

manner conducive to moving resources towards the desired conditions described in the Forest Plan.

Possible Alternatives

In addition to the proposed action and the no action alternative, the Forest Service is considering a range of action alternatives with varying levels of harvest and road construction based on public input received to date. Because the Forest Plan is now undergoing an amendment process, the project will not propose any project-specific Forest Plan amendments.

Responsible Official

The responsible official for this project is M. Earl Stewart, Forest Supervisor, Tongass National Forest, Federal Building, 648 Mission Street, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901.

Nature of Decision To Be Made

The responsible official will decide: (1) The estimated timber volume to make available from the project, as well as the location, design, and scheduling of timber harvest, road construction and reconstruction, and silvicultural practices used; (2) road and access management; (3) mitigation measures and monitoring requirements; and (4) whether there may be a significant restriction on subsistence uses.

Preliminary Issues

The initial scoping identified preliminary issues and concerns which may be analyzed in the EIS to disclose potential effects of the project on the following: Timber supply, timber sale economics, supporting the timber industry through the transition from old-growth harvest to young-growth management, road and access management, economic and rural stability, wildlife habitat, aquatic habitat (fisheries/hydrology/watersheds), soil productivity and slope stability, invasive species, heritage resources, roadless area characteristics, scenery, recreation, subsistence use, and climate change and carbon cycling. Preliminary key issues identified include timber supply, timber demand, scenery, wildlife habitat and access management.

Preliminary List of Permits or Licenses Required

All necessary permits would be obtained prior to project implementation, and may include the following:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

- Review Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan State of

Alaska, Department of Environmental Conservation;

- Solid Waste Disposal Permit State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources;
- Authorization for occupancy and use of tidelands and submerged lands.

Scoping Process

The initial scoping period started when the NOI was published in 2010. This proposal has been listed on the Tongass National Forest Schedule of Proposed Actions since January, 2011. An updated scoping document has been posted on the Tongass National Forest public Web site at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/R10/Tongass/WrangelleIS>, and a project update letter will be mailed out to those who previously commented.

It is important that reviewers provide their comments at such times and in such manner that they are useful to the agency's preparation of the environmental impact statement. Therefore, comments should be provided prior to the close of the comment period and should clearly articulate the reviewer's concerns and contentions. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be part of the public record. Comments submitted anonymously will also be accepted and considered.

Dated: October 19, 2015.

M. Earl Stewart,

Forest Supervisor.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

[Docket No. NRCS-2015-0012]

Notice of Request To Extend an Information Collection

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), United States Department of Agriculture (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 NRCS' intent to request an extension for currently approved information collection, Volunteer Program—Earth Team. This information collection is set to expire December 31, 2015. NRCS is seeking to extend the

expiration date for the volunteer Interest and Placement Summary form and the Timesheet form to December 31, 2018. The collected information helps NRCS to match the skills of individuals interested in volunteering for opportunities that will further the agency's mission. Information will be collected from potential volunteers who are 14 years of age or older.

DATES: Comments received by December 28, 2015 will be considered.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be submitted and identified by Docket Number NRCS-2015-0012, using either of the following methods:

- *Government-wide rulemaking Web site:* <http://regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for sending comments electronically.

- *Mail:* Public Comments Processing, Attention: Docket No. NRCS-2015-0012, Regulatory and Agency Policy Team, Strategic Planning and Accountability, Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Building 1-1112D, Beltsville, Maryland 20705.

NRCS will post comments on <http://www.regulations.gov>. Do not include personal identifying information (PII) with your comments. In general, personal information provided with comments will be posted. If your comment includes your address, telephone number, email address, or other PII, this information, including PII, may be available to the public. You may ask, in your comment, that your PII be withheld from public view, but this cannot be guaranteed.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument should be directed to Michele Brown, National Volunteer Coordinator, 4407 121st Street, Urbandale, Iowa 50323; telephone: (515) 270-4864, ext. 102, and email: Michele.brown@ia.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Volunteer Interest and Placement Summary Form

Title: NRCS-PER-002, Volunteer Interest and Placement Summary Form.
OMB Number: 0578-0024.

Expiration Date of Approval: 3 years from approval date.

Type of Request: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: Collection of this information is necessary to match volunteer assignment to agency mission as required by Federal Personnel Manual, Supplement 296-33, Subchapter 3. Agencies are authorized

to recruit, train, and accept with regard to Civil Service classification laws, rules, or regulations, the services of individuals to serve without compensation. Subject to certain conditions, most volunteers may assist in agency programs/projects, and may perform activities that agency employees are allowed to perform. Volunteers must be at least 14 years of age. Persons interested in volunteering must write, call, email, visit an NRCS office, or the NRCS Web site at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>. The forms are available electronically and can be completed electronically.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 4 minutes per response.

Type of Respondents: Retirees, students, teachers, or senior citizens.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 200.

Estimated Number of Responses: 200.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 13 hours.

Timesheet Form

Title: NRCS-PER-004, Timesheet Form.

OMB Number: 0578-0024.

Expiration Date of Approval: 3 years from approval date.

Type of Request: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: The timesheet is an optional form and provides the volunteer or volunteer's supervisor a simplified method for tracking the volunteer's time. The form is placed in a volunteer "case file" and will be destroyed 3 years after the volunteer has completed service. In the event the volunteer is injured while engaged in volunteer activities and claims Workman's Compensation, the "case file" will be transferred to an Official Personnel Folder.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 4 minutes per response.

Type of Respondents: Retirees, students, teachers, or senior citizens.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 7,120.

Estimated Number of Responses: 3,760.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 2.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 474 hours.

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.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Signed this 16 day of October 2015, in Washington, DC.

Jason A. Weller,

Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

[FR Doc. 2015-27286 Filed 10-26-15; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utility Service

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

October 22, 2015.

The Department of Agriculture has submitted the following information collection requirement(s) to Office of Management and Budget (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, New Executive Office Building, 725-17th Street NW., Washington, DC 20502. Commenters are encouraged to submit their comments to OMB via email to: 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) 720-8681.

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.

Rural Utilities Service

Title: Certification of Authority.

OMB Control Number: 0572-0074.

Summary of Collection: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) is a credit agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). It makes mortgage loans and loan guarantees to finance electric, telecommunications, and water and waste facilities in rural areas. Rural Electrification Act of 1936, 7 U.S.C. 901 *et seq.*, as amended, (RE ACT) and as prescribed by Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-129, Policies for Federal Credit Programs and Non-Tax Receivables, which states that agencies must, based on a review of a loan application, determine that an applicant complies with statutory, regulatory, and administrative eligibility requirements for loan assistance. A major factor in managing loan programs is controlling the advancement of funds. RUS Form 675 allows this control to be achieved by providing a list of authorized signatures against which signatures requesting funds are compared.

Need and Use of the Information: RUS will collect information to ensure that only authorized representatives of the borrower signs the lending requisition form. Without the information RUS would not know if the request for a loan advance was legitimate or not and the potential for waste, loss, unauthorized use, and misappropriation would be increased.

Description of Respondents: Not-for-profit institutions; Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 250.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 25.