

three copies) to: Docket No. 02-102-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Suite 3C03, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. 02-102-1. If you use e-mail, address your comment to [regulations@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:regulations@aphis.usda.gov). Your comment must be contained in the body of your message; do not send attached files. Please include your name and address in your message and "Docket No. 02-102-1" on the subject line.

You may read any comments that we receive on the draft guideline in our reading room. The reading room is located in room 1141 of the USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC. Normal reading room hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 690-2817 before coming.

APHIS documents published in the **Federal Register**, and related information, including the names of organizations and individuals who have commented on APHIS dockets, are available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/rad/webrepor.html>.

You may request a copy of the draft guideline "Testing for the Detection of Mycoplasma Contamination" by calling or writing to the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. The draft guideline is also available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/cvb/lpd/notices>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For information regarding VICH, contact Dr. Richard E. Hill, Director, Center for Veterinary Biologics-Licensing and Policy Development, VS, APHIS, 510 South 17th Street, Suite 104, Ames, IA 50010; (515) 232-5785. For information regarding the draft guideline "Testing for the Detection of Mycoplasma Contamination," contact Dr. Donna M. Gatewood at the same address and telephone number.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The International Cooperation on Harmonization of Technical Requirements for the Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products (VICH) brings together the regulatory authorities of the European Union, Japan, and the United States and representatives from the animal health industry in the three regions. The purpose of VICH is to harmonize technical requirements for veterinary products (both drugs and biologics). Regulatory authorities and industry experts from Australia and New Zealand

participate as observers. The VICH initiative is conducted under the auspices of the International Office of Epizootics. The World Federation of the Animal Health Industry (COMISA, the Confederation Mondiale de L'Industrie de la Sante Animale) provides the secretarial support for VICH activities. The U.S. Government is represented in VICH by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). The FDA provides expertise regarding veterinary drugs, while APHIS fills a corresponding role for veterinary biological products. As VICH members, FDA and APHIS participate in efforts to enhance harmonization and have expressed their commitment to seeking scientifically based harmonized technical requirements for the development of veterinary drugs and biological products. One of the goals of harmonization is to identify and reduce the differences in technical requirements for veterinary drugs and biologics among regulatory agencies in different countries.

This notice informs the public that a draft document, "Testing for the Detection of Mycoplasma Contamination" (VICH Topic GL34), has been made available for comments by the VICH Steering Committee. The draft guideline is intended to provide an international testing standard for the detection of mycoplasma contamination in veterinary biologics. Because the draft guideline applies to some veterinary biological products regulated by APHIS under the Virus-Serum-Toxin Act, we are requesting comments on its provisions so that we may include any relevant public input on the draft in the Agency's comments to the VICH Steering Committee.

The draft document reflects current APHIS thinking on testing veterinary biologics for the detection of mycoplasma contamination. In accordance with the VICH process, once a final draft of "Testing for the Detection of Mycoplasma Contamination" has been approved, the guideline will be recommended for adoption by the regulatory bodies of the European Union, Japan, and the United States. As with all VICH documents, the final guideline will not create or confer any rights for or on any person and will not operate to bind APHIS or the public. Further, a VICH guideline specifically provides for the use of alternative approaches if those approaches are proven to be equivalent by scientifically accepted criteria.

Ultimately, APHIS intends to consider the VICH Steering Committee's final

guidance document for use by U.S. veterinary biologics licensees, permittees, and applicants. In addition, APHIS will consider its use as a basis for testing veterinary biologics for mycoplasma contamination under 9 CFR 113.28. APHIS may also use the final guidance document as the basis for proposed additions or amendments to its regulations in 9 CFR chapter I, subchapter E (Viruses, Serums, Toxins, and Analogous Products; Organisms and Vectors). Because we anticipate that applicable provisions of the final version of "Testing for the Detection of Mycoplasma Contamination" may be introduced into APHIS' veterinary biologics regulatory program in the future, we encourage your comments on the draft version.

**Authority:** 21 U.S.C. 151 *et seq.*

Done in Washington, DC, this 10th day of December 2002.

**Peter Fernandez,**

*Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

[FR Doc. 02-31568 Filed 12-13-02; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-34-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Information Collection; Reinstatement, Without Change, of Previously Approved information Collection That Has Expired for Stewardship Incentive Program

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice; request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Forest Service is seeking comments from all interested individuals and organizations on the reinstatement, without change, of a previously approved, but now expired, information collection required for participation of non-industrial private forest owners in the State and Private Forestry Stewardship Incentive Program. The collected information identifies (1) the Stewardship Incentive Program assignment of payment, (2) Internal Revenue Service income reporting requirements for participants, and (3) the participants' delegated power of attorney.

