

Market Nutrition Program, OMB #0584–0541. The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (the 2002 Farm Bill), Public Law 107–171, authorized the SFMNP as a competitive grant program beginning Fiscal Year (FY) 2003 and gave USDA the authority to develop Federal regulations guiding the administration of the SFMNP. The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, Public Law 115–334 (the 2018 Farm Bill), provided continued funding for the SFMNP through FY 2023. Federal regulations governing the SFMNP (7 Code of Federal Regulations, part 249) require that certain program-related information be collected and that full and complete records concerning SFMNP operations are maintained. The information reporting and recordkeeping burdens are necessary to ensure appropriate and efficient management of the SFMNP.

**Need and Use of the Information:** The information collected is used by USDA to manage, plan, evaluate, make decisions, and report on SFMNP program operations. FNS uses the information collection to assess how each SFMNP State agency operates; to ensure regulatory compliance of State agencies, local agencies, and farmers/farmers' markets/roadside stands/CSA programs; to make program management decisions; and to report to Congress as needed.

**Description of Respondents:** State, Local, or Tribal Governments; Individuals and Households; Nonprofit Businesses and authorized outlets.

**Number of Respondents:** 746,264.

**Frequency of Responses:** Reporting: Annually.

**Total Burden Hours:** 1,137,363.

**Ruth Brown,**

*Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2022–27088 Filed 12–13–22; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410–30–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Agriculture has submitted the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13. Comments are requested regarding: 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; the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including

the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and 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 regarding this information collection received by January 13, 2023 will be considered. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be submitted within 30 days of the publication of this notice on the following website [www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain). Find this particular information collection by selecting “Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments” or by using the search function

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

### National Institute of Food and Agriculture

**Title:** Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP).

**OMB Control Number:** 0524–0050.

**Summary of Collection:** In January 2003, the National Veterinary Medical Service Act (NVMSA) was passed into law adding section 1415A to the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1997. This law established a new Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) (7 U.S.C. 3151a) authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out a program of entering into agreements with veterinarians under which they agree to provide veterinary services in veterinarian shortage situations. The purpose of the program is to assure an adequate supply of trained food animal veterinarians in shortage situations and provide USDA with a pool of veterinary specialists to assist in the control and eradication of animal disease outbreaks. The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) will designate geographic and practice areas that have a shortage of food supply veterinarians in order to carry out the VMLRP goals of strengthening the nation's animal health infrastructure and supplementing the Federal response

during animal health emergencies. NIFA will carry out NVMSA by entering into educational loan repayment agreements with veterinarians who agree to provide veterinary services in veterinarian shortage situation for a determined period of time. NIFA will collect information using the Shortage Situation Nomination Form, Application Form, Records and Reports, and Surveys.

**Need and Use of the Information:** The information collected allows the National Institute of Food and Agriculture to request from VMLRP applicants' information related to eligibility, qualification, career interests, and recommendations necessary to evaluate their applications for repayment of educational indebtedness in return for agreeing to provide veterinary services in veterinarian shortage situations. The information will also be used to determine an applicant's eligibility for participation in the program. The information also allows the VMLRP to assess program processes and impact, make program improvements based on process feedback, and provide feedback to State Animal Health Officials on veterinarian shortage situations, which can aide them during the nomination process.

**Description of Respondents:** Individuals or households; Business or other for-profit.

**Number of Respondents:** 1,770.

**Frequency of Responses:** Reporting: Biennially.

**Total Burden Hours:** 16,798.

**Ruth Brown,**

*Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2022–27092 Filed 12–13–22; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410–09–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Natural Resources Conservation Service

[Docket No. NRCS–2022–0016]

### Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the North Branch Park River Watershed Plan, North Dakota

**AGENCY:** Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent (NOI) to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

**SUMMARY:** The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) North Dakota State Office, announces its intent

to prepare an EIS for the North Branch Park River Watershed located within Pembina, Walsh, and Cavalier Counties, North Dakota. NRCS will examine alternative solutions through the EIS process to provide flood damage reduction and watershed protection. NRCS is requesting comments to identify significant issues, potential alternatives, information, and analyses relevant to the Proposed Action from all interested individuals, Federal and State Agencies and Tribes.

**DATES:** We will consider comments that we receive by January 13, 2023. Comments received after the 30-day comment period will be considered to the extent possible.

**ADDRESSES:** We invite you to submit comments in response to this notice. You may submit your comments through one of the methods below:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and search for docket ID NRCS–2022–0016. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments; or

- *Mail or Hand Delivery:* LuAnn Kemp, Park River Joint Water Resource District, National Resources Conservation Service, 308 Courthouse Drive #5, Cavalier, ND, 58220. In your comment, specify the docket ID NRCS–2022–02016.

