

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Submission for OMB Review;
Comment Request**

August 8, 2011.

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 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 (OMB), *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) 720-8958.

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: Representations for CCC and FSA Loans and Authorization to File a Financing Statement and Related Documents.

OMB Control Number: 0560-0215.

Summary of Collection: Commodity Credit Corporation and the Farm Service Agency (FSA) programs require loans be secured with collateral. The security interest is created and attaches to the collateral when: (1) Value has been given, (2) the debtor has rights in the collateral or the power to transfer rights

in the collateral, and (3) the debtor has authenticated a security agreement that provides a description of the collateral. In order to perfect the security interest in collateral, a financing statement must be filed according to a State's Uniform Commercial Code. The revised Article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code deals with secured transaction for personal property. The revised Article 9 affects the manner in which the CCC and FSA, as well as any other creditor, perfect and liquidate security interests in collateral.

Need and Use of the Information: FSA will collect information using form CCC-10. The information obtained on CCC-10 is needed to not only obtain authorization from loan applicants to file a financing statement without their signature, but also to verify the exact legal name and location of the debtor. If this information is not collected, CCC and FSA will not be able to disburse loans because a security interest would not be perfected.

Description of Respondents: Farms; Individuals or households.

Number of Respondents: 55,500.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting; On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 32,357.

Farm Service Agency

Title: County Committee Election.

OMB Control Number: 0560-0229.

Summary of Collection: As specified in the 2002 Farm Bill, the Secretary is required to prepare a report of election that includes, among other things, "the race, ethnicity and gender of each nominee, as provided through the voluntary self-identification of each nominee". The information will be collected using form FSA-669-A, "Nomination Form for County FSA Committee Election". Completion of the form is voluntary.

Need and Use of the Information: FSA will collect information on race, ethnicity and gender of each nominee as provided through the voluntary self-identification of each nominee agreeing to run for a position. The information will be sent to Kansas City for preparation of the upcoming election. The Secretary will review the information annually. If the information is not collected in any given year, the Secretary would not be able to prepare the report as required by the regulations.

Description of Respondents: Individuals or households.

Number of Respondents: 10,000.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting; Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 6,700.

Farm Service Agency

Title: Volunteer Programs.

OMB Control Number: 0560-0232.

Summary of Collection: Section 1526 of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1981 (7 U.S.C. 2272) permits the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a program to use volunteers to perform a wide range of activities to carry out the programs of or supported by the Department of Agriculture. 5 U.S.C. 3111 grants agencies the authority to establish program designed to provide educationally related work assignments for students in non-pay status.

Documentation of service performed without compensation by persons who do not receive Federal appointment is required by Office of Personnel Management (OPM). While serving as a Farm and Foreign Agriculture Service volunteer each individual is subject to the same responsibilities and guidelines for conduct to which Federal employees are expected to adhere. These program(s) will provide a valuable service to the agencies while allowing the participants to receive training, supervision and work experience.

Need and Use of the Information: Applicant accepted for the Volunteer Programs will complete the "Service Agreement and Attendance Record". The Agency will use the recording information to respond to the Department of Agriculture and OPM request for information on Agency Volunteers. Without the information, the Farm Service Agency would be unable to document service performed without compensation by persons in the program.

Description of Respondents: Individuals or households.

Number of Respondents: 60.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting; Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 30.

Farm Service Agency

Title: Transfer of Farm Records Between Counties.

OMB Control Number: 0560-0253.

Summary of Collection: Most Farm Service Agency (FSA) programs are administered on the basis of "farm". For program purposes, a farm is a collection of tracts of land that have the same owner and the same operator. Land with different owners may be considered to be a farm if all the land is operated by one person and additional criteria are met. A farm is typically administered in the FSA county office where the farm is physically located. A farm transfer can be initiated if the farm is being transferred back to the county where the farm is physically located, the principal dwelling on the farm operator has changed, a change has occurred in the operation of the land, or there has been

a change that would cause the receiving administrative county to be more accessible. Form FSA-179, "Transfer of Farm Record Between Counties," is used as the request for a farm transfer from one county to another initiated by the producer.

Need and Use of the Information: The information collected on the FSA-179 is collected only if a farm transfer is being requested and is collected in a face-to-face setting with county office personnel. The information is used by county office employees to document which farm is being transferred, what county it is being transferred to, and why it is being transferred. Without the information county offices will be unable to determine whether the producer desires to transfer a farm.

Description of Respondents: Farms.