**DATES:** Comments must be received in writing on or before February 14, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments concerning this notice should be addressed to Forest Service, USDA, Attn: Stewardship Coordinator, Cooperative Forestry Staff, Mail Stop

1123, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-1123. Comments may also be sent via email to [hbrockman@fs.fed.us](mailto:hbrockman@fs.fed.us), or via facsimile to (202) 205-1271.

The public may inspect comments received at the offices of the Cooperative Forestry Staff, Sidney Yates Building, 4th Floor SE, 201 14th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20250, during normal business hours. Visitors are encouraged to call ahead to (202) 205-1694 to facilitate entry to the building.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Hal Brockman, Cooperative Forestry Staff, (202) 205-1694; or Susan Stein, Cooperative Forestry Staff, (202) 205-0837.

Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Forest Service is seeking a reinstatement, without change, of a previously approved, but now expired, information collection authorized under Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Control Number 0596-0120 and required for participation of non-industrial private forest owners in the State and Private Forestry Stewardship Incentive Program. Several Forest Service information collection forms are approved under this authorization number: Stewardship Incentive Program (SIP)-36, Assignment of Payment; SIP-211, Power of Attorney; SIP-211-1, Power of Attorney for Husband and Wife; and SIP-502, Payment Limitation Review. The collected information is used to facilitate the participation of non-industrial private forest owners in the State and Private Forestry Stewardship Incentive Program.

An additional form, AD-245, SIP Request for Cost-Shares, also is used when applying for cost-share funds. A request for extension of approval for this information collection is being requested by the Farm Service Agency (OMB 0560-0082), which works cooperatively with the Forest Service to administer the Stewardship Incentive Program.

Data gathered in this information collection are not available from other sources.

#### Description of Information Collection

The following describes the information collection to be reinstated:  
*Title:* SIP-36, Assignment of Payment.  
*OMB Number:* 0596-0120.  
*Expiration Date of Approval:* July 31, 2002.

*Type of request:* Reinstatement of a previously approved information collection that has expired.

*Abstract:* The non-industrial private forest landowner completes SIP-36 to assign a cost-share payment to a third party. The information requested includes the payment amount assigned and the names, addresses, and signatures of assignor and assignee.

*Estimate of Annual Burden:* 10 minutes.

*Types of Respondents:* Non-industrial private forest owners.

*Estimated Annual Number of Respondents:* 1,000.

*Estimated Annual Number of Responses per Respondent:* 1 per form.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 167 hours.

#### Description of Information Collection

The following describes the information collection to be reinstated:

*Title:* SIP-211, Power of Attorney.

*OMB Number:* 0596-0120.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* July 31, 2002.

*Type of request:* Reinstatement of a previously approved information collection that has expired.

*Abstract:* The non-industrial private forest landowner completes SIP-211 to appoint power of attorney for the landowner. The landowner indicates in this form whether power of attorney is being granted for (1) all actions; (2) the signing of an application; (3) the receiving of payments; (4) pledge of agreements; (5) the making of reports; or (6) other. It is signed by the landowner and witnesses.

*Estimate of Annual Burden:* 5 minutes.

*Types of Respondents:* Non-industrial private forest owners.

*Estimated Annual Number of Respondents:* 1,000.

*Estimated Annual Number of Responses per Respondent:* 1 per form.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 83 hours.

#### Description of Information Collection

The following describes the information collection to be reinstated:

*Title:* SIP-211-1, Power of Attorney for Husband and Wife.

*OMB Number:* 0596-0120.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* July 31, 2002.

*Type of request:* Reinstatement of a previously approved information collection that has expired.

*Abstract:* Participants who are husband and wife and who wish to assign each other power of attorney complete Form SIP-211-1. It requires the husband and wife to print and sign their names on the form.

*Estimate of Annual Burden:* 5 minutes.

*Types of Respondents:* Non-industrial private forest owners.

*Estimated Annual Number of Respondents:* 1,000.

*Estimated Annual Number of Responses per Respondent:* 1 per form.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 83 hours.

#### Description of Information Collection

The following describes the information collection to be reinstated:  
*Title:* SIP-502, Payment Limitation Review.

*OMB Number:* 0596-0120.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* July 31, 2002.

*Type of request:* Reinstatement of a previously approved information collection that has expired.

