

varying levels of protection for sensitive resources. The original proposed action (Alternative 5) would have raised seasonal cruise ship entry quotas by 72 percent. Daily limits of two cruise ships, three tour boats, six charter boats and 25 private boats would have continued. Seasonal entries and use-days for tour boats, charter boats, and private boats would not have changed from existing levels.

Six open houses/public hearings were held on the VMP/EA and proposed regulations. Hearings were held in Anchorage, Juneau, Gustavus, Hoonah, Pelican, and Elfin Cove. The NPS received 427 timely comments on the VMP/EA. The public comment period closed August 25, 1995. The majority of commenters (about 85%) were opposed to the original proposed action (Alternative 5). Commenters were concerned that air quality, water quality, biological resources, and visitor experience would be compromised by cruise ship increases. This same majority of commenters favored Alternative 4 which proposed increased resource protection and wilderness recreation, and fewer vessel entries for all vessels categories.

Based on public comments received on the VMP/EA and proposed rule, the NPS has modified the proposed alternative with respect to vessel quotas, vessel operating requirements and special-use area closures and restrictions. The modified alternative, under consideration for the final rule, responds to the public's concern for the Glacier Bay environment by reducing proposed cruise ship quota increases and increasing resource protection, yet still providing for the continued growing demand for park visitation. The modified alternative also responds to comments about smaller vessels by allowing modest seasonal increases for charter boats and private boats.

The modified alternative integrates moderate vessel quota increases with mitigation measures, imposed by regulatory and other approaches, to offset vessel impacts and provide additional protection for sensitive park resources (humpback whales, other marine mammals, nesting birds, and air quality). Under the modified alternative, seasonal entry quotas for cruise ships would increase by 30 percent during the 1996 and 1997 summer seasons (June 1 through August 31), however, the daily limit of two ships per day would continue. Additionally, but contingent upon the completion of studies demonstrating that a further increase in cruise ship traffic would be consistent with protection of the values and purposes of Glacier Bay National Park

and Preserve, the regulations could allow up to an additional 42-percent increase (from existing 1995 levels) in cruise ship traffic beginning with the 1998 summer season. For each summer season thereafter, the regulations would authorize the NPS to adjust the number of cruise ship entries, subject to the maximum daily limit of two vessels, based on available scientific and other information and applicable authorities. The Superintendent would retain the authority to take any actions necessary to protect the values and purposes of Glacier Bay National Park. Any future adjustment to cruise ship traffic within the scope of the regulations would be published in the "Notice" section of the Federal Register, with an opportunity for public comment. The daily limit of three tour boats per day would not be changed. Daily limits of 6 charter boats and 25 private boats would continue. Current restrictions on seasonal entries and use-days for charter and private boats would be modified to provide an 8-percent increase in charter boats and a 15-percent increase for private vessels. Six specified areas would be closed to motor vessels for varying periods, from June 1 through September 15, to provide enhanced resource protection and a broader spectrum of visitor experiences. Additional mitigating measures include vessel operating requirements, special-use area closures and restrictions, vessel oil-spill response planning requirements, air pollution and underwater noise minimization strategies, and a boater Orientation/Educational Program.

The NPS has determined that the modified alternative, under consideration for the final rule, can be implemented with no significant adverse effect to natural and cultural resources as documented by the environmental assessment. Key environmental issues associated with the modified alternative include effects on marine mammals and birds from vessel disturbance and air quality degradation from cruise ship stack emissions. Although some disturbance to these resources would be expected, the mitigation strategies included in this action are intended to offset significantly the environmental effects resulting from vessel entries. In addition, the NPS intends to institute a comprehensive research and monitoring program to fill informational needs and quantify the effects of vessel traffic on air quality, marine mammals, birds and visitor-use enjoyment. The monitoring program, developed within one year of the record of decision, will stipulate research and protection actions the NPS

will undertake to ensure that environmental effects do not exceed acceptable levels. An annual report, detailing efforts, funding levels and personnel allocated to VMP actions will be made available to the public. This program will enhance the scientific basis for future adjustments in vessel quotas. Future vessel quotas will continue to be subject to the existing daily limits, and future vessel increases in seasonal cruise ship entries will have to be justified by an affirmative demonstration of compatibility with the protection of park resources and values.

The modified alternative under consideration for the final rule will not have an effect on any Natural Register Properties, or other unique geographical or cultural features; does not have effects to the human environment that involve unique or unknown risks or establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects; and complies with Executive Orders 11988 and 11990. In 1993 the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) issued a nonjeopardy opinion for the humpback whale. The NMFS recommended that the NPS implement a humpback whale feeding ecology research program that would provide information on movement, distribution, and abundance of humpback whales in Glacier Bay and northern southeastern Alaska. The park research and monitoring program incorporates this recommendation. Based on the implementation of the recommendations by the NMFS, previous consultation under the Endangered Species Act, and subsequent consultations with NMFS, no further action is required at this time by the NPS under the Endangered Species Act in implementing the modified alternative.

