

Title: Tobacco Marketing Quota Referenda and Receiving Station Information Reporting.

OMB Number: 0560-0182.

Type of Request: Reinstatement with revision of a previously approved information collection.

Abstract: Referenda are required by statute to be held every three years for each type of tobacco subject to marketing quotas to determine if quotas are to be in effect for the succeeding three years. The collection of information for the referenda consists of the ballots, which may also include other, tobacco-related questions required by Congress to solicit producers' opinions about other aspects of the tobacco program or to allow them to vote on some program provisions in some States. The referenda are operated under the regulations at 7 part 717. The information collected from receiving stations consists of receiving station registration and purchase information needed to ensure that tobacco marking quotas are effective. The regulations governing the receiving stations are at 7 CFR parts 723 and 1464.

Respondents: Tobacco producers and receiving stations.

Estimated Annual Number of Respondents: 325,000.

Estimated Annual Number of Responses Per Person: 1.

Estimated Average Time to Respond: 53 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 290,000.

Title: Assignments of Payments and Joint Payment Authorizations.

OMB Number: 0560-0183.

Type of Request: Reinstatement with revisions of a previously approved information collection.

Abstract: When the recipient of a CCC or FSA payment chooses to assign a payment to another party or have the payment made jointly with another party, the other party must be identified. This is a free service that is available upon request by the program payee. The regulations for assignment of payments are at 7 CFR part 1404.

Respondents: Persons receiving payments from CCC or FSA.

Estimated Annual Number of Respondents: 70,900.

Estimated Annual Number of Responses Per Person: 1.

Estimated Average Time to Respond: 10 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 11,816.

Title: Lamb Meat Adjustment Assistance Program.

OMB Number: 0560-0205.

Type of Request: Reinstatement of a previously approved information collection.

Abstract: This information collection is needed to obtain information from program participants on their sheep and lamb operations. The information is used to establish eligibility and determine payment amounts. The program is operated under the regulations at 7 CFR part 784.

Respondents: Sheep and lamb producers.

Estimated Annual Number of Respondents: 60,000.

Estimated Number of Responses Per Person: 5.05.

Estimated Average Time to Respond: 1.16 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 351,257.

Title: Designation of Burley Tobacco Sales and Program Payment Applications.

OMB Number: 0560-0217.

Type of Request: Reinstatement of a previously approved information collection.

Abstract: This collection of information is needed to allow USDA to assign tobacco graders as needed to auction warehouses in order to grade tobacco that is delivered for sale. Information is collected on where burley tobacco producers intend to sell their tobacco and program applicant information for all kinds of tobacco, which is used to determine eligibility for benefits. The program is operated under the regulations at 7 CFR part 1464.

Respondents: Burley tobacco producers.

Estimated Annual Number of Respondents: 150,800.

Estimated Annual Number of Responses Per Person: 1.

Estimated Average Time to Respond: 1.25 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 188,500 hours.

Title: Tobacco Farm Reconstitutions.

OMB Number: 0560-0025.

Expiration Date: March 31, 2003.

Type of Request: Extension with revision of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The reconstitution process is required when a producer wishes to increase acreage attributed to the farm from leases, change farm acreage records as a result of a sale of any part of a farm, combine a farm with another farm or divide a farm into multiple farming operations. The FSA country committee must approve or disapprove all proposed farm reconstitutions. The information is necessary to determine farmland, cropland, and changes to quotas or allotments resulting from combinations or divisions of farming operations.

Respondents: Tobacco farm owners and operators.

Estimated Annual Number of Respondents: 7,154.

Estimated Annual Number of Responses Per Person: 1.

Estimated Average Time to Respond: 45 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 5,365 hours.

Comments are invited on each of the information collections in this notice regarding (1) 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; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden, including the validity of the methodology and assumption used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) 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 comments received in response to this notice, including names and addresses when provided, will be a matter of public record. Comments will be summarized and included in the submission for OMB approval.

Signed in Washington, DC on December 20, 2002.

James R. Little,

Administrator, Farm Service Agency, and Executive Vice-President, Commodity Credit Corporation.

