government agencies, Tribal agencies, and nongovernmental entities that have been authorized access to the information by statute or regulation and/or as described in applicable Routine Uses identified in the System of Records Notice for USDA/FSA-2, Farm Records File (Automated). Providing the requested information is mandatory. Failure to furnish the requested information or falsification of reporting will result in a determination of non-compliance with the program which is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed 25 percent of the fair market value, as determined by the Farm Service Agency on the date of the assessment of such penalty, of the foreign person's interest in the agricultural land with respect to which such violation occurred.

Public Burden Statement (Paperwork Reduction Act): The information collected on this form may be disclosed to other Federal, State, Local government agencies, Tribal agencies, and nongovernmental entities that have been authorized access to the information by statute or regulation and/or as described in applicable Routine Uses identified in the System of Records Notice for USDA/FSA-2, Farm Records File (Automated). Providing the requested information is mandatory. Failure to furnish the requested information or falsification of reporting will result in a determination of non-compliance with the program which is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed 25 percent of the fair market value, as determined by the Farm Service Agency on the date of the assessment of such penalty, of the foreign person's interest in the agricultural land with respect to which such violation occurred.

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0560-0097. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 30 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The provisions of appropriate criminal and civil fraud, privacy, and other statutes may be applicable to the information provided. **RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE.**

FSA-153 (proposal 14)

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DETERMINATION OF "FOREIGN PERSON" STATUS

DEFINITION: "Person" means any individual, corporation, company, association, firm, partnership, society, joint stock company, trust, estate, or any other legal entity.

You are an "individual/foreign person" under the provisions of Pub. L. 95-460 and must complete this form (FSA-153) if your answer is "**NO**" to all the statements in Items 1, 2, and 3 below:

	YES	NO
1. I AM a citizen of the United States.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. I AM a citizen of the Northern Mariana Islands or the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. I AM lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence, or paroled into the United States, under the Immigration and Nationality Act.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
You are a "foreign person, organization or government," under the provisions of Pub. L. 95-460 and must complete this form (FSA-153) if your answer is " YES " to any of the statements in Items 4a, 4b, and 5 below:	YES	NO
4. I AM a "person" other than an individual or government, which is created or organized under the laws of:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
a. A foreign government of which has its principal place of business located outside the United States.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Any State of the United States, and in which significant interest or substantial control ^{3/} is held directly or indirectly by any foreign individual, government, or person.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. I AM a foreign government.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Complete this form for all acreages under the same ownership in each county or parish acquired or transferred on the same date. Land in different counties or parishes, land acquired or transferred on different dates, and land with different persons/entities on the title must be reported in separate FSA-153 filings.

After the original FSA-153 filing, each subsequent change of ownership or use (see 1.e. 2.) must be reported by filing another FSA-153. If one of the four items in 1.e.2 is marked, also mark the "AMENDED" box at the very top of the form.

Return the original and two (2) copies to the local USDA/Farm Service Agency (FSA) Office where the land is located. See "instructions to filers" (which appears on the FSA AFIDA webpage) for filings that may be submitted to the headquarters office in Washington, D.C. Retain a copy of your filing for your records.

NOTE: The completed FSA-153 must be received within ninety (90) days from the date of the transaction (acquisition or disposition).

6. Additional Information (*Use additional sheets if more space is needed*).

^{3/} Significant interest or substantial control as defined in 7 CFR Part 781.2(k)

