

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 71, No. 228

Tuesday, November 28, 2006

This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

November 21, 2006.

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.

Food and Nutrition Service

Title: Worksheet for Food Stamp Program Quality Control Reviews.

OMB Control Number: 0584-0074.

Summary of Collection: State agencies are required to perform Quality Control Reviews for the Food Stamp Program in conjunction with Section 16 of the Food Stamp Act of 1977. The food stamp worksheet (FNS-380) provides a systematic means of aiding the State agency's quality control reviewer in analyzing household case record; planning and carrying out the field investigations; and gathering, comparing, analyzing and evaluating the review data. Relevant information from the case record, investigative work and documentation about individual cases is recorded on the FNS-380.

Need and Use of the Information: The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) will use the information from the FNS-380 to record identifying information about the household and to also document and evaluate each step of the field investigation process to determine eligibility and payment amounts under FNS' approved State agency practices.

Description of Respondents: State, local, or tribal government; Individuals or households.

Number of Respondents: 57,199.

Frequency of Responses: Recordkeeping; Reporting: On occasion; Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 542,887.

Food Nutrition Service

Title: Monthly Claim for Reimbursement.

OMB Control Number: 0584-0284.

Summary of Collection: The Child Nutrition Act of 1966 requires that educational agencies disburse and appropriate funds during the fiscal year for the purposes of carrying out provisions of the Special Milk Program (SMP). The National School Lunch Act requires that State educational agency appropriated funds for any fiscal year for the purposes of fulfilling the earned reimbursement set forth in National School Lunch, Breakfast, and Special Milk Programs. The Food and Nutrition Service will use the monthly claim reimbursement form FNS-806A and 806B to fulfill the earned requirements identified in these programs, National

School Lunch Program (NSLP), SMP, and the School Breakfast Program (SBP).

Need and Use of the Information: The information is collected electronically from school food authorities that participate in NSLP, School Breakfast Program (SBP), and SMP programs. The forms contain meal and cost data collected from authorized program participants. Also, these forms are essential part of the accounting system used by the subject programs to ensure proper reimbursement. This information is collected monthly because of the constant fluctuation in school enrollment and program participation. Program participants would not receive the monthly reimbursement earned and the Agency would lose program accountability, if this information were collect less frequently.

Description of Respondents: State, local or tribal government.

Number of Respondents: 273.

Frequency of Responses: Record keeping; Reporting: Monthly.

Total Burden Hours: 1,198.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. E6-20051 Filed 11-27-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-30-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Colville National Forest; Washington; Old Curlew Ranger Station Facilities Disposal

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: The Colville National Forest, USDA Forest Service, will prepare an EIS (environmental impact statement) on a proposal to sell the old Curlew Ranger Station administrative site, a 3-acre parcel including buildings, located on the south side of Curlew, in Ferry County, Washington. The parcel and buildings are no longer needed to meet public service or Forest Service mission requirements. The Forest Service Facility Realignment and Enhancement Act of 2005 authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to sell administrative sites that are no longer needed for National Forest System purposes. Project implementation is scheduled for Fiscal

Year 2007. This project is not associated with the proposed Secure Rural Schools Land Sale Initiative. The Colville National Forest invites written comments and suggestions on the scope of the analysis. The agency will give notice of the full environmental analysis and decision-making process so interested and affected people may participate and contribute to the final decision.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received by December 29, 2006. The draft environmental impact statement is expected February 2007 and the final environmental impact statement is expected in May 2007.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Rick Brazell, Forest Supervisor, Colville National Forest, 765 South Main, Colville, WA 99114 (phone 509-684-7000). Comments may be submitted electronically to *comments-pacificnorthwest-colville@fs.fed.us*. Comments may also be sent by fax to (509) 775-7401. Include your name and mailing address with your comments so documents pertaining to this project may be mailed to you.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ed Shaw, Reality Specialist, Colville National Forest, 765 South Main, Colville, WA 99114 (phone 509-684-7129), or Jim Parker, EIS Project Leader, Republic Ranger District, 650 East Delaware, Republic, WA 99166 (phone 509-775-7462).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose and Need for Action

One of the key findings of the Colville National Forest Facilities Master Plan is that the Colville National Forest maintains more facility space than it needs to perform its mission. The Colville National Forest needs to remove unneeded buildings from the Forest's facility inventory in order to eliminate the cost of maintaining unneeded facilities.