All comments received will be posted and made publicly available on [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Christi Fisher; telephone: (701) 530–2012; 2091; email: [christi.fisher@usda.gov](mailto:christi.fisher@usda.gov). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication should contact USDA Target Center at (202) 720–2600 (voice).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Purpose and Need**

The purposes of the proposed action are watershed protection and flood damage reduction. Watershed protection goals consist of reducing downstream nutrient loads, particularly phosphorus, and increasing quantity and quality of critical fish and wildlife habitats. The Watershed Project Plan is authorized under the authority of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 1954 (Pub. L. 83–566) as amended and the Regional Conservation Partnership Program Project (16 U.S.C. Chapter 58, Subchapter VIII). This action is needed because the North Branch Park River Watershed incurs \$1,733,000 in average annual flood damage as a result of 4,485 acres of cropland inundation and damage to roads, buildings, and other property. The 100-year flood inundates

136 structures, including the community of Crystal, ND. The watershed annually contributes 36,412 pounds of phosphorus and 197,533 pounds of nitrogen to the Red River, for which United States agreed to nutrient objectives at the international border have not been achieved. Historic loss of wetland and upland habitat within the Red River Basin also threatens multiple species.

**Preliminary Proposed Action and Alternatives**

NRCS will provide technical and financial assistance for the proposed project through the NRCS Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program. The EIS is expected to evaluate 2 alternatives: one action alternative or no action alternative. The alternatives we intend to carry forward to final analysis are:

*Alternative 1—No Action:* No federal action would be taken in the North Branch Park River Watershed and implementation of significant flood damage reduction or watershed protection projects is not expected to occur. The frequency and magnitude of flood damages in the watershed would remain at the current level, with average crop losses of \$876,300 annually due to flooding. Flood damage to a total of 136 structures, including homes, schools, and businesses in the community of Crystal, ND, will continue to generate average losses of \$770,800 annually. Road maintenance associated with overtopping during floods will continue to generate average costs of \$79,500 annually. The watershed will continue to contribute 36,412 pounds of phosphorus and 197,533 pounds of nitrogen to the Park River as well as the Red River and Lake Winnipeg. Wetlands and wildlife habitat will remain unchanged, barring a significant change in federal conservation programs.

*Alternative 2—Cart Creek Site 1:* The preliminary proposed alternative under consideration at Cart Creek Site 1 is a multi-purpose, off-channel, dry dam (XE “Preferred Alternative”) with a drainage area of 33.8 square miles, embankment length of 2.6 miles, maximum height of 17.3 feet, and average height of 9.7 feet. The dam would provide 2,593 acre-feet of temporary flood storage at the auxiliary spillway crest elevation and inundate 466-acres for a duration of less than a week during flood events. A diversion weir would be constructed in Cart Creek and existing road ditches would be enlarged to route flows above a 2-year flood flow to the dam from Cart Creek. Surface water runoff and existing road ditches south of Cart Creek and west of the dam would be re-routed into

the dry dam site via construction of new inlet structures and culverts designed to recreate natural sheet flow conditions. (XE “Flood Prevention”) Within the temporary flood pool, 134 acres of shallow retention cells would be constructed and managed via water control and biomass harvest for removal of incoming nutrient loads. Water would be held in those cells via closed control structures from spring through early fall, to allow growing vegetation to uptake dissolved phosphorus. Water would be drained through control structures and via a pumped subsurface drainage system to allow vegetation to be cut, baled, and removed from the site prior to the first frost in 2 out of each 3 years. The alternative would also result in restoration of 284 acres of wetlands, enhancement of 16 acres of existing wetlands, and enhancement of 52 acres of uplands which would be managed for high quality wildlife habitat via grazing as needed.

The two alternatives described above will be evaluated against each other in the EIS.

**Summary of Expected Impacts**

An NRCS evaluation of this federally assisted action indicates that the proposed alternative may have a significant local, regional, national, or international impact on the environment. Hydrologic impacts include peak flow reductions of 64 percent and 66 percent of the 10- and 100-year recurrence interval flood events immediately downstream of the retention site, and 20 percent and 28 percent of the 10- and 100-year recurrence interval flood events at the downstream community of Crystal, ND. Immediately downstream of the retention site, average annual loads of total phosphorus, total nitrogen, and total suspended solids are reduced by 60 percent, 66 percent, and 38 percent respectively. The proposed alternative would result in a total loss of 5.7 acres of wetlands through fill placement and excavation, which will be mitigated for via onsite wetland restoration. The project generates a net restoration of 284 acres of wetlands (total of 289.7 acres) and enhances 16 acres of existing wetlands as a result of restored hydrology and vegetative communities, enhancement of 18 acres of existing wetlands that are currently cropped, and enhancement of 52 acres upland wildlife habitat for the benefit of migratory birds and other wildlife species. Short term negative impacts during construction are anticipated to be local only, and may occur in relation to soils, vegetation, noise, and traffic.