Number of Respondents: 23,000.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 26,833.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Coconino and Kaibab National Forests, Arizona, Four-Forest Restoration Initiative

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: On January 25, 2011, the Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) was published in the **Federal Register** (76 FR 4279-4281). From January, 2011 to June, 2011, six public meetings and workshops were held for the purposes of receiving comments and recommendations that would inform the development of a refined proposed action. As a result, the Forest Service is revising the NOI document, **Federal Register** of January 25, 2011 (76 FR 4279-4281) to read as follows:

Revision: The Forest Service is preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) that proposes to conduct restoration activities on approximately 600,000 acres on the Coconino NF and Kaibab NF. Of this total, approximately 361,379 acres would be treated on the Coconino NF and 233,991 acres would be treated on the Kaibab NF. Restoration actions would be focused on the

Flagstaff district with fewer acres included on the Mogollon Rim and Red Rock districts of the Coconino NF. On the Kaibab NF, activities would occur on the Williams and Tusayan districts. The objective of the project is to re-establish forest structure, pattern and composition, which will lead to increased forest resiliency and function. Resiliency increases the ability of the ponderosa pine forest to survive natural disturbances such as insect and disease, fire and climate change (FSM 2020.5). This project is expected to put the project area on a trajectory towards comprehensive, landscape-scale restoration with benefits that include improved vegetation biodiversity, wildlife habitat, soil productivity, and watershed function.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received by August 26, 2011. The draft environmental impact statement is expected by January of 2012 and the final environmental impact statement is expected in the summer of 2012.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Coconino National Forest, Attention: 4FRI, 1824 S. Thompson Street, Flagstaff, Arizona 86001. Comments may also be sent via e-mail to 4FRI_comments@fs.fed.us, or via facsimile to (928) 527-3620.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Henry Provencio, 4 FRI Team Leader at (928) 226-4684 or via e-mail at hprovencio@fs.fed.us.

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:

Background

Extensive research has demonstrated that current ponderosa pine forests of the Southwest are greatly altered in terms of forest structure, density, and ecological function. Most pine forests in the Southwest are at much higher risk of high intensity and severe fire than they were prior to European settlement (Covington 1993, Moore *et al.* 1999). A century ago the pine forests had widely-spaced large trees with a more open, herbaceous forest floor (Cooper 1960). These conditions were maintained by fairly frequent low-severity surface fires that did not kill the large trees (Fiedler *et al.* 1996). These fires occurred every 2 to 21 years and maintained an open canopy structure (Moir *et al.* 1997). Fire suppression, cattle grazing, timber production, and general human habitation in and near the forests over

the last 100 years interrupted fire's natural role in these fire-adapted ponderosa pine forests. As a result, the forests have shifted from naturally open conditions to high densities of small diameter trees (Covington and Moore 1994) dramatically increasing the size and severity of wildland fires (Swetnam and Betancourt 1998). The forests have become less resilient to natural disturbances and are vulnerable to large-scale disturbances such as changing climatic conditions (drought), fire, insect, and disease.

Purpose and Need for Action

In contrast to having a ponderosa pine ecosystem consisting of groups of trees with an open tree canopy density mixed with interspaces, approximately 75 percent of the ponderosa pine forest type within the project area has a moderately closed to closed tree canopy density. An open tree canopy mixed with interspaces which mimic historical spatial patterns and provide for tree regeneration and the development of grass and forbs are lacking. There is a need to use management strategies that promote tree regeneration and understory vegetation. There is a need to move towards the historic range of variability for tree canopy density and patterns of tree groups and interspaces. Forest resiliency and diversity is dependent on the distribution of age and size classes. Currently, over 50 percent of the project area lacks age and size class diversity and is in an even-aged structure. The desired condition is to have a forest structure that represents all age classes necessary for a sustainable balance of regeneration, growth, mortality and all age classes necessary for a sustainable balance of regeneration, growth, mortality and decomposition. There is a need to implement un-even aged management strategies where appropriate. In goshawk habitat, habitat components such as an intermix of vegetation structural stages are lacking or limited in most stands. There is a need to manage for a balanced interspersed of age classes in goshawk foraging and PFA/nest stand habitat. Forest structure in Mexican spotted owl (MSO) habitat has an excess of the smaller size classes (12" to 18-) and is deficit in trees 18" to 24" dbh in restricted habitat and in target/threshold, a component of restricted habitat. There is a need to implement uneven-aged management strategies and manage for high-density, relatively uneven-aged stands in MSO restricted habitat, including target/threshold habitats.

In both goshawk and MSO habitat, stand conditions are on a trajectory