Proposed Action

The proposed action is to sell the old Curlew Ranger Station administrative site, a 3-acre parcel of land including buildings located on the south side of Curlew, Washington. The property legal description is: A portion of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 14, T39N, R33E, WM. This 3-acre site is located adjacent to the small town of Curlew, Washington, about 9 miles south of the Canadian border. The land was purchased by the Forest Service in 1936 and used as a ranger station until 1969 when two Ranger District areas were combined.

The site has five major structures (one residential house, one residential garage, one 6-bay garage shop, one 12-person bunkhouse and one oil/gas house) and a small storage shed. The mineral estate would be disposed of with the surface estate with no reservation. Water is provided by a community system. The sewer system is independent; however a community sewer system is under development.

The property may be sold directly to an identified purchaser or may be sold under competitive bidding procedures. The method of sale will be determined at a later date. If the property is offered for sale under competitive bidding procedures, an Invitation for Bid will provide specific information, including a minimum bid price, the scheduled starting date for bidding, approximate bid closing date, requirements and instructions for bidding, payment and other closing procedures. An Offer to Sell will be released after all environmental studies and other required analysis are completed and a final decision to sell the property is made.

Responsible Official

The Responsible Official is Rick Brazell, Forest Supervisor, Colville National Forest, 765 South Main, Colville, WA 99114.

Nature of Decision To Be Made

The Responsible Official will decide whether or not to proceed with sale of the old Curlew Ranger Station property, including any outstanding interests or conditions to be conveyed. The decision and rationale for the decision will be documented in the Record of Decision, which will be subject to Forest Service Appeal Regulations (36 CFR part 215).

Scoping Process

The scoping process will identify and clarify issues, identify key issues to be analyzed in depth, explore alternatives based on themes derived from key issues recognized during the scoping process, and identify potential environmental effects associated with the proposed action. A No Action alternative will be considered.

Preliminary Issues

Only one key issue was identified in preliminary project assessment: The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, Revised, requires that Federal agencies evaluate properties for historic significance under Section 106. Three structures at the Curlew Ranger Station have been found eligible to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), with the Washington State Historic

Preservation Office concurring on this finding. These three structures are the Ranger's Residence, Garage, and Oil and Gas house. Conveyance of the property from Federal ownership will be an adverse effect because of NRHP eligibility based on the following criteria: The property may represent a significant contribution to the American history (Criterion A), is associated with the lives of significant persons in our past (Criterion B), displays distinctive characteristics of type or period (Criterion C), or may be likely to yield information important to history (Criterion D). The NRHP eligibility for the three structures at the Curlew Ranger Station is based on a national significance of context in association with the Depression-era Civilian Conservation Corps. Eligibility is also based on national and regional significance of context associated with distinctive architectural characteristics.

Comment Requested: This notice of intent initiates the scoping process which guides the development of the environmental impact statement. The Forest Service is seeking information, comments, and assistance from other agencies, organizations, Indian Tribes, and individuals who may be interested in or affected by the Proposed Action. This input will be used in preparation of the Draft EIS. Your comments are appreciated throughout the analysis process.

Early Notice of Importance of Public Participation in Subsequent Environmental Review: A draft environmental impact statement will be prepared for comment. The comment period on the draft environmental impact statement will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

The Forest Service believes, at this early stage, it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of draft environmental impact statements must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewer's position and contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft environmental impact statement stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final environmental impact statement may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F.2d 1016, 1022 (9th Cir. 1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp.

1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). Because of these court rulings, it is very important that those interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the 45-day comment period so that substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider them and respond to them in the final environmental impact statement.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the draft environmental impact statement should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft statement. Comments may also address the adequacy of the draft environmental impact statement or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the statement. Reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

Comments received, including the names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposal and will be available for public inspection.

(Authority: 40 CFR 1501.7 and 1508.22; Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, Section 21)

Dated: November 21, 2006.

