

Scoping Process

The federal Forest Service is the lead agency for preparing this EIS. The EIS will be prepared through a third-party contractor. The Forest Service will consult with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service when making this decision. The scoping process will include, at a minimum, one public meeting, scoping mailings, and public notices in newspapers of record. The responsible official will make a decision on this proposal after considering comments, responses, environmental consequences, applicable laws, regulations, and policies. The decision and rationale for the decision will be documented in a Record of Decision (ROD).

Permits or Licenses Required

A change to the Montana Snowbowl Ski and Summer Resort SUP would be required as part of the proposed action.

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, Inv. 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 draft environmental impact statement

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: January 3, 2006.

Gary Garthwait,

Acting Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 06-226 Filed 11-12-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Del Norte County Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Del Norte County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will meet on February 7, 2006 in Crescent City, California. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the selection of Title II projects under Public Law 106-393, H.R. 2389, the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, also called the "Payments to States" Act.

DATES: The meeting will be held on February 7, 2006 from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Del Norte County Unified School District Board Room, 301 West Washington, Crescent City, California.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Laura Chapman, Committee Coordinator, USDA, Six Rivers National Forest, 1330 Bayshore Way, Eureka, CA

95501. Phone: (707) 441-3549. E-mail: Ichapman@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The RAC will discuss the next steps for the Coast to Crest and Coast to Caves Trailway as well as the process for requesting proposals for fiscal year 2007 projects. The meeting is open to the public. Public input opportunity will be provided and individuals will have the opportunity to address the committee at that time.

Dated: January 9, 2006.

Jeff Walter,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 06-314 Filed 1-12-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Notice of Request for New Information Collection

AGENCY: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, USDA

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), this notice announces the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration's (GIPSA) intent to request approval for designated official agencies to complete FGIS Form 921-2, Inspection Report—Insects in Grain in order to facilitate the transfer of information to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service for phytosanitary certification. Currently, FGIS field offices, delegated States, and designated agencies inspect and certify grain for insects. FGIS field offices and delegated States provide insect information for export grain vessels to APHIS on FGIS-921-2 for APHIS issuance of a phytosanitary certificate. This request will enable official agencies to provide similar insect information for export grain shipped in trucks, railcars, and containers loaded at interior locations to APHIS.

DATES: Comments must be submitted by March 14, 2006.

ADDRESSES: We invite you to submit comments on this notice. You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- E-Mail: Send comments via electronic mail to 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.

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

Background Documents: Information collection package and other documents relating to this action will be available for public inspection in the above office during regular business hours.

Read Comments: All comments will be available for public inspection in the above office during regular business hours (7 CFR 1.27(b)).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information on the collection and use of this information, contact Martin Begley at telephone (202) 720-0277, or via e-mail martin.a.begley@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is responsible for inspecting plants and plant products offered for export, and certifying their freedom from plant pests in accordance with the phytosanitary requirements of foreign countries. To help shippers and other interested parties obtain phytosanitary inspection services at export port locations, GIPSA and APHIS entered into an agreement under which official inspection personnel transmit grain inspection information to APHIS. The agreement, procedures, and requirements are outlined in FGIS Directive 9180.35, dated May 1, 1997, <http://151.121.3.117/reference-library/directives/9180-35.pdf>.

To facilitate the issuance of phytosanitary certificates for export grain loaded into trucks, railcars, and containers at interior locations, APHIS and GIPSA expanded the existing agreement to permit official agencies, authorized by GIPSA to perform USDA recognized grain inspection services, to transmit grain inspection information to APHIS for phytosanitary certification purposes. The agreement is outlined in FGIS Directive 9180.34, dated May 24, 2005, which is available at: <http://151.121.3.117/reference-library/directives/9180-34.pdf>. Under the new agreement, FGIS Form 921-2 would be used by designated official agencies to transmit grain inspection information to APHIS for export grain loaded at interior shipping points.

Title: Inspection Report—Insects in Grain.

OMB Number: 0580—New.

Expiration Date of Approval: New.
Type of Request: New information collection.

Abstract: The United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 71 *et seq.*) and the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621 *et seq.*) provide that USDA inspect, certify and identify the class, quality, quantity and condition of grain and other agricultural products shipped or received in interstate and foreign commerce.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting and record keeping burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 5 minutes per response.

Respondents: Official grain inspection agencies.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 35.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 62.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 180 hours.

Upon OMB approval, this package will be merged into package 0580-0013.

Comments: Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the information collection 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 forms of information technology. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

James E. Link,

Administrator, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration.

[FR Doc. 06-279 Filed 1-12-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-EN-U

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Information Collection Activity; Comment Request

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44

U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended), the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) invites comments on this information collection for which RUS intends to request approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by March 14, 2006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Michele Brooks, Deputy Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., STOP 1522, Room 5159 South Building, Washington, DC 20250-1522. Telephone: (202) 690-1078. FAX: (202) 720-4120.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) regulation (5 CFR 1320) implementing provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) requires 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 an information collection that RUS is submitting to OMB for revision.

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. Comments may be sent to Michele Brooks, Deputy Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 1522, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-1522. Fax: (202) 720-4120.

Title: RUS Form 479, "Financial and Statistical Report for Telecommunications Borrowers."

OMB Control Number: 0572-0031.

Type of Request: Revision of an existing information collection package.

Abstract: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) is a credit agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). It makes mortgage loans and loan guarantees to finance electric, broadband, telecommunications and