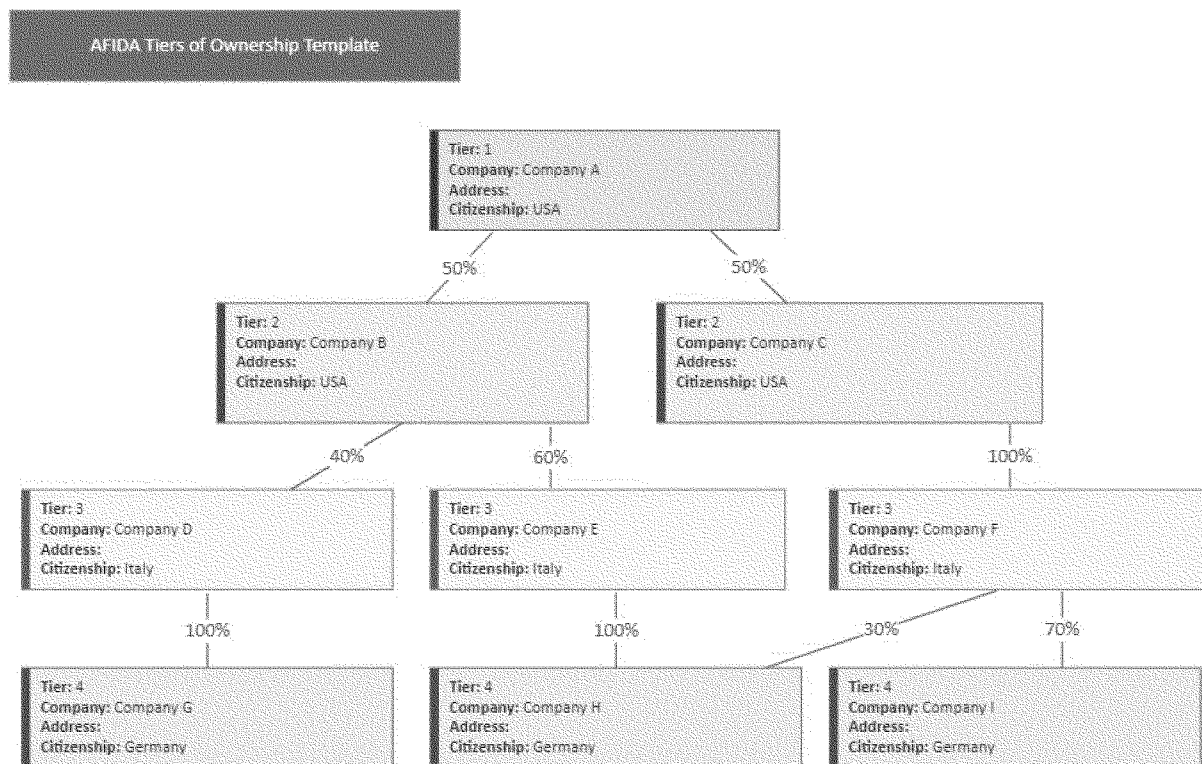
In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Appendix A—Tiers of Ownership

Note: Tier 1 should reflect the title holder to the agricultural land.



Steven Peterson,

Acting Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

[FR Doc. 2023-27683 Filed 12-15-23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-E2-C

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Region 5 and Region 6; California, Oregon, and Washington; Forest Plan Amendment for Planning and Management of Northwest Forests Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl

AGENCY: Forest Service, Agriculture (USDA).

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The Pacific Northwest and Pacific Southwest Regions of the Forest Service, USDA, are proposing to amend the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP). The amendment would apply to those Forest Service units, or parts thereof, with land management plans amended in 1994 by the NWFP or with land management plans developed later to include provisions of the NWFP. Units

in the Pacific Northwest Region (Region 6) include: Deschutes National Forest, Fremont-Winema National Forest, Gifford Pinchot National Forest, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Mt. Hood National Forest, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Olympic National Forest, Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, Siuslaw National Forest, Umpqua National Forest, and Willamette National Forest. Units in the Pacific Southwest Region (Region 5) include: Klamath National Forest and Butte Valley National Grassland, Lassen National Forest, Mendocino National Forest, Modoc National Forest, Six Rivers National Forest, and Shasta-Trinity National Forest. This notice initiates a scoping period on a preliminary proposed action and advises the public that the Forest Service is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the effects of amending the Northwest Forest Plan.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis are most valuable to the Forest Service if received by January 29, 2024. The draft EIS is expected in June 2024 and will be accompanied by a 90-day comment period. The final EIS is

expected to be available for review in October 2024. These dates are subject to changes in the project schedule. The dates and times of webinars that will be scheduled to share more information on the Northwest Forest Plan and potential proposed actions can be found at https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r6/landmanagement/planning/?cid=fsbdev2_026990.

ADDRESSES: Individuals and entities are encouraged to submit comments via webform at <https://cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public/CommentInput?Project=64745>. Hardcopy letters must be submitted to the following address: Regional Forester, U.S. Forest Service, 1220 SW 3rd Avenue, Portland, OR 97204. For those submitting hand-delivered comments, please call 971-260-7808 to make arrangements.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dennis Dougherty, Planning Portfolio Supervisor, via email at sm.fs.nwfp_faca@usda.gov or at 541-519-0154. Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf and hard of hearing (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339, 24 hours a day, every day of the year, including holidays.