### Anticipated Permits and Authorizations

The following permits and other authorizations are anticipated to be required:

- *CWA Section 404 permit.*

Implementation of the proposed federal action would require a Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404 permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which is a cooperating federal agency on the planning effort. Consultation is ongoing and no significant challenges are anticipated given the overall environmental benefits of the project.

- *CWA Section 401 permit.* The project would also require water quality certification under Section 401 of the CWA and permitting under Section 402 of the CWA (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Permit), both of which would be issued by the ND Department of Environmental Quality, a cooperating state agency on the planning effort. Consultation is ongoing and no significant challenges are anticipated given the overall environmental benefits of the project and the fact this is an off-channel retention structure.

- *Permit to Construct or Modify a Dam.* The project will require authorization from the North Dakota Department of Water Resources (ND DWR) for construction of a dam. ND DWR is a cooperating state agency on the plan and is assisting in funding for the project.

- *Water Appropriation Permit.* The project may require a conditional water use permit from ND DWR for construction of a dam. ND DWR is a cooperating state agency on the plan and is assisting in funding for the project.

- *Floodplain Permit.* The project will require a floodplain development permit from Pembina County. Pembina County is a cooperating local agency on the project.

- *NHPA Section 106 Consultation.* Consultation with Tribal Nations and interested parties is being conducted as required by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

### Schedule of Decision-Making Process

A draft (DEIS) will be prepared and circulated for review and comment by agencies and the public for at least 45 days per 40 CFR 1503.1, 1502.2, 1506.11, 1502.17, and 7 CFR 650.13. The DEIS is anticipated to be published in the **Federal Register** approximately 6 months after publication of this NOI. A final EIS is anticipated to be published within 6 months of completion of the public comment period for the DEIS. NRCS will then decide whether to

implement one of the alternatives as evaluated in the EIS. A Record of Decision will be completed after the required 30-day waiting period and will be publicly available. The responsible federal official for the NRCS is Mary Podoll, North Dakota State Conservationist.

### Public Scoping Process

Public scoping meetings will be held at the Cart Creek Site 1 Project to further develop the scope of the DEIS. A preliminary scoping meeting was held on February 17, 2016, in Mountain, ND. An additional scoping meeting will be held after the NOI is published. Comments received for both meetings, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be part of the public record. The date, time, and location for the second meeting will be provided on the ND NRCS website, the Pembina Water Resource District website, and published in the Cavalier Chronicle.

NRCS will coordinate the scoping process as provided in 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3) and 800.8 (54 U.S.C. 306108) to help fulfill the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), as amended, review process.

### Identification of Potential Alternatives, Information, and Analyses

NRCS invites agencies, tribes, and individuals who have special expertise, legal jurisdiction, or interest in the Cart Creek Site 1 Project to provide comments concerning the scope of the analysis and identification of potential alternatives, information, and analyses relevant to the Proposed Action.

### Authorities

This document is published in line with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations regarding publication of a notice of intent to issue an environmental impact statement (40 CFR 1501.9(d)). The EIS will be prepared to evaluate potential environmental impacts as required by section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA, the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR parts 1500–1508) and NRCS regulations that implement NEPA in 7 CFR part 650. Watershed planning is authorized under the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 1954, as amended, (Pub. L. 83–566) and the Flood Control Act of 1944 (Pub. L. 78–534).

### Federal Assistance Program

The titles and numbers of the Federal Domestic Assistance Programs found in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance to which Notice of Funding

Availability applies is 10.904 Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention.

### Executive Order 12372

Executive Order 12372, “Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs,” requires consultation with State and local officials that would be directly affected by proposed Federal financial assistance. The objectives of the Executive order are to foster an intergovernmental partnership and a strengthened federalism, by relying on State and local processes for State and local government coordination and review of proposed Federal financial assistance and direct Federal development. This program is subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials.

### USDA Non-Discrimination Policy

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and USDA civil rights regulations and policies, USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family or parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (for example, braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA TARGET Center at (202) 720–2600 (voice) or dial 711 for Telecommunications Relay Service (both voice and text telephone users can initiate this call from any telephone). Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD–3027, found online at <https://www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-program-discrimination-complaint> and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632–9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by mail: U.S. Department of

Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or email: [OAC@usda.gov](mailto:OAC@usda.gov). USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Mary Podoll,

North Dakota State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

[FR Doc. 2022-27077 Filed 12-13-22; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-16-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Natural Resources Conservation Service

[Docket No. NRCS-2022-0017]

#### Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the McGriff Lakes—Sutter Basin Watershed Flood Control and Flood Safety Project Sutter County, California

