

program provides financial assistance to organic producers certified to the NOP authorized under the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990, as amended (7 U.S.C. 6501 *et seq.*). This program is in addition to and separate from the National Organic Certification Cost Share Program which is also administered by AMS and is open to all States and U.S. Territories.

To participate in the program, eligible States must complete a Standard Form 424, Application for Federal Assistance, and enter into a written cooperative agreement with AMS. The program will provide cost-share assistance, through participating States, to organic crop and livestock producers receiving certification or update of certification by a USDA accredited certifying agent from October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008. The Department has determined that payments will be limited to 75 percent of an individual producer's certification costs up to a maximum of \$500.00.

**Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 1524.

**Dated:** August 23, 2007.

**Lloyd C. Day,**

*Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.*

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**BILLING CODE 3410-02-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Information Collection; Federal and Non-Federal Financial Assistance Instruments

**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 new information collection, Federal and Non-Federal Financial Assistance Instruments.

**DATES:** Comments must be received in writing on or before October 29, 2007 to be assured of consideration. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments concerning this notice should be addressed to Director, Acquisition Management, Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Attention: Chris Coppenbarger, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Mailstop 1138, Washington, DC 20250-1138.

Comments also may be submitted via facsimile to 703-605-5100 or by e-mail to: [ccoppenbarger@fs.fed.us](mailto:ccoppenbarger@fs.fed.us).

The public may inspect comments received at Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1621 N. Kent Street, RPE 707, Arlington, VA during normal business hours. Visitors are encouraged to call ahead to 703-605-4719 to facilitate entry to the building.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Chris Coppenbarger, Acquisition Management, 703-605-4719.

Individuals who use TDD may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339, 24 hours a day, every day of the year, including holidays.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Title:** Federal and Non-Federal Financial Assistance Instruments.

**OMB Number:** 0596-New.

**Type of Request:** New.

**Abstract:** In order to carry out specific Forest Service activities, Congress created several authorities to assist the Agency in carrying out its mission. The Forest Service issues Federal Financial Assistance (FFA) awards (i.e., grants and cooperative agreements), as authorized by the Federal Grants and Cooperative Agreements Act (FGCAA), as well as agreements expressly exempted from FGCAA. In addition, Congress created specific authorizations for acts outside the scope of the FGCAA; as well as appropriations language conveying authority for the Forest Service to enter into relationships that are outside the scope of the FGCAA. The Forest Service implements these authorizations using instruments such as collection agreements; FGCAA exempted agreements; memorandums of understanding; and other agreements (which contain mutual benefits for participating parties). These instruments fall outside the scope of the Federal Acquisition Regulations and often require financial plans and statements of work. To create, develop, and administer these funded and non-funded agreements, Forest Service employees collect information from cooperating parties from the pre-award to the closeout stage via telephone calls, e-mails, postal mail, and person-to-person meetings. Respondents usually have multiple options for responding, including forms, non-forms, electronically, face-to-face, over the telephone, and over the Internet. The scope of information collected varies, but typically includes project type, project scope, financial plan, statement of work, and cooperator contact/business information.

The information is collected from non-profit and for-profit institutions; institutions of higher education; state, local, and Native American tribal

governments; individuals; foreign governments; and organizations.

Without the collected information, the Forest Service would not be able to create, develop, and administer these funded and non-funded agreements. The Agency would be unable to develop/monitor projects, make or receive payments, or identify financial and accounting errors.

The following forms are associated with this information collection:

FS-1500-NEW1: Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement.

FS-1500-NEW2: Cooperative Law Enforcement Agreement.

FS-1500-NEW3: Cooperative Forest Road Agreement.

FS-1500-NEW4: Challenge Cost Share Agreement.

FS-1500-NEW5: Collection Agreement.

FS-1500-NEW6: Cost-Reimbursable Agreement.

FS-1500-NEW7: Cooperative Research and Development Agreement.

FS-1500-NEW8: Joint Venture Agreement.

FS-1500-NEW9: Memorandum of Understanding.

FS-1500-NEW10: Participating Agreement.

FS-1500-NEW11: FSH 1509.11, Chapter 60—Other Agreements.

FS-1500-NEW12: Cooperative Law Enforcement Annual Operating & Financial Plan.

FS-1500-NEW13: Collection Agreement Financial Plan.

FS-1500-NEW14: Modification Form.

FS-1500-NEW15: Agreement Cover Page.

SF-424: Application for Federal Assistance.

AD-1047: Certification Regarding Department Suspension.

AD-1048: Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion—Lower Tier Covered Transactions.

AD-1049: Certificate Regarding Drug Free Workplace Requirements Alternative 1.

AD-1050: Certificate Regarding Drug Free Workplace Requirements Alternative 2.

AD-1052: Certificate Regarding Drug Free Workplace Requirements—State and State Agencies.

