

proposed to be added for use by CCC only to enter the holder ID of the entity to which the cotton loan collateral was released.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for the revised CCC-605 is estimated to average 4 minutes per producer and 2 minutes per producers' agent for a total burden of 6 minutes per completed form.

Respondents: Individual producers and cotton merchants.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 24,450 producers \times 4 minutes per response and 24,450 agents \times 2 minutes per response.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 2,445 burden hours times \$12.00 per hour=\$29,340.

Proposed topics for comment include: (a) Whether the collection of the proposed EAD authorization is necessary for the proper performance of the CCR, including whether the information will have practical utility and protect the interests of CCC and the producer; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) alternatives to the proposed information collection; or (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of the information on cotton producers expected to respond, including the use of appropriated automated, electronic, mechanical, or techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments should be sent to the Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503 and to Gene S. Rosera, USDA/Farm Service Agency, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 0512; Washington, DC 20250-0512, telephone number (202) 720-8481. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Signed at Washington, DC on July 24, 2001.

Larry Walker,

Acting Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

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BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Establishment of Elderberry Purchase Unit

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: On January 19, 2001, the Deputy Secretary of Agriculture created the Elderberry Purchase Unit. This purchase unit comprises 27.89 acres, more or less, within Los Angeles County, California.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Establishment of this purchase unit was effective January 19, 2001.

ADDRESSES: A copy of the establishment document, which includes the legal description of the lands within the purchase unit, and a copy of the map showing the purchase unit are on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Director, Lands Staff, 4th Floor-South, Sidney R. Yates Federal Building, Forest Service, USDA, 201 14th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20250, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on business days. Those wishing to inspect the map are encouraged to call ahead to (202) 205-1248 to facilitate entry into the building.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jack Craven, Director, Lands Staff, Forest Service, USDA, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, DC 20090-6090, telephone: (202) 205-1248.

Dated: June 21, 2001.

James R. Furnish,

Acting Associate Chief for Natural Resources.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Stillwater Mining Company's Boe Ranch LAD Alternative, Removing Production Cap, and Post-Closure Water Treatment, Stillwater County and Sweet Grass County, MT

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: The Forest Service proposes to amend Stillwater Mining Company's (SMC) Plan of Operation pertaining to production limits and water treatment methods. Briefly, SMC is requesting Forest Service and State approval to: (1) Construct a land application system (LAD) for treated mine water coming from the East Boulder Mine to its Boe Ranch property, approximately seven miles to the north; (2) remove the production cap for the East Boulder Mine; and, (3) develop a post-closure water treatment plan for adit water and tailings impoundment water that would be discharged into the East Boulder River and Mountain View creek using structures and conveyances, and

percolation ponds to discharge into groundwater.

The Forest Supervisors have the authority for regulating all activities and uses of National Forest System lands. The Cluster National Forest Supervisor and the Gallatin National Forest Supervisor will decide whether to approve Stillwater Mining Company's amendment to their approval Plan of Operations, as detailed in the Proposed Actions, or whether to approve an alternative to the Proposed Actions. The Forest Supervisors also have the ability to prescribe mitigation measures as conditions of approval.

The areas involved in these proposals include: federal land administered by the Gallatin National Forest and Montana Department of Environmental Quality for the East Boulder Mine and Custer National Forest and Montana Department of Environmental Quality for the Stillwater Mine; State Land, administered by the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation; private land, administered by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality for the Boe Ranch property. Thus, the USDA, Forest Service, as a cooperating agency with the Montana Departments of Environmental Quality and Natural Resources and Conservation will participate in the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS).

The EIS will disclose the environmental effects of the proposed actions. The Stillwater Mining Company has submitted the following proposals to the Forest Service and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality and Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation:

- Construction of a new road for access from the East Boulder Road to the Boe Ranch LAD site. The adit water would be stored on the Boe Ranch LAD site in a constructed storage pond before being applied using one of three different disposal methods: (1) Distribution through a center pivot irrigation system; or, (2) using enhanced evaporation sprayers around the storage pond; or, (3) using snow makers upstream of the storage pond.
- Removal of the ore production cap of 2,000 tons of ore per day at the East Boulder Mine.
- Development of a post-closure water treatment plan for the East Boulder and Stillwater Mines that will describes how mine water will be managed until it meets non-degradation standards and can then be either percolated to groundwater or conveyed and discharged into the East