Dated: March 6, 1996.

George T. Frampton, Jr.,
Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks.

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Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

Notice of Proposed Information Collection

AGENCY: Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) is announcing

its intention to request approval for the collection of information for blaster certification applications in Federal program states and on Indian lands.

DATES: Comments on the proposed information collection must be received by May 20, 1996, to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to John A. Trelease, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, 1951 Constitution Ave, NW, Room 120—SIB, Washington, DC 20240.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request a copy of the information collection request, explanatory information and related forms, contact the Bureau's clearance officer, John A. Trelease, at (202) 208-2783.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR 1320, which implement provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13), require that interested members of the public and affected agencies have an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping activities (see 5 CFR 1320.8 (d)). This notice identifies information collection that OSM will be submitting to OMB for extension.

Title: Certification of blasters in Federal program states and on Indian lands.

OMB Control Number: 1029-0083.

Summary: This information is being collected to ensure that the qualification of applicants for blaster certification is adequate. This information will be used to determine the eligibility of the applicant. The affected public will be blasters who want to be certified by the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement.

Bureau Form Number: OSM-74.

Frequency of Collection: On occasion.
Description of Respondents:

Individuals intent on being certified as blasters in Federal program states and on Indian lands.

Total Annual Responses: 35.

Burden per Respondent: 50 minutes.

Total Annual Burden Hours: 30.

OSM has revised burden estimates, where appropriate, to reflect current reporting levels or adjustments based on reestimates of burden or respondents. OSM will request a 3-year term of approval for each information collection activity.

Comments are invited on: (1) the need for the collection of information for the performance of the functions of the agency; (2) the accuracy of the agency's burden estimates; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collection; and (4) ways to

minimize the information collection burden on respondents, such as use of automated means of collection of the information. A summary of the public comments will accompany OSM's submission of the information collection request to OMB.

Dated: March 15, 1996.

Ruth E. Stokes,
*Acting Chief, Office of Technology
Development and Transfer.*
[FR Doc. 96-6677 Filed 3-19-96; 8:45 am]
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INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY

Agency for International Development

Notice of Public Information Collections Submitted to OMB for Review

SUMMARY: Agency for International Development (AID) has submitted the following information collection to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Comments regarding this information collection are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of this notification. Comments should be addressed to: Desk Officer for AID, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Washington, D.C. 20503. Copies of submission may be obtained by calling (202) 736-4743.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

OMB Number: OMB 0412-0003

Form Number: AID 1550-3

Title: A.I.D. Consultant Registry

Information System (ACRIS)

Instruction Books for the Organization Profile.

Summary: A.I.D. procuring activities are required to establish bidders mailing lists "to assure access to sources and to obtain meaningful competition" (CFR 1-2.205). In compliance with this requirement, A.I.D.'s Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization/Minority Resource Center has responsibility for "developing and maintaining a Contractor's Index of bidders/Offerors capable of furnishing services for use by the A.I.D. procuring activities." (AID 7-1.704-29(b)(4).

Description of Respondents: Business or other for profit, Not for profit institutions

Number of Respondents: 1,000

Estimated Total Annual Hour Burden on Respondents: 1,000 hours.

Dated: March 13, 1996.

Genease E. Pettigrew,
*Chief, Information Support Services Division,
Office of Administrative Services, Bureau of
Management.*

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INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Investigation No. 701-TA-367
(Preliminary)]

Certain Laminated Hardwood Flooring From Canada

AGENCY: United States International Trade Commission.

ACTION: Institution and scheduling of a preliminary countervailing duty investigation.

SUMMARY: The Commission hereby gives notice of the institution of preliminary countervailing duty investigation No. 701-TA-367 (Preliminary) under section 703(a) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1671b(a)) (the Act) to determine whether there is a reasonable indication that an industry in the United States is materially injured or threatened with material injury, or the establishment of an industry in the United States is materially retarded, by reason of imports from Canada of certain laminated hardwood flooring,¹ provided for in subheading 4421.90.98 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States, that are alleged to be subsidized by the Government of Canada. Unless the Department of Commerce extends the time for initiation pursuant to section 702(c)(1)(B) of the Act (19 U.S.C. 1671a(c)(1)(B)), the Commission must complete preliminary countervailing duty investigations in 45 days, or in this case by April 22, 1996. The Commission's views are due at the Department of Commerce within five business days thereafter, or by April 29, 1996.

For further information concerning the conduct of this investigation and rules of general application, consult the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, part 201, subparts A through

¹ Laminated hardwood trailer, truck body, container, and rail car flooring produced from hardwood lumber and processed and laminated to meet specifications required by purchaser. For trailer flooring, those specifications generally follow those set forth in the Fruehauf Engineering Standards for Laminated Hardwood Flooring, as revised. Certain laminated hardwood flooring is covered by statistical reporting number 4421.90.98.40 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS).