

Rural Utilities Service

Title: Lien Accommodations and Subordinations 7 CFR part 1717, subparts R and S.

OMB Control Number: 0572-0100.

Summary of Collection: The Rural Electrification Act (RE Act) of 1936, 7 U.S.C. 901 *et seq.*, as amended, authorizes and empowers the Administrator of the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) to make loans in the several States and Territories of the United States for rural electrification and the furnishing electric energy to persons in rural areas who are not receiving central station service. The RE Act also authorizes and empowers the Administrator of RUS to provide financial assistance to borrowers for purposes provided in the RE Act by accommodating or subordinating loans made by the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, the Federal Financing Bank, and other lending agencies.

Need and Use of the Information: RUS will use the information to determine an applicant's eligibility for a lien accommodation or lien subordination under the RE Act; facilitates an applicant's solicitation and acquisition of non-RUS loans as to converse available Government funds; monitor the compliance of borrowers with debt covenants and regulatory requirements in order to protect loan security; and subsequently to granting the lien accommodation of lien subordination, administer each so as to minimize its cost to the Government. If the information were not collected, RUS would not be able to accomplish its statutory goals.

Description of Respondents: Not-for-profit institutions; Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 15.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 290.

Rural Utilities Service

Title: 7 CFR 1751 subpart B/State Telecommunications Modernization Plan.

OMB Control Number: 0572-0104.

Summary of Collection: The Rural Electrification Loan Restructuring Act (RELRA, Pub. L. 103-129), November 1, 1993, amended the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, 7 U.S.C. 901 *et seq.* (the RE Act). RELRA required that a State Telecommunications Modernization Plan (Modernization Plan or Plan), meet all the statutory requirements of RELRA (part 1751, Subpart B). The plan at a minimum must provide for: (1) The elimination of party line service; (2) the

availability of telecommunications services for improved business, educational, and medical services; (3) must encourage computer networks and information highways for subscribers in rural areas; (4) must provide for subscribers in rural areas to be able to receive through telephone lines: (a) conference calling; (b) video images; and (c) data at a rate of 1 million bits of information per second; and, the proper routing of information to subscribers.

Need and Use of the Information: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) telecommunications program staff will review the Modernization Plan and approve the plans, if it complies with the requirements of the regulation. If the proposed Modernization Plan is approved, RUS will notify the developer of the approval. If not, RUS will make specific written comments and suggestions for modifying the proposed Modernization Plan so that it will comply with the requirements of the regulation. If the information is not collected, RUS' authority to make loans under the Rural Electrification Act will be restricted.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions.

Number of Respondents: 1.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 350.

Rural Utilities Service

Title: 7 CFR part 1721, Extensions of Payments of Principal and Interest.

OMB Control Number: 0572-0123.

Summary of Collection: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) electric program provides loans and loan guarantees to borrowers at interest rates and on terms that are more favorable than those generally available from the private sector. Procedures and conditions which borrowers may request extensions of the payment of principal and interest are authorized, as amended, in section 12 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, and section 236 of the Disaster Relief Act of 1970. As a result of obtaining Federal financing, RUS borrowers receive economic benefits that exceed any direct economic costs associated with complying with (RUS) regulations and requirements.

Need and Use of the Information: The collection of information occurs only when the borrower requests an extension of principal and interest. Eligible purposes include financial hardship, energy resource conservation loans, renewable energy project, and contributions-in-aid of construction. The collections are made to provide

needed benefits to borrowers while also maintaining the integrity of RUS loans and their repayment of taxpayer's monies.

Description of Respondents: Not-for-profit institutions.

Number of Respondents: 45.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 424.

Charlene Parker,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. E9-19427 Filed 8-12-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-15- P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

August 10, 2009.

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.

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights

Title: USDA/1994 Tribal Scholars Program.

OMB Control Number: 0503-0016.