[FR Doc. 02-32804 Filed 12-27-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Martin Basin Rangeland Project

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: The Santa Rosa Ranger District, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) on a proposal to authorize continued livestock grazing within the Martin Basin Rangeland Project area. The analysis will determine if a change in management direction for livestock grazing is needed to move existing resource conditions within the Martin Basin Rangeland Project area towards desired conditions. The allotments within the project areas

include Martin Basin, Indian, West Side Flat Creek, Buffalo, Bradshaw, Buttermild, Granite Peak and Rebel Creek. These allotments are located within the Quinn River Watershed and North Fork Little Humboldt River Watershed in Humboldt County, Nevada.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received by February 28, 2003. The draft environmental impact statement is expected July 2003 and the final environmental impact statement is expected September 2003.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to District Ranger, Santa Rosa Ranger District, 1200 East Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, Nevada 89445.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information, mail correspondence to or contact Steven Williams, Project Coordinator, at Santa Rosa Ranger District, 1200 East Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, Nevada 89445. The telephone number is 775-623-5025, extension 112. E-mail address is swilliams01@fs.fed.us.

Purpose and Need for Action

There is a need to maintain or improve the condition of riparian resources and maintain or improve the overall health of the rangeland in the Martin Basin Rangeland Project area. The purpose of this project is to determine the management direction for livestock grazing needed to move existing resource conditions within the project area towards desired conditions.

Proposed Action

The Santa Rosa Ranger District, Humboldt-Toiyabe Nation Forest, is proposing to authorize continued cattle grazing in the Martin Basin Rangeland Project area under updated grazing management direction in order to move existing rangeland resource conditions within the project area toward desired condition. The updated direction will be incorporated in attendant grazing permits and allotment management plans to guide grazing management within the project area during the coming decade, or until amendments are warranted based on changed condition or monitoring.

Possible Alternatives

In addition to the proposed action we have tentatively identified two additional alternatives that will be analyzed in the EIS.

(1) No Act Alternative: This would be continuation of the current grazing management.

(2) No Grazing Alternative: This would be not issuing new grazing permits when existing permits expire.

Responsible Official

Jose Noriega, District Ranger, Santa Rosa Ranger District, 1200 East Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, Nevada 89445

Nature of Decision To Be Made

Based on the environmental analysis on the EIS the District Ranger will decide whether or not to continue grazing on the allotment within the Martin Basin project area in accordance with the standards in the proposed action or as modified by additional mitigation measures and monitoring requirements.

Scoping Process

The Forest Service will use a mailing of information to interested parties. Public involvement will be ongoing throughout the analysis process and at certain times public input will be specifically requested. There are currently no scoping meetings planned.

Preliminary Issues

The following are some potential issues identified through internal Forest Service scoping based on our experience with similar projects. The list is not considered all-inclusive, but should be viewed as a starting point. We are asking you to help us further refine the issues and identify other issues or concerns relevant to the proposed project.

- Continued livestock grazing has the potential to adversely affect water quality in the Quinn River/Blackrock Basin and the Humboldt River Basin.
- Continued livestock grazing has the potential to adversely affect habitat for Lahontan Cutthroat trout a Federally listed species found in the Quinn River/Blackrock Basin and the Humboldt Basin.
- Continued livestock grazing has the potential to adversely affect heritage resources within the project area.
- Continued livestock grazing has the potential to adversely affect vegetation, which may result in a decline in the long-term productivity of the land base.
- Continued livestock grazing is currently affecting the health of some aspen stands.
- Continued livestock grazing affects trails, trailheads, and dispersed recreation sites.
- Continued livestock grazing has the potential to adversely affect wilderness values.

Comment Requested

This notice of intent initiates the scoping process which guides the development of the environmental impact statement. Submit comments stating your concerns and issues that are relevant to the proposed project. Comments will be used to help establish the scope or studies and analysis for 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 reviewers's position and contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 533 (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 Hertages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). Because of these courts 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 20, 2002.

Jose Noriega,

District Ranger.