Mimi Tryon,

Acting Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 06-9420 Filed 11-27-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Lakeview-Reeder Fuel Reduction Project, Priest Lake Ranger District, Idaho Panhandle National Forests; Bonner County, Idaho

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: The Priest Lake Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests is proposing fuel reduction and forest restoration activities in the vicinity of the community of Nordman, Idaho and near Reeder Bay along Priest Lake. Priorities for treatment are those forest stands which not only have significant ground fuel accumulations, ladder fuels and/or dense tree canopies, but also are located in a geographically strategic site or are adjacent to private property, developments, public

infrastructure or other important resources. The project, as proposed, will reduce hazardous forest fuels in the wildland urban interface (WUI), restore forest health and resilience and will provide additional resource benefits to water resources and grizzly bear core habitat. The USDA Forest Service will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to disclose the potential environmental effects of implementing project activities on National Forest System lands within the project area.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received by December 15, 2006. The draft environmental impact statement is expected to be published in May 2007 and the final environmental impact statement, in conjunction with a Record of Decision, is expected to be published in September 2007.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments and suggestions to David Cobb, Project Team Leader, Priest Lake Ranger District, 32203 Highway 57, Priest River, Idaho 83856; e-mail address: dcobb@fs.fed.us.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David Cobb, Project Team Leader, Priest Lake Ranger District, 32203 Highway 57, Priest River, Idaho 83856; e-mail: dcobb@fs.fed.us; phone 208-433-6854.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose & Need

The purpose and need for the Lakeview-Reeder Fuel Reduction Project addresses the goals and objectives set forth in the Idaho Panhandle National Forests' (IPNF) Forest Plan (1987), National Fire Plan, Healthy Forest Initiative, the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (2003), Bonner County, Idaho Wildlife Urban Interface Fire Mitigation Plan and the Pend Oreille County, Washington Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The purpose and need also responds to ecological recommendations made in the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project. The two primary reasons for proposing this project are to: (1) Reduce hazardous forest fuels in the project area to decrease the risk of wildfire negatively impacting the communities in the project area, public and firefighter safety, public infrastructure, private and National Forest System lands and resource values; and (2) Restore, enhance and protect forest ecosystem components to improve forest health, increase biological diversity, as well as reduce threats from catastrophic wildfire and insect and disease infestations.

Proposed Action

In order to effectively reduce hazardous forest fuels in the 29,380-acre project area, as well as restore, enhance and protect forest ecosystem components, we are proposing the following treatment activities. Proposed treatment activities total approximately 8,375 acres.

Approximately 2,816 acres could be treated using a commercial thinning. Commercial thinning entails removal of some of the merchantable trees from a forest stand, in this case, to decrease the individuals or species which will likely contribute to ground fuel accumulations and to increase spacing between and improve the long-term health of residual trees. Following thinning, slash disposal and fuel reduction of smaller trees can be performed using the following methods: approximately 2,375 acres could be mechanically piled and burned and approximately 441 acres could be left unpiled to be broadcast burned under prescribed conditions.

Another approximately 4,177 acres would need to be treated using a regeneration harvest. Regeneration treatment involves removal of much of the overstory component, enough to create conditions which enable proper germination and/or growth of the next generation of trees. Following regeneration treatment, slash disposal and further fuel reductions could be achieved by mechanically piling and burning 2,579 acres and broadcast burning 1,598 acres under prescribed conditions.

Additional treatment activities would include prescribed, broadcast burning on approximately 1,279 acres. Prescribed, broadcast burning can only be utilized alone as a treatment in certain areas which do not have dense quantities of more flammable fuels. Such areas include old shrub fields, aspen stands and open, dry-site stands of ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir. In these appropriate areas, treatment may or may not include slashing of some fuels, followed by broadcast burning of those fuels under prescribed conditions.

Finally, approximately 103 acres can be treated by slashing smaller, unmerchantable material, followed by piling and burning. Some areas will be conducive to utilizing equipment to perform the slashing, while others will require more labor-intensive hand-slashing. In some cases (approximately 79 acres), the piling of slash can be performed with equipment, while the other approximately 24 acres will require hand-piling.

In order to adequately access the fuel treatment areas, some road