SF-269: Financial Status Report (Long Form).

SF-269a: Financial Status Report.

SF-270: Request for Advance or Reimbursement.

SF-272: Federal Cash Transaction Report.

SF-272a: Federal Cash Transaction Report (continuation).

SF-424a: Budget Information Non-Construction Programs.

SF-424b: Assurance—Non-Construction Programs.

SF-25a: Payment Bonds.

*Estimate of Annual Burden:* .25 to 4 hours annually per response.

*Type of Respondents:* Non-profit and for-profit institutions; institutions of higher education; state, local, and Native American tribal governments; individuals; foreign governments; and organizations.

*Estimated Annual Number of Respondents:* 14,489.

*Estimated Annual Number of Responses per Respondent:* 1–4.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 30,855 hours.

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.

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

Dated: August 22, 2007.

**Hank Kashdan,**

*Deputy Chief, Business Operations.*

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BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Duchesne Ranger District, Ashley National Forest, UT; South Unit Oil and Gas Development EIS

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

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

**SUMMARY:** The Forest Supervisor of the Ashley National Forest gives notice of the intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to document the analysis and disclose the impacts of an oil and gas development project on

lands administered by the Ashley National Forest. The EIS analysis includes approximately 25,900 acres on the South Unit of the Ashley National Forest in Duchesne County, Utah. The proposed project is located 11 miles south of Duchesne County, Utah in Township 6 South, Ranges 4 and 5 West. Any authorizations and actions proposed for approval in the EIS will be evaluated to determine if they are consistent with direction in the 1986 Ashley National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan).

**DATES:** Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received within 45 days of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**. The draft environmental impact statement is expected in June 2008 and the final environmental impact statement is expected in November 2008.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments to David Herron, Project Lead, Ashley National Forest, 355 North Vernal Avenue, Vernal, Utah 84078; phone: (435) 781-5218. Electronic comments may be sent to [comments-intermtn-ashley-duchesne@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-intermtn-ashley-duchesne@fs.fed.us). Email correspondence should include the project name in the subject line. Any attachments must be submitted in MS Word (\*.doc) or rich text format (\*.rtf) and should include the project name in the document title. Written comments may also be dropped off at the above address during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 5 p.m.), Monday–Friday.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** David Herron, Project Lead, Ashley National Forest, 355 North Vernal Avenue, Vernal, Utah 84078; phone: (435) 789-1181; e-mail: [daherron@fs.fed.us](mailto:daherron@fs.fed.us).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose and need for this project is to respond to a formal proposal from the Berry Petroleum Company (Berry), to exercise their lease rights, and develop oil and gas resources within their existing federal oil and gas leases, located on the South Unit of the Ashley National Forest. The purpose and need is also to identify the terms and conditions necessary to protect surface resources and prevent conflicts with other activities, programs and users in the area of operations.

##### Proposed Action

In January 2007, Berry submitted a proposal to the Forest Service to drill up to 400 oil and gas wells on federal mineral leases the Company holds on approximately 25,900 acres in the South

Unit of Ashley National Forest. If economically recoverable oil or gas reserves were identified from exploratory drilling, those wells would be put into production. Wells would be drilled from well pads constructed of native soil and rock material using standard cut and fill methods. Well pad construction would require an estimated 2.5 acres of surface disturbance per well pad. If economic quantities of oil and/or gas are found as a result of the drilling of vertical wells, Berry may attempt to directionally drill from some or all of the same well pads to assess whether oil and gas resources can be reached and successfully produced from directional wells. Approximately 100 miles of new access roads and 21 miles of upgraded existing roads would be constructed to reach the proposed well pad sites. The proposal calls for a 20-year construction and drilling period.

##### Lead and Cooperating Agencies

The Forest Service is the lead agency. The Bureau of Land Management will participate as a cooperating agency. Other eligible agencies may also participate as cooperating agencies.

##### Responsible Official

The Responsible Official is Kevin B. Elliott, Forest Supervisor, Ashley National Forest, 355 North Vernal Avenue, Vernal, UT 84078.

##### Nature of Decision To Be Made

The responsible official will decide whether to allow development to occur as proposed or to allow implementation of a reasonable alternative to the proposed action. The selected alternative will establish the terms, conditions, and mitigations needed to protect surface resources during the proposed oil and gas development. Specific ground disturbing developments (wells, roads, compressors, etc.) would require additional analysis prior to implementation, to determine whether those developments are consistent with the scope and requirements of the selected alternative. Approval for such actions on individual well sites would be conducted through the Application for a Permit to Drill (APD) process, in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

##### Scoping Process

The Forest Service is seeking information, comments, and assistance from federal, state, and local agencies and individuals or organizations interested in or affected by the proposed action. The comment period on the proposed action will be 45 days from