

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE****Farm Service Agency****Request for Revision and Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection****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 renewal of the information collection currently approved and used in support of the FSA Farm Loan Programs (FLP). This information collection has been revised for clarification in conjunction with the request for extension of the burden package.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received on or before February 15, 2005 to be assured consideration.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sam Snyder, USDA, Farm Service Agency, Loan Making Division, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 0522, Washington, DC 20250-0522; Telephone (202) 720-0599; Electronic mail: [Sam.Snyder@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Sam.Snyder@wdc.usda.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION Title:** Form FSA 440-32, Verification of Debts and Assets.

*OMB Control Number:* 0560-0166.

*Expiration Date:* June 30, 2005.

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

*Abstract:* Form FSA 440-32 is necessary to ensure the accuracy of information obtained in connection with applications for FSA direct loan assistance. It is used to verify debt information provided by applicants in order to determine their suitability for an Operating, Farm Ownership or Emergency loan. Additionally, it is used by FSA to verify debts and assets of borrowers requesting primary and preservation loan servicing or debt settlement.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response.

*Respondents:* Individual farmers, farm or other business entities and financial institutions.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 24,031.

*Estimated Number of Responses Per Respondent:* 3.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 18,024.

*Comments are invited on the following:* (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 Sam Snyder, Senior Loan Officer, USDA, Farm Service Agency, Loan Making Division, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 0522, Washington, DC 20250-0522.

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

Signed in Washington, DC on December 9, 2004.

**James R. Little,**

*Administrator, Farm Service Agency.*

[FR Doc. 04-27602 Filed 12-16-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-05-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE****Forest Service****Hoosier National Forest, IN; Tell City Windthrow 2004 Project****AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, notice is hereby given that the Forest Service, Tell City Ranger District of the Hoosier National Forest will prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to disclose the environmental consequences of the proposed Tell City Windthrow 2004 Project. On July 13, 2004, a severe storm producing winds at 70 to 80 miles per hour moved across southern Indiana. Heavy rain and high winds altered the stand structure of the forest with down and damaged trees. In the EIS, the USDA Forest Service will address the potential environmental impacts of salvage harvesting and prescribed burning. See the

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for the purpose and need of the action.

**DATES:** The public comment period will be for 30 days from the date this notice is published in the **Federal Register**. Comments and suggestions concerning the scope of the analysis should be submitted (postmarked) 30 days following this publication to ensure timely consideration. The draft environmental impact statement is expected in the fall of 2005, and the final environmental impact statement is expected in the winter of 2006.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written or e-mail comments by: Mail-Tell City Windthrow 2004 Project, Attn: Mary Schoeppel, Tell City Ranger District, Tell City, IN 47586 or e-mail

[r9\\_hoosier\\_website@fs.fed.us](mailto:r9_hoosier_website@fs.fed.us). Please note: when commenting by e-mail, be sure to list Tell City Windthrow 2004 Project in the subject line and include a U.S. Postal Service address so we may add you to our mailing list.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mary J. Schoeppel, project team leader at 812-547-7051. See the address above under **ADDRESSES**. Copies of documents may be requested at the same address. Another means of obtaining information is to visit the Forest Web page at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/hoosier>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Purpose and Need for Action**

The primary purpose of this project is to implement management direction outlined in the Hoosier National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan while addressing site-specific needs and opportunities to move the project from the existing condition towards the desired condition. The following list describes the "needs for action" for the project to meet the purpose of implementing Forest Plan direction.

- Action is needed to address safety concerns along roads, trails, high use areas, and property boundaries.
- The risk of a wildland fire has increased as a result of the wind thrown timber. Many areas have down timber on greater than 50% of the identified area. Therefore, there is a need to improve public safety by reducing the potential for high-intensity fires to develop and spread. This can be accomplished by changing the horizontal continuity of fuels and reducing the amount of available fuel such as through prescribed burning.
- There is a need to salvage portions of the damaged area in a timely manner to capture timber product values that would be lost due to insect damage and decay with time.

- Salvage operations and prescribed burning would expedite the transition toward a more natural appearing landscape and help promote oak-hickory regeneration on the Forest, thus encouraging diversity of species.
- There is a need to provide timber to meet people's demand for wood products such as furniture, paper, fiber, and construction materials. The Forest Plan identifies areas suitable for timber production.

### Proposed Action

The Forest proposes to salvage harvest trees that are recently down or leaning, severely damaged, or identified as hazard trees throughout the project area. Trees deemed hazardous are those that adversely affect public safety, including logging operations and management activities, facilities, and public visitors using the forest. Trees would be retained to provide wildlife habitat and long-term snag recruitment. Salvage activities would occur on approximately 3,100 acres.

This project proposes prescribed burning. General activities to be undertaken in preparing or executing prescribed fires could include fire line construction, hazard tree mitigation, and mop-up. Where possible, roads, trails, and streams would be used as natural breaks to minimize fire line construction. Any rehabilitation measures for fire lines would be determined by Forest Service specialists. All proposed prescribed fires would have a prescribed fire plan prior to the burn. This activity would occur on approximately 5,590 acres.

Road construction activities are anticipated on approximately 27 miles to facilitate the removal of salvage material and minimize resource damage. This could include road reconstruction and road maintenance on existing road corridors. Temporary roads may be built to minimize resource damage and later decommissioned.

### Responsible Official

Kenneth G. Day, Forest Supervisor; Hoosier National Forest; 811 Constitution Avenue; Bedford, Indiana 47421.

### Nature of Decision To Be Made

The decision to be made is whether the activities should proceed as proposed, proceed as modified by an alternative or be deferred at this time.

### Scoping Process

The Hoosier National Forest proposes to scope for information by contacting persons and organizations on the Hoosier's mailing list and publishing a

notice in the local newspaper. The present solicitation is for comments on this Notice of Intent and scoping material available elsewhere, such as on the Forest Web page.

### Comment Requested

This notice of intent initiates the scoping process which guides the development of the environmental impact statement.

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: December 10, 2004.

**Kenneth G. Day,**

*Forest Supervisor.*

[FR Doc. 04-27591 Filed 12-16-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-11-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

#### United States Standards for Beans

**AGENCY:** Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice with opportunity to comment.

**SUMMARY:** The Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) is proposing to remove the special grade designation "off-color" from the United States Standards for Beans. GIPSA will continue to offer assessments for color uniformity on a request only basis. This action will facilitate the marketing of beans from many different regions.

**DATES:** Comments must be received by January 18, 2005.

**ADDRESSES:** We invite you to submit comments on the proposed rule. You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- E-mail: Send comments via electronic mail to [comments.gipsa@usda.gov](mailto:comments.gipsa@usda.gov).
- Mail: Send hardcopy written comments to Tess Butler, GIPSA, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 1647-S, Washington, DC, 20250-3604.
- Fax: Send comments by facsimile transmission to: (202) 690-2755.
- Hand Delivery or Courier: Deliver comments to: Tess Butler, GIPSA, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 1647-S, Washington, DC, 20250-3604.

All comments should make reference to the date and page number of this issue of the **Federal Register**.

*To read comments:* All comments received will be made available for public inspection at the above address during regular business hours (7 CFR 1.27(b)).

The current United States Standards for Beans are available by accessing GIPSA's Home Page on the Internet at: