

Notices

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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

Farm Service Agency

Request for Revision and Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection—Servicing of Real Estate Security for Farm Program Loans and Certain Note Only Cases

AGENCY: Farm Service Agency, USDA

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intent of the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to request an extension of currently approved information collection for a regulation used in support of the FSA Farm Loan Programs (FLP). This renewal does not involve any revisions to the program rules.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received on or before May 24, 2004 to be assured consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Constance Rime, Senior Loan Officer, USDA, Farm Service Agency, Farm Loan Programs, Loan Servicing Division, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 0523, Washington, DC 20250-0523; Telephone (202) 690-4012; Electronic mail: constance_rime@wdc.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Servicing of Real Estate Security for Farmer Program Loans and Certain Note-Only Cases.

OMB Control Number: 0560-0158.

Expiration Date: July 31, 2005.

Type of Request: Extension and Revision of a Currently Approved Information Collection.

Abstract: This regulation describes the policies and procedures for servicing real estate, leaseholds, and certain note-only security for FSA farm loans. The regulation promulgates provisions of sections 331 and 335 of

the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (Act) (7 U.S.C. 1981 and 1985). This information is required from a program benefit recipient or loan borrower who has requested action on security that has been mortgaged to the Agency.

The information to be collected from FSA borrowers will primarily be financial data not already on file, such as borrower asset values. This information is submitted by the borrower to the Agency and is used by the Agency officials to grant release from personal liability where security property is transferred to approved applicants who, under the agreement, assume the outstanding secured indebtedness. The Agency official may grant partial releases, subordination of mortgages, consent to leases of security and transfers of security property. All transactions granted are intended to accomplish the loan objective and to protect the Government's financial interest.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .36 hours per response.

Respondents: Individuals or households, businesses or other for profit farming entities.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 24,213.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.2.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 10,553 hours.

Comments are invited on: (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. These 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 Constance

Rime, Senior Loan Officer, USDA, FSA, Farm Loan Programs, Loan Servicing Division, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 0523, Washington, DC 20250-0523.

Comments will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval of the information collection. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Signed in Washington, DC, on March 12, 2004.

James R. Little,

Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

[FR Doc. 04-6515 Filed 3-23-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

East Fredericktown Project, Mark Twain National Forest, Bollinger, Madison St. Francis, Ste. Genevieve Counties, MO

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Revised Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to analyze and disclose the environmental effects of proposed land management activities and corresponding alternatives within the East Fredericktown project area. The East Fredericktown project area is located on National Forest System lands administered by the Potosi/Fredericktown Ranger District east of Fredericktown, Missouri. The legal description of the project area is: Township 32 North, Range 7 East, Sections 11-13; Township 32 North, Range 8 East, Sections 3, 6-11, 15, 18, 19, 21-23, 25, 26, 34-36; Township 33 North, Range 8 East, Sections 29, 30, 35; Township 34 North, Range 7 East, Sections 12, 36; Township 34 North Range 8 East, Sections 2-4, 9, 17, 19-21, 28-33; Township 35 North, Range 8 East, Sections 9, 11-14, 16, 19-30, 34-36; Township 35 North, Range 7 East, Section 24, Fifth Principal Meridian.

An EIS is being prepared for this project although years of experience have shown that the effects of implementing similar activities in the area are not significant. We do not feel that an EIS is required, however, due to

the increase in appeals and litigation and for wise fiscal efficiency, an EIS will be prepared for the East Fredericktown Project.

The purpose of this project is to implement land management activities that are consistent with the direction in the Mark Twain Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) and to respond to specific needs identified in the project area. The project-specific needs include: emphasizing the management of shortleaf pine in its natural range on sites where it is recognized as a dominant or characteristic member of the natural community and examining opportunities to minimize adverse impacts from insects and disease on forest vegetation. Other needs include wildlife habitat maintenance and improvement, recreation management, examining road system needs, cleanup of illegal dumps, and associated or connected actions.

DATES: An original Notice of Intent was published in the **Federal Register** on April 29, 2003. Comments concerning the proposed land management activities should have been received within 30 days following original publication date. The Forest Service expects to file a Draft EIS with the Environmental Protection Agency and make it available for public comment by December 2004.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to: District Ranger, Potosi/Fredericktown Ranger District, P.O. Box 188, Potosi, Missouri 63664. E-mail should be sent to: comments-eastern-mark-twain-potosi@fs.fed.us.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tom McGuire, Project Leader/Integrated Resource Analyst, Potosi/Fredericktown Ranger District, P.O. Box 188, Potosi, Missouri 63664, phone (573) 438-5427.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a revised Notice of Intent for the prior notice promulgated in the **Federal Register**, Vol. 68, No. 82, pp. 22672-22673, on April 29, 2003. The scope of the project has not changed; therefore, this revised Notice of Intent does not initiate a second scoping period for this proposal. The Notice of Intent is being revised because the Draft EIS has been delayed more than six months. The original release date was expected to be September 2003; the new expected release date is December 2004, and the Final EIS is expected to be released in March 2005.

Estimated Dates for Filing

The draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency and available for public review

in December 2004. A 45-day comment period will follow publication of a Notice of Availability of the draft EIS in the **Federal Register**. Comments received on the draft EIS will be analyzed and considered in preparation of a final EIS, expected in March 2005. A Record of Decision (ROD) will also be issued at that time along with the publication of a Notice of Availability of the final EIS and ROD in the **Federal Register**.

Reviewers Obligation To Comment

The Forest Service believes it is important at this early stage to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of the draft EIS must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal in such a way 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, 513 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft EIS stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final EIS 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 of the draft EIS in order that substantive comments and objections are available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider them and respond to them in the final EIS. To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments should be as specific as possible. 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

The responsible official for this environmental impact statement is Ronnie Raum, Forest Supervisor, Mark Twain National Forest.

Dated: March 15, 2004.

Katherine W. Stuart,

District Ranger, Potosi/Fredericktown Ranger District.

[FR Doc. 04-6493 Filed 3-23-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Catron County Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Catron County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will meet in Reserve, New Mexico, on April 13, 2004, at 10 a.m. m.s.t. The purpose of the meeting is to evaluate submitted projects and select projects for recommendation to be funded under Title II of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (PL 106-393), also called the "Payments to State Act."

DATES: The meeting will be held April 13, 2004.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Catron County Courtroom of the Catron County Court House, 101 Main Street, Reserve, New Mexico, 87830. Send written comments to Michael Gardner, Catron County Resource Advisory Committee, c/o Forest Service, USDA, 3005 E. Camino del Bosque, Silver City, New Mexico 88061-7863 or electronically to mgardner01@fs.fed.us.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Michael Gardner, Rural Community Assistant Staff, Gila National Forest, (505) 388-8212, or Janet Porter, Catron County RAC Chairperson, at (505) 533-6384 or ctreasur@gilanet.com.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The meeting is open to the public. Committee discussion is limited to Forest Service staff and Committee members unless provided for on the agenda. However, persons who wish to bring PL 106-393 related matters to the attention of the Committee may file written statements with the Committee Staff before or after the meeting. Public input sessions will be provided and individuals may address the committee at times provided on the agenda in the morning and afternoon. To be considered at the April 13, 2004, RAC meeting, the project proposals must be submitted to Michael Gardner or Janet Porter, Catron County RAC Chairperson, by April 6, 2004, to enable distribution to all RAC members. Send written comments to Michael Gardner at Forest Service, USDA, 3005 E. Camino del Bosque, Silver City, New Mexico 88061-7863, or to Janet Porter at P.O. Box 407, Reserve, NM 87830.