**AGENCY:** Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS).

**SUMMARY:** The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) California State Office announces its intent to prepare an EIS for the McGriff Lakes—Sutter Basin Watershed Flood Control and Flood Safety Project, which is located approximately 30 miles northwest of Sacramento in the proximity of Knights Landing, California. NRCS is requesting comments to identify significant issues and alternatives to be addressed in the EIS from all interested individuals, Tribes, and Federal, State and local Agencies and jurisdictions. The EIS process will examine alternative solutions to modernize the existing Karnak Drainage Facility, portions of which are over 100 years old, to continue to provide reliable flood protection for the Reclamation District No. 1500 (RD 1500) service area. The Reclamation District service area includes over 60,000 acres of agricultural farmland, the community of Robbins and surrounding rural areas, and California State Route 113, a designated emergency route through the watershed. The primary purpose for this watershed plan is to provide reliable and long-term flood prevention and damage reduction to the RD 1500 service area and improve public safety and emergency access. Although the existing Karnak Drainage Facility has been well maintained, the required repairs for the pump stations are

becoming more costly while the reliability of the facility is decreasing because parts needed for repair and continued operation are no longer available and must be custom fabricated. The aging infrastructure and lack of parts availability puts all land within the RD1500 service area at risk in the event of a significant rainfall event. Without adequate and reliable flood control, millions of dollars in agricultural products would be at risk, the designated emergency route would be in jeopardy of flood closures, and substantial property damage and potential loss of life are possible in the community of Robbins and surrounding areas.

**DATES:** We will consider comments that we receive within 30 days after date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**. Comments received after 30 days will be considered to the extent possible.

**ADDRESSES:** We invite you to submit comments in response to this notice. You may submit your comments through one of the methods below:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and search for docket ID NRCS-2022-0017. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments; or
- *Mail or Hand Delivery:* Mr. Roger Cornwell, RD 1500 General Manager, PO Box 96, Robbins, CA 95676; or
- *Email:* [commentsRD1500@gmail.com](mailto:commentsRD1500@gmail.com).

For written comments, specify the docket ID NRCS-2022-0017. All comments received will be posted without change and made publicly available on [www.regulation.gov](http://www.regulation.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Ernesto A. De La Riva, telephone: (530) 792-5680; email: [Ernesto.delariva@usda.gov](mailto:Ernesto.delariva@usda.gov). In addition, for questions related to submitting comments via RD 1500 General Manager: Mr. Roger Cornwell at (530) 738-4423, Fax (530) 738-4327, [commentsRD1500@gmail.com](mailto:commentsRD1500@gmail.com), or the project website at: <https://sutterbasinwater.com/flood-control-flood-safety-rehabilitation-project/>. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication should contact the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Target Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Purpose and Need

The watershed project would be implemented as flood protection, as authorized under sections 3 and 4 of Public Law 83-566. The primary purpose for this watershed plan is to provide reliable and long-term flood

prevention and damage reduction to the RD 1500 service area and improve public safety and emergency access. Watershed planning was authorized under Public Law 83-566, the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 1954, as amended, and Public Law 78-534, the Flood Control Act of 1944.

RD 1500, one of the largest reclamation districts in California, was created by special act of the State Legislature in 1913. It provides drainage and flood control to an area of approximately 67,850 acres within its service area, including protecting the community of Robbins and surrounding rural residential property from flood damage, protecting over 60,000 acres of rural farmland from flooding, and providing flood protection of SR 113 and other local emergency response roadways. The project will address issues at the Karnak Drainage Facility which was originally built in 1914 with two additional facilities added in 1929 and 1952. These facilities have continued to protect the RD1500 for over 100 years. However, they are all past their useful service life. While RD1500 has continued to maintain these facilities, it has become increasingly difficult to obtain parts and keep the facilities functional during storm events.

The Karnak Drainage Facilities provided flood protection for 70 Year-Level storm events from January to March of 2017, which were the second highest precipitation events in the last 144 years record in the northern California area. Uncharacteristically of the facilities, all pumping stations were operational at the time. The Karnak Drainage Facility was able to provide flood reduction to approximately 31,200 acres of prime farmland within the Sutter Basin and the community of Robbins would have been under 5 to 6 feet of water, completely cutting off access to SR 113, which at the time was being used by residence of Oroville, California as an evacuation route from the Oroville Dam crisis of February 2017.

To meet the purpose of continuing flood protection for the Sutter Basin, modernization of the existing Karnak Facilities will be necessary. A Preliminary Investigative Report (PIR), completed by RD1500 in 2021, investigated and studied possible solutions to address flood protection in the Sutter Basin. As a result of the new information obtained during an EA process, the level of analysis this watershed project needs is more extensive than anticipated during scoping in 2021. Estimated Federal funds required for the construction of the proposed action may exceed \$25