

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

Forest Service

Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, Jefferson Ranger District, Montana, Boulder River Salvage and Vegetation Management Project

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: The project proposes to salvage by clearcut harvest dead and lodgepole pine infested or at risk of infestation with mountain pine beetle; use biomass removal, commercial thinning, and prescribed fire to reduce stand density on lodgepole pine and Douglas-fir stands; and remove Douglas-fir that is encroaching upon quaking aspen clones and shrublands/grasslands. Treatments would occur on about 24,940 total acres (346 total units) of National Forest System Lands north of Whitehall, MT.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received by April 30, 2012. The draft environmental impact statement is expected in May 2013 and the final environmental impact statement is expected in May 2014.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to District Ranger, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, Butte-Jefferson Ranger District, 1820 Meadowlark Lane, Butte, MT 59701. Comments may also be sent via email to comments-northern-beaverhead-deerlodge-butte@fs.fed.us, please indicate Boulder River Project in the subject line or via facsimile to (406) 494-0269; again please indicate Boulder River Project.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karen Gallogly, Project Coordinator, at kgallogly@fs.fed.us (406-683-3853); or Peri Suenram, Acting District Ranger at psuenram@fs.fed.us (406-494-2147).

Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf

(TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose and need for this project is to harvest merchantable wood products from larger diameter lodgepole pine forested stands infested, or at risk for infestation, with bark beetles, before the value of the wood deteriorates; reduce stand density in lodgepole pine and Douglas-fir stands to maintain or improve resilient forest conditions; remove encroaching Douglas-fir from shrublands and grasslands that historically lacked conifer species; create early seral conditions in mid to higher-elevation lodgepole pine stands to improve resiliency to natural disturbances; and improve riparian-associated aspen and upland aspen clones by removing encroaching conifers to improve growing conditions.

Proposed Action

The Proposed Action would (1) salvage dead and dying lodgepole pine using clearcut harvest methods on 6,174 acres over 106 units; (2) use biomass removal to treat 2,626 acres within 36 units of younger, predominantly lodgepole pine stands, many of which have been previously harvested; (3) use a combination of commercial thinning and lodgepole pine salvage (clearcut harvest) on 439 acres in three units; (4) remove conifers for aspen restoration on 2,892 acres within 86 units; (5) use prescribed fire on 4,596 acres across 13 units in Restoration and Fish Key Watersheds that are inoperable and unfeasible for conventional mechanized harvest; (6) non-commercially thin Douglas-fir and burn slash on 8,212 acres within 102 units.

Approximately 210 miles of existing roads would be used as haul routes within the project area and approximately 8 to 16 miles of temporary roads would be constructed for access to some commercial units. No temporary roads would cross streams and all temporary roads would be obliterated after use.

Responsible Official

Forest Supervisor for the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, Dave Myers, 420 Barrett St., Dillon, MT 59725-3572.

Nature of Decision To Be Made

Given the purpose and need for the proposal the Responsible Official will decide whether or not to implement salvage harvest of dead and dying lodgepole pine infested with mountain pine beetle and which units to harvest; whether or not to reduce stand density in lodgepole pine and Douglas-fir stands, which methods to use and what units to treat; whether or not to remove encroaching conifers from grasslands and shrublands, and which units to treat; and whether or not to restore aspen clones and which units to treat.

Scoping Process

This notice of intent initiates the scoping process, which guides the development of the environmental impact statement. A scoping package, including a detailed description and map of the project will be sent to individuals, groups and organization already expressing interest in the project and anyone requesting further information.

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 become part of the public record for this proposed action. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, anonymous comments will not provide the Agency with the ability to provide the respondent with subsequent environmental documents.

Dated: March 23, 2012.

Charles A Mark,
Deputy Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 2012-7685 Filed 3-29-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce will submit to the Office of Management and

Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. chapter 35).

Agency: National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

Title: Survey of the Need for the Improvement of the Infrared Reflectance Measurements Standards.

OMB Control Number: None.

Form Number(s): None.

Type of Request: Regular submission (new information collection).

Burden Hours: 50 Hours.

Number of Respondents: 100.

Average Hours Per Response: 30 minutes.

Needs and Uses: The Sensor Science Division (SSD) of the Physical Measurement Laboratory (PML) of NIST is responsible for providing standards for the characterization of the optical properties of materials for the United States. This serves the needs of a wide range of industries as well as government and academic laboratories. For many years, the SSD has been working to establish physical standards, measurement methods and measurement services in the infrared, and in recent years there have been numerous inquiries and requests for NIST to address specific needs, many of which are related to infrared reflectance. The purpose of this survey is to assess infrared optical properties measurement community needs for standard reference materials, calibration services, workshops, courses, and other means for improvement of the quality of their measurement data and traceability to national standards.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations; Not-for-profit institutions; Federal government; State, local, or tribal government.

Frequency: Once.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

OMB Desk Officer: Jasmeet Seehra, (202) 395-3123.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Jennifer Jessup, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, (202) 482-0336, Department of Commerce, Room 6616, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at JJessup@doc.gov).

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to, OMB Desk Officer, Jasmeet Seehra, (202) 395-3123, Fax Number (202) 395-5167, or Jasmeet_K._Seehra@omb.eop.gov.

Dated: March 27, 2012.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 2012-7641 Filed 3-29-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-13-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Economic Development Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

AGENCY: Economic Development Administration (EDA), Department of 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, as amended.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before May 29, 2012.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Jennifer Jessup, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6616, 14th Street 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 and instructions should be directed to John Cobb, Program Analyst, Office of Regional Affairs, Room 7009, Economic Development Administration, Washington, DC 20230, telephone (202) 482-0951, facsimile (202) 482-2838 (or via the Internet at John.f.cobb@eda.gov).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The mission of the Economic Development Administration (EDA) is to lead the Federal economic agenda by promoting innovation and competitiveness, preparing American regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy. In order to effectively administer and monitor its economic development assistance programs, EDA collects certain information from applications for, and recipients of, EDA investment assistance. This 60-day **Federal Register** Notice covers: Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

A Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is required to qualify for EDA investment assistance under its Public Works, Economic Adjustment, and most planning programs, and is a prerequisite for a region's designation by EDA as an Economic Development District (see 13 CFR 303, 305.2, and 307.2 of EDA's regulations). This collection of information is required to ensure that the recipient is complying with EDA's CEDS requirement.

II. Method of Collection

Paper and electronic submissions.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0610-0093.

Form Number(s): None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Not-for-profit institutions; Federal government; State, local, or tribal government; Business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 552.

Estimated Time per Response: 480 hours for the initial CEDS for a District organization or other planning organization funded by EDA; 160 hours for the CEDS revision required at least every 5 years from an EDA-funded District or other planning organization; 40 hours for the annual updated CEDS performance report required of EDA-funded District or other planning organizations; 40 hours per applicant for EDA Public Works or Economic Adjustment assistance with a project deemed by EDA to 'merit further consideration' that is not located in an EDA-funded District.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 31,295.

Estimated Total Annual Cost: \$0.

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;