[FR Doc. 02-32861 Filed 12-27-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Payette National Forest, Idaho, Upper West Fork Weiser Vegetation Project

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Revised notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The USDA Forest Service published a Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the West Fork Weiser Watershed Projects in the **Federal Register** on March 11, 1999 (Vol. 64, No 47, pages 12150-12151). A revised Notice of Intent is being issued due to two major changes (Forest Service Handbook 1909.15 part 21.2):

1. It has been more than six months since filing the original Notice of Intent; and

2. There has been a change in the proposed action and project area. The USDA Forest Service will prepare the Upper West Fork Weiser Vegetation Management Project EIS. The proposed action in the EIS is to manage timber stands to improve their health, species diversity and productivity. Additionally, the proposed action is to obliterate roads and landings to meet the 1988 Payette National Forest Land and Resource management Plan standard for Total Soil Resource Commitment (TSRC). The Payette National Forest invites written comments and suggestions on the scope of the analysis and the issues to address. The agency gives notice of the full National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis and decision-making process so that interested and affected people know how they may participate and contribute to the final decision.

DATES: Comments need to be received by February 7, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Kimberly A. Brandel, District Ranger, New Meadows Ranger District, Payette National Forest, P.O. Box J, New Meadows, Idaho, 83654.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions about the proposed action should be directed to Sylvia Clark, Interdisciplinary Team Leader, at the above address, phone (208) 347-0300.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Upper West Fork Weiser project area is located in the Upper Lost Creek, East fork Lost Creek, West Branch of the Weiser River, and East Branch of the Weiser River sub-watersheds on the New Meadows Ranger District. It is about ten miles north and west of New Meadows, and approximately 22,434 acres in size. The purpose and need for this activity is to (1) Maintain and restore a diverse and sustainable landscape structure, (2) Restore species composition, stand structure, and stand density to more closely mimic historic conditions, and (3) Maintain and restore stand health, growth, and yield.

The proposed action includes a variety of activities to meet the purpose and need. (1) Harvest timber on approximately 845 acres, producing approximately 5.7 million board feet (MMBF), using tractor and skyline logging systems. The silvicultural methods used would be overstory removal, reserve shelterwood/seed tree and some commercial thin. (2) Salvage dead and dying timber killed by fir engraver beetle and other pests, or weakened due to light, water, or nutrient competition. (3) Restore approximately 216 acres of unproductive soil by obliterating roads, skid trails, and/or landings to meet the 1988 Forest Plan Standard for Total Soil Resource Commitment (TSCR). (4) Improve approximately 56 miles of road to provide access for timber activities. (5) Ensure desired species composition by planting and/or natural regeneration of fire-tolerant Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine, and western larch seedlings on 457 acres following timber harvest activities. (6) Treat harvest-generated fuels on approximately 809 acres. Treatments would include machine piling and burning (excavator piling would be used where slopes exceed 35 percent), broadcast burning, and/or yarding tops. (7) Fence regeneration units on slopes less than 35% in cattle allotment. (8) Monitor and treat noxious weeds.

Preliminary issues for this project include effects on water quality, soil productivity, wildlife habitat, recreation, access management, visual quality, and fish habitat.

A range of reasonable alternatives will be considered. The non-action alternative will serve as a baseline for comparison of alternatives. The proposed action will be considered along with additional alternatives developed that meet the purpose and need and address major issues identified during scoping. Alternatives may have different amounts, locations, and types of project activities.

Comments received in response to this notice, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be part of the project record and available for public review.

The Forest Service is seeking information and comments from other Federal, State, and local agencies; Tribal governments; organizations; and individuals who may be interested in or affected by the proposed action. This input will be used in preparation of the draft EIS.

A draft EIS will be prepared for comment. The draft EIS will be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and is anticipated to be available for public review by fall 2003. The comment period on the draft EIS will be 45 days. It is important that those interested in the management of the Payette National forest participate during this initial scoping period and during the 45-day draft EIS comment period.

The Forest Service believes, at this early state, it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of draft EISs 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, 1002 (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 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