

additional 17 miles of road no longer needed for resource management, at this time, would be decommissioned by various methods, such as removal of culverts, recontouring, ripping and seeding, and installing barriers. The method of decommissioning would be selected for each road or portions of road on a site-specific basis. An estimated 2 miles of existing road would be restricted seasonally with 12 miles of existing road restricted year-round to reduce the potential loss of snags in old growth habitat, improve habitat security for wildlife, and reduce sediment delivery to live streams. An estimated 11 miles of existing road would be restricted to reduce open road densities within and adjacent to designated old growth stands. More specifically management activities in this proposal include:

Regeneration Harvest: This harvest would leave approximately 20 large trees per acre, where feasible, to provide future snags and down woody material for wildlife habitat. A total of approximately 734 acres would be harvested through this method.

Intermediate Harvest: The following types of intermediate harvest are proposed: (1) Commercial thinning of condominate and subdominate trees while retaining a stocked stand of overstory trees on approximately 1522 acres; (2) harvest of post and pole sized lodgepole pine from approximately 71 acres; (3) salvage harvest on 31 acres would remove merchantable dead lodgepole pine while protecting desirable live trees in the stand.

Underburning: Underburning is proposed on approximately 179 acres outside harvest units to reduce fuel loads and reduce fire risk.

Roadside Fuel Reduction: Fuel reduction through slashing, hand piling and burning while maintaining the integrity of the stand is proposed within the first 100 feet of timber adjacent to open roads, on approximately 65 acres.

Burning of Natural Fuels and Slash: Burning of natural fuels and slash resulting from timber harvest is proposed on approximately 2358 acres.

Watershed/Fish Habitat Improvement: Watershed improvement projects include controlling cattle access to creeks, removing failed culverts, and applying best management practices on approximately 104 miles of existing road.

Range of Alternatives: The Forest Service will consider a range of alternatives. One of these will be the "no action" alternative in which none of the proposed activities would be implemented. Additional alternatives will examine varying levels and

locations for the proposed activities to achieve the proposal's purposes, as well as to respond to the issues and other resource values.

Public Involvement and Scoping: In July 1999 preliminary efforts were made to involve the public in considering management opportunities within the Fortine Decision Area. Comments received prior to this notice will be included in the documentation for the EIS. This proposal includes openings greater than 40 acres, ranging from 46 to 60 acres. A 60 day public review period, and approval by the Regional Forester for exceeding the 40 acre limitation for regeneration harvest will occur prior to the signing of the Record of Decision. This 60 day period is initiated with this notice of intent.

Estimated Dates for Filing: The Draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and available for public review by September 2003. At that time, EPA will publish a notice of availability of the Draft EIS in the **Federal Register**. The comment period on the Draft EIS will be a minimum of 45 days from the date the EPA publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**. It is very important that those interested in the management of this area participate at that time.

The Final EIS is scheduled to be complete by December 2003. In the Final EIS, the Forest Service will respond to comments and responses received during the comment period that pertain to the environmental consequences discussed in the Draft EIS and applicable laws, regulations, and policies considered in making a decision regarding the proposal.

Reviewer's Obligations: The Forest Service believes it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of Draft EIS's 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 EIS stage 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 Draft EIS 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 and respond to them in the Final EIS.

To be most helpful, comments on the Draft EIS should be as specific as possible and may address the adequacy of the statement or the merit of the alternatives discussed. 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.

Responsible Official: Edward C. Monnig, District Ranger, Fortine Ranger District, Kootenai National Forest, P.O. Box 116, Fortine, Montana 59918, is the Responsible Official. As the Responsible Official, he will decide if the proposed project will be implemented and will document the decision and reasons for the decision in the Record of Decision. That decision will be subject to Forest Service Appeal Regulations.

Dated: January 9, 2003.

Greg Kujawa,

Acting Forest Supervisor, Kootenai National Forest.

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BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Del Norte County Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Del Norte County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will meet on February 4, 2003 in Crescent City, California. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the selection of Title II projects under Public Law 106-393, H.R. 2389, the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, also called the "Payments to States" Act.

DATES: The meeting will be held on February 4, 2003 from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Del Norte County Unified School District Board Room, 301 West Washington Boulevard, Crescent City, California.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Laura Chapman, Committee Coordinator, USDA, Six Rivers National Forest, 1330 Bayshore Way, Eureka, CA 95501. Phone (707) 441-3549. E-mail: 1chapman@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The committee will discuss and prioritize

project proposals submitted by the public and Six Rivers National Forest. The meeting is open to the public. Public input opportunity will be provided and individuals will have the opportunity to address the committee at that time.

Dated: January 13, 2003.

S.E. Woltering,

Forest Supervisor.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Notice of Intent To Extend a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-13) and Office of Management and Budget regulations at 5 CFR part 1320 (60 FR 44978, August 29, 1995), this notice announces the intention of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) to request an extension of a currently approved information collection, the Floriculture and Nursery Survey.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by March 24, 2003, to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to Ginny McBride, NASS OMB Clearance Officer, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 5336 South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250 or sent electronically to gmcbride@nass.usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rich Allen, Associate Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, (202) 720-4333.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: *Title:* Floriculture and Nursery Survey.

OMB Control Number: 0535-0093.

Expiration Date of Approval: April 30, 2003.

Type of Request: Intent to seek approval to extend an information collection.

Abstract: The objective of the National Agricultural Statistics Service is to prepare and issue State and national estimates of crop and livestock production, prices, and disposition. The Floriculture and Nursery Survey is conducted in 36 States and obtains basic

agricultural statistics on production and value of floriculture and nursery products. The retail and wholesale quantity and value of sales are collected for fresh cut flowers, potted flowering plants, foliage plants, annual bedding/garden plants, herbaceous perennials, cut cultivated florist greens, propagative floriculture material, and unfinished plants. Additional detail on area in production, operation value of sales, and agricultural workers is included. These statistics are used by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to help administer programs and by growers and marketers in making production and marketing decisions.

These data will be collected under the authority of 7 U.S.C. 2204(a). Individually identifiable data collected under this authority are governed by section 1770 of the Food Security Act of 1985, 7 U.S.C. 2276, which requires USDA to afford strict confidentiality to non-aggregated data provided by respondents.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 30 minutes per response.

Respondents: Farms and businesses.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 14,000.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 7,000 hours.

Copies of this information collection and related instructions can be obtained without charge from Ginny McBride, NASS OMB Clearance Officer, at (202) 720-5778.

Comments: Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed 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 the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (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.

All responses to this notice will become a matter of public record and be summarized in the request for OMB approval.

Signed in Washington, DC, November 19, 2002.

Rich Allen,

Associate Administrator.

[FR Doc. 03-1039 Filed 1-16-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-20-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Notice of Intent To Revise and Extend a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) and Office of Management and Budget regulations at 5 CFR part 1320 (60 FR 44978, August 29, 1995), this notice announces the intention of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) to request a revision to and extension of a currently approved information collection, the Vegetable Surveys Program.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by March 24, 2003 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to Ginny McBride, NASS OMB Clearance Officer, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 5336 South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250 or sent electronically to gmcbride@nass.usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rich Allen, Associate Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, (202) 720-4333.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Vegetable Surveys Program.

OMB Number: 0535-0037.

Expiration Date of Approval: March 31, 2003.

Type of Request: Intent to revise and extend a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The objective of the National Agricultural Statistics Service is to prepare and issue State and national estimates of crop and livestock production, prices, and disposition. The Vegetable Surveys Program obtains basic agricultural statistics for fresh market and processing vegetables in major producing States. Vegetable statistics are used by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to help administer programs and by growers, processors, and marketers in making