

Type of respondents	Number of respondents	Estimated number of responses per respondent	Average burden hours per response	Annual burden hours requested
Grand Total .....	600	.....	.....	1,350

*Request for Comments:* Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of the information collection. All comments will become a matter of public record.

*Comments are invited on:* (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the VMLRP, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the public burden estimate (the estimated amount of time needed for individual respondents to provide the requested information), 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 public burden through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

*Obtaining a Copy of the Information Collection:* A copy of the information collection is available at the VMLRP Web site: <http://www.nifa.usda.gov/vmlrp>.

### Proposed VMLRP Application Forms and Reporting Requirements

Pursuant to the requirements enacted in the NVMSA of 2004 (as revised), and the implementing regulation for this Act, the National Institute of Food and Agriculture hereby proposes to implement:

#### I. Application Forms

The following forms are to be completed and submitted by the applicant by the established deadline.

(a) *Applicant Information Form:* Collects relevant identifying, contact, and employment information from the applicant. Authorizes the disclosure of information that confirms the applicant is not under a service obligation or has a Federal judgment lien against his/her property.

(b) *Personal Statement:* Includes a discussion of applicant knowledge, skills, abilities, and experience relative to the shortage situation applied for.

(c) *List of Recommenders:* Identifies colleagues that can speak to the applicant's capability to fulfill program obligations. A minimum of three recommendations is required for each application.

(d) *Loan Information Form:* Authorizes the disclosure of information to the lenders and their authorized collection agents to confirm that the applicant's loans are current in their repayment status.

(e) *Contract:* A legal agreement that binds the selected applicant and the Secretary of USDA and/or NIFA Director to the terms and conditions for participation in the VMLRP, including obligations of both parties.

(f) *Certifications for Application:* Validates the contractual agreement, accuracy of information provided by the applicant, and request for confidential recommendations.

(g) *Intent of Employment:* Section 1 provides information on the shortage situation the applicant intends to fill upon receipt of a VMLRP award. Section 2 confirms the applicant's ability to secure an offer of employment or establish and/or maintain a practice in a veterinary shortage situation within the time period specified in the VMLRP service agreement offer.

#### II. Recommendation Form

To be completed and submitted by colleagues identified by the applicant no later than 15 days after the established application deadline. Includes ratings and short answers to assess applicant's capabilities to provide veterinary services in the specific shortage situation the applicant is applying for. At least three separate recommendations are required.

#### III. Reporting Requirements

Program participants will be required to verify that the terms of the VMLRP contract are being met on a quarterly basis. Subsequent quarterly loan repayments will not be disbursed until this verification is provided. This report will be due ten business days after the end of each three month interval during the VMLRP contract for the previous three month period and must include:

(a) A listing of states, counties, and/or insular areas served.

(b) A listing of veterinary services and activities provided in the shortage situation.

(c) Percentage time (on a 40-hour week basis) providing service to veterinary shortage situation identified in the agreement.

Program participants are responsible for notifying NIFA of any changes in the service being provided in the specified shortage situation during the three-year period. It is strongly recommended that program participants advise NIFA of these changes at least two months in advance to allow sufficient processing time. Failure to provide the updated information may result in the termination of the VMLRP contract and the program participant may be subject to penalties as outlined in Section C, Paragraph 3 of the contract.

Done at Washington, DC, January 12, 2010.

**Dr. Molly Jahn,**

*Acting Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics.*

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### DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

#### Forest Service

#### Ochoco National Forest, Lookout Mountain Ranger District; Oregon; Mill Creek; Allotment Management Plans EIS

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

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

**SUMMARY:** The Ochoco National Forest is preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) to analyze the effects of changing grazing management in four grazing allotments on the Lookout Mountain Ranger District. These four allotments are: Cox, Craig, Mill Creek, and Old Dry Creek. The proposed action will reauthorize term grazing permits, make rangeland improvements, improve transitory range condition, manage livestock use and distribution to facilitate the improvement of riparian conditions, including streambank stability, riparian vegetation, and water temperature, and will conduct riparian restoration activities on some streams in the project area. These actions are needed to achieve and maintain consistency with the Ochoco National

Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, as amended.

**DATES:** Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received by February 19, 2010. The draft environmental impact statement is expected to be completed and available for public comment in June 2010. The final environmental impact statement is expected to be completed in September 2010.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments to Bill Queen, District Ranger, Lookout Mountain District, Ochoco National Forest, 3160 NE. Third Street, Prineville, Oregon 97754. Alternately, electronic comments may be sent to [comments-pacificnorthwest-ochoco@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-pacificnorthwest-ochoco@fs.fed.us). Electronic comments must be submitted as part of the actual e-mail message, or as an attachment in plain text (.txt), Microsoft Word (.doc), rich text format (.rtf), or portable document format (.pdf).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Tory Kurtz, Project Leader, at 3160 NE. Third Street, Prineville, Oregon 97754, or at (541) 416-6500, or by e-mail at [tlkurtz@fs.fed.us](mailto:tlkurtz@fs.fed.us).

**Responsible Official:** The responsible official will be Jeff Walter, Forest Supervisor, Ochoco National Forest, 3160 NE. Third Street, Prineville, Oregon 97754.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Purpose and Need.** The purpose of this proposal is to reauthorize livestock grazing consistent with Forest Plan standards and guidelines. There is a need to make range improvements and change livestock management to move towards desired conditions for stream shade and bank stability. Based on surveys many of the streams in the project area do not meet the desired condition for shade or bank stability. Livestock grazing is one of the factors that contribute to low levels of shade and unstable stream banks. Active riparian restoration activities will facilitate the achievement of the desired condition.

**Proposed Action.** The proposed action includes a variety of management strategies and activities, including active management of livestock, resting of some areas while riparian resources improve, implementation of deferred rotation grazing systems, new water developments, relocation or improvement of existing water developments, protection of heritage resources, planting of riparian hardwoods, placing logs and rocks in and along stream channels, protection of riparian vegetation and streambanks, and temporary reductions in AUMs.

**Issues.** Preliminary issues identified include the potential effect of the proposed action on livestock grazing, on heritage resources, on fisheries, on sensitive plants, and on the introduction and/or spread of invasive plants, as well as the cumulative effects of the proposed action where associated activities overlap with other management activities.

**Comment.** Public comments about this proposal are requested in order to assist in identifying issues, determine how to best manage the resources, and to focus the analysis. Comments received to this notice, 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 and 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. Persons requesting such confidentiality 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 a specified number of days.

A draft EIS will be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and available for public review by June, 2010. The EPA will publish a Notice of Availability (NOA) of the draft EIS in the **Federal Register**. The final EIS is scheduled to be available September, 2010.

The comment period on the draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the EPA publishes 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 a draft EIS 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 EIS stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final EIS may be waived or dismissed by the courts [*City of Angoon 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 EIS.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the draft EIS should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft statement. Comments may also address the adequacy of the draft EIS of 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.

In the final EIS, the Forest Service is required to respond to substantive comments received during the comment period for the draft EIS. The Forest Service is the lead agency and the responsible official is the Forest Supervisor, Ochoco National Forest. The responsible official will decide whether and how to reissue grazing permits in the Cox, Craig, Mill Creek and Old Dry Creek allotments. The responsible official will also decide how to mitigate impacts of these actions and will determine when and how monitoring of effects will take place.

The Mill Creek Allotment Management Plans decision and the reasons for the decision will be documented in the record of decision. That decision will be subject to Forest Service Appeal Regulations (35 CFR Part 215).

Dated: January 12, 2010.

**William R. Queen,**

*District Ranger.*

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