*Abstract:* To ensure they have not exceeded the cost-share payment limit for a fiscal year and also to meet Internal Revenue Service income reporting requirements, non-industrial private forest owners complete SIP-502. A landowner is not allowed to receive more than \$10,000 in SIP cost-share payments in a single fiscal year. Program participants provide their name and address, entity identification number, and date entity formed. They also check off the type of entity (*e.g.*, individual, irrevocable trust, revocable trust, corporation, limited partnership, general partnership, joint venture, estate, or other). Participants also list all stockholders, members, heirs, or beneficiaries having an interest in the entity.

*Estimate of Annual Burden:* 25 minutes.

*Types of Respondents:* Non-industrial private forest owners.

*Estimated Annual Number of Respondents:* 1,000.

*Estimated Annual Number of Responses per Respondent:* 1 per form.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 417 hours.

#### Comment Is Invited

*Comment is invited on:* (1) Whether this collection of information is necessary for the stated purposes and the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical or scientific utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the 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

respondents, including the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

#### Use of Comments

All comments received in response to this notice, including name and address when provided, will become a matter of public record. Comments received in response to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval.

Dated: December 4, 2002.

**Joel D. Holtrop,**

*Deputy Chief, State and Private Forestry.*

[FR Doc. 02-31571 Filed 12-13-02; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-11-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Trinity County Resource Advisory Committee

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA Forest Service.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Trinity County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will meet on January 6, 2003, in Weaverville, California. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the selection of title II projects under Public Law 106-393, H.R. 2389, the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, also called the "Payments to States" Act.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on January 6, 2003, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Trinity County Office of Education Conference Room, 201 Memorial Drive, Weaverville, California.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ann Garland, Designated Federal Official, USDA, Six Rivers National Forest, P.O. Box 68, Willow Creek, CA 95573. Phone: (530) 629-2118. E-mail: [agarland@fs.fed.us](mailto:agarland@fs.fed.us).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The committee will discuss the environmental analysis process and project monitoring, fuels projects, and the strategy for future projects. The meeting is open to the public. Public input opportunity will be provided and individuals will have the opportunity to address the committee at that time.

Dated: December 9, 2002.

**Bud Zangger,**

*Acting Forest Supervisor.*

[FR Doc. 02-31563 Filed 12-13-02; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-11-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Del Norte County Resource Advisory Committee

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Del Norte County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will meet on January 7, 2003, in Crescent City, California. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the selection of title II projects under Pub. L. 106-393, H.R. 2389, the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, also called the "Payments to States" Act.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on January 7, 2003, from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Del Norte County Unified School District Board Room, 301, West Washington Boulevard, Crescent City, California.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Laura Chapman, Committee Coordinator, USDA, Six Rivers National Forest, 1330 Bayshore Way, Eureka, CA 95501. Phone: (707) 441-3549. E-mail: [lchapman@fs.fed.us](mailto:lchapman@fs.fed.us).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The committee will discuss and prioritize project proposals submitted by the public and Six Rivers National Forest. The meeting is open to the public. Public input opportunity will be provided and individuals will have the opportunity to address the committee at that time.

Dated: December 9, 2002.

**Bud Zangger,**

*Acting Forest Supervisor.*

[FR Doc. 02-31564 Filed 12-13-02; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3416-11-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

**RIN 0596-AB99**

### National Environmental Policy Act Documentation Needed for Fire Management Activities; Categorical Exclusions

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA, and Department of the Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed National Environmental Policy Act implementing procedures; request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Agriculture, Forest Service and Department of the Interior give notice of, and request comment on, their proposal to revise their procedures for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations. These revisions are being made to Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, chapter 30, and Department of the Interior Manual 516 DM, chapter 2, Appendix 1, which describe categorical exclusions, *i.e.*, categories of actions that will not result in significant impacts on the environment and therefore normally do not require further analysis in either an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement. The proposal would add two such categories of actions to the agencies' NEPA procedures: (1) Hazardous fuels reduction activities (such as thinning overstocked stands and brush); and (2) activities for rehabilitating and stabilizing lands and infrastructure (such as reseeding) impacted by wildland fires or fire suppression. The Departments reviewed over 3,000 hazardous fuel reduction and rehabilitation/stabilization projects and concluded that these categories of actions do not individually or cumulatively result in significant effects on the human environment. The intended effect of these two categorical exclusions is to facilitate efficient planning and timely decisions concerning treatment of hazardous fuels and stabilization and rehabilitation of areas so as to reduce risks to communities and the environment caused by severe fires.

The hazardous fuels reduction categorical exclusion will only apply to projects identified in a manner consistent with the collaborative framework in the 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan. Moreover, these