Summary of Collection: The USDA/1994 Tribal Scholars Program, within the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Outreach and Diversity, is an annual joint human capital initiative between USDA and the Nation's thirty-two 1994 Land-Grant Tribal Colleges and Universities (1994 TCUs). The purpose of the USDA/1994 Tribal Scholars Program is to: (1) Strengthen the long-term partnership between USDA and the 1994 Land-Grant Tribal Colleges and Universities Institutions; (2) Increase the number of students studying agriculture, food, natural resources sciences, or other related disciplines; and (3) Offer career opportunities to USDA/1994 Tribal Scholars at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Tribal Scholars are required to study in the food and agricultural and related sciences, so defined by the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (U.S.C. 3103 (8)).

Need and Use of the Information: This program offers a combination of work experience and academic study leading to career positions within USDA through a Student Career Experience Program designed to integrate classroom study with paid work experience. Without the information, USDA would be unable to award scholarships to students.

Description of Respondents: Individuals or households.

Number of Respondents: 1,440.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 4,320.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. E9-19428 Filed 8-12-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Washington; Forest-Wide Site-Specific; Invasive Plant Management Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The USDA Forest Service will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to document and disclose the potential environmental effects of proposed invasive plant treatments. The Proposed Action is to apply a combination of herbicide, mechanical, manual, cultural and biological treatment methods to control invasive plants on approximately 15,246 acres on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest in Washington. The proposed action includes treatment of invasive species on 216 acres within congressionally designated wilderness areas on the Forest. The Proposed Action would also establish criteria for responding to the spread of infestations into currently unoccupied areas.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of this analysis must be received by September 10, 2009. The draft environmental impact statement is expected January 2010 and the final environmental impact statement is expected summer 2010.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Jodi Leingang, Naches Ranger Station, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, 10237 Highway 12, Naches, WA 98942. Comments can also be sent via e-mail to okawen_forestwide_invasives_eis@fs.fed.us or via facsimile to (509) 653-2638, Attention: Jodi Leingang.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will become part of the public record for this proposed action. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, anonymous comments will not provide the respondent with standing to participate in subsequent administrative review or judicial review.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jodi Leingang, Naches Ranger Station, 10237 Highway 12, Naches, WA 98942; 509-653-1450.

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 pm, Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose and Need for Action

The Wenatchee National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP, 1990) requires that existing populations of invasive species (termed "noxious weeds") be contained, controlled or eradicated as the budget allows (page IV-89). The Okanogan National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP, 1989) requires that noxious weeds be controlled to the extent

practical with a priority on treatment of new infestations (LRMP, page 4-45). The Pacific Northwest Region's Invasive Plant Program for Preventing and Managing Invasive Plants Record of Decision (PNW ROD, 2005), an amendment to the Wenatchee and Okanogan LRMPs, directs that invasive plant populations be prioritized for treatment and a long term strategy be developed for restoring/revegetating invasive plant sites (PNW ROD, page 20).

Invasive plants on the Forest are compromising the ability for the Forest Service to manage for healthy native ecosystems. Invasive plants create a host of environmental and other effects, most of which are harmful to native ecosystem processes, including: displacement of native plants; reduction in functionality of habitat and forage for wildlife and livestock; loss of threatened, endangered, and sensitive species; increased soil erosion and reduced water quality; alteration of physical and biological properties of soil, including reduced soil productivity; changes to the intensity and frequency of fires; high cost (dollars spent) of controlling invasive plants; and loss of recreational opportunities.

New and existing invasive plant populations on the Forest require analysis to implement new or more effective and cost-efficient treatments, including the Regional EIS updated list of herbicides. The most recent inventory shows that 15,246 acres are infested on the Forest. There are likely additional infestations that are not yet discovered, and these, as well as known sites, will continue to expand and spread every year without effective treatment. Without action, invasive plant populations will become increasingly difficult and costly to control and will further degrade native ecosystems.

The purpose of this action is to provide a rapid and more comprehensive, up to date approach to control and eradicate invasive plants on the Forest. The purpose of controlling or eradicating weed populations is to maintain or improve the diversity, function and sustainability of native plant communities, and other resources that depend on them. Specifically, there is a need to: (1) contain and reduce the extent of invasive plants at existing inventoried sites, and (2) quickly detect and rapidly respond to new and changing invasive plant populations.

Proposed Action

The Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Supervisor proposes to treat currently existing invasive species on 15,246 acres across the Okanogan-