

as similar sites that have been treated in the past few years. This tour will serve as the public scoping meeting.

A preliminary proposal to improve forest health was developed after stand conditions were examined in 2001. The proposal has been refined since that time and some preliminary issues and alternatives have been developed and are included in this notice. A decision to proceed with an Environmental Impact Statement has been made due to potential effects for the RCW and the possible need for formal consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service (USDI).

The Oakmulgee Ranger District is seeking additional information, comments, and assistance from Federal, State, and local agencies and other individuals or organizations that may be interested in or affected by the proposed action. This input will be used in preparation of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The scoping process includes:

1. Identifying potential issues.
2. Identifying issues to be analyzed in depth.
3. Eliminating insignificant issues or those which have been covered by a previous relevant environmental analysis.
4. Exploring additional alternatives.
5. Identifying potential environmental effects of the proposed action and alternatives.

E. Preliminary Issues Identified to Date Include

1. How will aquatic habitats be impacted from harvests and site preparation? What inventory data will be needed?
2. What will be the impacts on TES/PETS/MIS (other than RCW)? What inventory data will we need to evaluate impacts?
3. Will prescribed burning negatively impact air quality? What will be the season of burning and interval of burning?
4. What will be the effect of herbicides on people, wildlife, and surface water/ground water?
5. Can off-site treatments to restore the longleaf pine ecosystem be implemented to have long-term (and possible short term) benefits to the RCW while having no negative impacts to the existing RCW population?
6. What impacts will the proposed action have on visual quality objectives?
7. What impacts will the proposed action have on recreational opportunities?

F. Possible Alternatives Identified to Date Include

1. No Action: This alternative will serve as a baseline for comparison of alternatives. Present management activities will continue, but the proposed project will not be done. This alternative will be fully developed and analyzed.

2. Proposed Action: As listed above, this alternative would include a five-year systematic program of thinning and restoration cuts. Site Preparation of the restoration areas would be accomplished using herbicides and prescribed burning. These site preparation methods would result in fully stocked stands of longleaf pine seedlings in three to five years after the restoration cuts are complete. Release of seedlings would be accomplished through the use of herbicides and prescribed burning. In addition, prescribed burning will be used to maintain habitat conditions for native species of plants and wildlife.

3. Modified Proposed Action: This alternative would include a five-year program of thinning and restoration cuts. Site preparation would be done using mechanized equipment; release of seedling would be with hand tools; and prescribed burning will not be used to maintain habitat conditions for native species of plants and wildlife.

G. Special Permit Needs

There are no special permits required from any State or Federal agencies in order to implement this project.

H. Lead Agency

The USDA Forest Service is the lead agency for this project. The Fish and Wildlife Service (USDI) has been involved with this proposal since inception and will continue to be throughout this analysis. Formal consultation may be required in order to implement one or more of the alternatives.

The Oakmulgee Ranger District requests that comments be as specific as possible for this proposal and be sent to: Emanuel Hudson, District Ranger, USDA Forest Service, 9901 Highway 5, Brent, Alabama 35034.

It is estimated that the draft EIS will be available for public comment by July 31, 2003. It is very important that those interested in this proposed action participate at this time. To be helpful, comments on the DEIS should be as specific as possible and may address the adequacy of the statement or the merits of the alternatives discussed (see the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the

procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3).

In addition, Federal court decisions have established that reviewers of DEIS's must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts the agency to the reviewers' position and contentions: *Vernon Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U. S. 519, 553 (1978). Environmental objections that could have been raised at the draft stage may be waived if not raised until after completion of the final environmental impact statement (FEIS). *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). The reason for this is to ensure 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 FEIS.

Estimated Date for FEIS

After the DEIS comment period ends, the comments will be analyzed, considered, and responded to by the Forest Service in preparing the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). The FEIS is scheduled to be completed by November 2003. The responsible official will consider the comments, responses, environmental consequences discussed in the final supplement, applicable laws, regulations, and policies in making a decision regarding this proposal. The responsible official will document the decision and reasons for the decision in the Record of Decision (ROD). That decision will be subject to appeal under 36 CFR 215.

The responsible official for this project will be Emanuel Hudson, District Ranger for the Oakmulgee Ranger District, National Forest in Alabama at 9901 Highway 5, Brent, Alabama 35034.

Dated: June 11, 2002.

Emanuel Hudson,
District Ranger.

[FR Doc. 02-15155 Filed 6-14-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-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 (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 for and revision to a currently approved information collection, the Field Crops Objective Yield Surveys.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by August 21, 2002, 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: Field Crops Objective Yield.

OMB Control Number: 0535-0088.

Expiration Date of Approval: August 31, 2002.

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

Abstract: The primary objective of the National Agricultural Statistics Service is to prepare and issue State and national estimates of crop and livestock production. The Field Crops Objective Yield Surveys objectively predict yields for corn, cotton, potatoes, soybeans, and wheat. Sample fields are randomly selected for these crops, plots are laid out, and periodic counts and measurements are taken and then used to forecast production during the growing season. Production forecasts are published in USDA Crop Production reports. Decreases in the previous number of sample plots and in the number of data collections per sample plot are planned. The Field Crops Objective Yield Surveys has approval from OMB for a 3-year period; NASS intends to request that the surveys be approved for another 3 years.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 24 minutes per response.

Respondents: Farms.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 7,225.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 2,900 hours.

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.

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.

Dated: June 4, 2002.

Rich Allen,

Associate Administrator.

[FR Doc. 02-15124 Filed 6-14-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-20-P

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the California Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, that a planning meeting with briefing of the California Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene at 8:00 p.m. and recess at 10:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 24, 2002, at the Crown Plaza Hotel/Union Square, 480 Sutter Street, San Francisco, California 94108. The Committee will discuss format and procedures for conducting a briefing. The Committee will reconvene on Thursday, July 25, 2002, at 9:00 a.m. and adjourn at 3:00 p.m., to be briefed by community leaders and public officials on racial profiling.

Persons desiring additional information, or planning a presentation to the Committee, should contact Philip Montez, Director of the Western Regional Office, 213-894-3437 (TDD 213-894-3435). Hearing-impaired persons who will attend the meeting and require the services of a sign language interpreter should contact the Regional Office at least ten (10) working days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Commission.

Dated at Washington, DC, June 10, 2002.

Ivy L. Davis,

Chief, Regional Programs Coordination Unit.

[FR Doc. 02-15126 Filed 6-14-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6335-01-P

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the Michigan Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, that a planning meeting with briefing of the Michigan Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene from 9:00 a.m. and adjourn at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 27, 2002, at the Hotel Pontchartrain, Two Washington Boulevard, Detroit, Michigan 48226. The purpose of the planning meeting with briefing is to discuss Muslim and Arab American civil rights issues post 9/11, and plan future activities.

Persons desiring additional information, or planning a presentation to the Committee, should contact Committee Chairperson Jack Martin, (248) 645-5370, or Constance M. Davis, Director of the Midwestern Regional Office, 312-353-8311 (TDD 312-353-8362). Hearing-impaired persons who will attend the meeting and require the services of a sign language interpreter should contact the Regional Office at least ten (10) working days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Commission.

Dated at Washington, DC, June 11, 2002.

Ivy L. Davis,

Chief, Regional Programs Coordination Unit.

[FR Doc. 02-15125 Filed 6-14-02; 8:45 am]

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