

Dated: February 4, 2004.

**LaVerne Y. Stringfield,**

*Director, Office of Federal Advisory  
Committee Policy.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

### Transportation Security Administration

#### Reports, Forms, and Record Keeping Requirements: Agency Information Collection Activity Under OMB Review; Aircraft Operator Security

**AGENCY:** Transportation Security  
Administration (TSA), DHS.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces that TSA has forwarded the Information Collection Request (ICR) abstracted below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance of an extension of the currently approved collection under the Paperwork Reduction Act. The ICR describes the nature of the information collection and its expected burden. TSA published a **Federal Register** notice, with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments, of the following collection of information on November 26, 2003, 68 FR 66473.

**DATES:** Send your comments by March 12, 2004. A comment to OMB is most effective if OMB receives it within 30 days of publication.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments may be faxed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Attention: DHS-TSA Desk Officer, at (202) 395-5806.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Conrad Huygen, Privacy Act Officer, Transportation Security Administration, West Tower 412-S, TSA-17, 601 S. 12th Street, Arlington, VA 22202-4220; telephone (571) 227-1954; facsimile (571) 227-2912.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Transportation Security Administration (TSA)

*Title:* Aircraft Operator Security.

*Type of Request:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*OMB Control Number:* 1652-0003.

*Form(s):* NA.

*Affected Public:* Air carriers.

*Abstract:* TSA is seeking to renew information collection request number 1652-0003, which was originally obtained by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to ensure

compliance with the standards that were developed and implemented at 14 CFR part 108. The Aviation and Transportation Security Act of 2001 (ATSA), Public Law 107-71, transferred the responsibility for civil aviation security from the FAA to TSA. In February 2002, TSA implemented aircraft operator security standards at 49 CFR part 1544, while 14 CFR part 108 was repealed. This regulation requires aircraft operators to maintain and update their security programs for inspection by TSA to ensure security, safety, and regulatory compliance.

*Number of Respondents:* 83.

*Estimated Annual Burden Hours:* 43,160.

TSA is soliciting comments to—

(1) Evaluate whether the proposed information requirement is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(2) Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden;

(3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) 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.

Issued in Arlington, Virginia, on February 6, 2004.

**Susan T. Tracey,**

*Chief Administrative Officer.*

[FR Doc. 04-2994 Filed 2-10-04; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Environmental Assessment Regarding Proposed Issuance of an Incidental Take Permit to the Burlington Northern and Sante Fe Railway Company on Lands in the Middle Fork Flathead River Corridor

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service,  
Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Assessment; notice of public scoping meetings.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) intends to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA). The EA will address the proposed issuance of a Permit to allow take of grizzly bears incidental to rail operations between

Browning (milepost 1123.9) and Conkley (milepost 1208.7), Montana.

The proposed Permit will authorize take of grizzly bear, a federally listed threatened species, in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, and other species of concern should they become listed in the future.

The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF) is preparing a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) as part of an application for the Permit. The HCP will address the effects to grizzly bears of BNSF's railroad operations on approximately 137 kilometers (85 miles) of railroad right-of-way. The Service is furnishing this Notice to advise other agencies and the public of our intentions and to announce the initiation of a 45-day scoping period during which other agencies and the public are invited to provide written comments on the scope of the issues and potential alternatives to be included in the EA.

Pursuant to the NEPA, 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*, and its implementing regulations, 40 CFR 1500.0, *et seq.*, BNSF and the Service jointly announce their intent to prepare an EA for the proposed action of reviewing and approving the proposed HCP and issuing an incidental take permit. The BNSF and the Service also jointly announce their intent to hold scoping meetings, the date, time, and place of which are provided in this notice below. This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*, and NEPA implementing regulations, 40 CFR 1506.6.

**DATES:** Scoping will commence as of February 11, 2004. Written comments on the scope of the proposed action, the approval of a HCP and the concomitant issuance of the Permit should be received on or before March 29, 2004. Three scoping meetings will be held, on the following dates—February 10, 11, and 12, 2004. Each meeting will run from 4 p.m. until 8 p.m. The BNSF and the Service will use an open-house format for the meetings, allowing interested members of the public to attend at any point during the meetings to gather information and/or provide comments.

**ADDRESSES:** Meeting locations are scheduled as follows—February 10, 2004, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, 490 N. Meridian Road, Kalispell, Montana; February 11, 2004, Middlefork Quick Response Building, Highway 2, Essex, Montana; February 12, 2004, Blackfeet Tribal Complex, Government Square, Tribal Conference Room, Browning, Montana. Written comments