

be granted unless, within sixty days from the date of this published Notice, the Forest Service receives written evidence and argument which establishes that the grant of the license would not be consistent with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.7.

Richard M. Parry, Jr.,
Assistant Administrator.

[FR Doc. 97-3569 Filed 2-12-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-13-M

Forest Service

Information Collection for Recreation, Scenery and Tourism Management

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent; request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Forest Service announces its intention to establish a new information collection. The new collection is necessary to gather information about visitor preferences and expectations concerning recreational facilities, such as campgrounds and parking areas; scenery management, including visitors' favorite scenic views; and highway management, such as whether highway maintenance activities are compatible with the scenic objectives. The information collected will be used in developing Scenic Byways Corridor Management Plans for the Bighorn National Forest.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing on or before April 14, 1997.

ADDRESSES: All comments should be addressed to: Bernie Bornong, Forester, Bighorn National Forest, 1969 S. Sheridan Avenue, Sheridan, WY 82801.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bernie Bornong, Bighorn National Forest, at (307) 672-0751.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Description of Information Collection

The following describes the information collection:

Title: Bighorn National Forest Scenic Byways Summer User Survey.

OMB Number: New.

Expiration Date of Approval: New.

Type of Request: The following describes a new collection requirement and has not received approval by the Office of Management and Budget.

Abstract: The Bighorn National Forest, located in north central Wyoming, has contracted with EDAW, Inc. to write a Scenic Byways Corridor Management Plan (CMP) for three

Scenic Byways on the Bighorn National Forest located on U.S. Highways 14, 14A, and 16. As part of this project, EDAW, Inc. will conduct a survey of visitors using the Scenic Byways during the summer of 1997 to ensure that the needs, expectations, and preferences of visitors are addressed in the Scenic Byways Corridor Management Plan.

The Forest Service Bighorn National Forest, Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT), local Chambers of Commerce, and numerous small businesses, including lodges and restaurants, will use this information to more effectively manage the Scenic Byways to ensure that recreational opportunities and scenic views meet the expectations of visitors and to ensure that management of the highways within the Scenic Byways meets WYDOT standards while enhancing visitor experiences.

The Forest Service, for example, will use the information to incorporate visitor preferences into the management of recreational facilities, such as campgrounds. This could include the location of campgrounds, as well as the condition of the campgrounds. The data will also help the Forest Service incorporate scenic preferences, such as wildlife viewing areas, when planning projects.

The Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT) will use the information to plan for and assess the public's desires concerning the dual purposes of providing safe and efficient transportation within the Scenic Byways, while at the same time maintaining the scenic beauty of the highway corridors. When designing roads, WYDOT will consider visitor preferences for such matters as type and color of guardrails to install, use of retaining walls in specific locations, or the use of snow fences instead of plowing snow. WYDOT also will include visitor needs, expectations, and preferences when planning and conducting road maintenance.

Local communities and tourism and recreation industries will use the information to design marketing strategies to promote tourism and increase visitation within and along the Scenic Byways.

To facilitate the collection of information, personnel from EDAW, Inc. will write the survey, conduct the interviews, and analyze the survey results, under the contract supervision of the Bighorn National Forest. The interviewers will randomly select visitors using the Scenic Byways on the Bighorn National Forest. This is a voluntary survey, and the first question asked will be whether or not the visitor

wishes to participate. The survey is a 20-minute interview, with the interviewer recording the visitor's responses on the survey instrument. The interviewers will station themselves at areas along the Scenic Byways extensively used by visitors, such as parking areas, visitor centers, and campgrounds.

The interviewers will ask visitors, who choose to participate in the survey, to evaluate the current status of, and suggest possible improvements to, the recreational facilities along the Scenic Byways. These recreational facilities include rest areas, parking areas, visitor information centers, camping and picnicking facilities, and lodging and restaurant facilities operating under the authorization of and with special use permits issued by the Forest Service.

Interviewers will ask visitors their expectations concerning the highway infrastructure and if maintaining the highway infrastructure or maintaining scenic beauty is more important to them.

Interviewers also will show visitors a series of photographs of the Scenic Byways and will ask their perceptions and preferences of various landscapes and their visual sensitivity to various multiple uses depicted in the photographs. Visitors also will be asked to point out the areas they find particularly attractive, so that those areas can be managed to protect their scenic importance.

Additionally, EDAW, Inc. will develop a profile of Bighorn National Forest Scenic Byways visitors by asking participants their State of residence; the number of times per year they visit the Bighorn National Forest Scenic Byways; the seasons of use; and the types of recreational activities they enjoy along the Scenic Byways.

Data gathered in this information collection is not available from other sources.

Estimate of Burden: 20 minutes.

Type of Respondents: Individual users of the Scenic Byways on the Bighorn National Forest and small businesses located along the byways, such as the lodges and restaurants.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 300.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 100 hours.

The agency invites comments 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 this agency's

estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (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 respondents, including the use of automated collection, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Use of Comments

All comments received in response to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: February 10, 1997.

David G. Unger,
Associate Chief.

[FR Doc. 97-3626 Filed 2-12-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

Blue Mountains Natural Resources Institute, Board of Directors, Pacific Northwest Research Station, Oregon

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Blue Mountains Natural Resources Institute (BMNRI) Board of Directors will meet on March 11, 1997, at Oregon Department of Transportation Conference Room, 3012 Island Avenue, La Grande, Oregon. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. and continue until 4:00 p.m. Agenda items to be covered will include: (1) Program status; (2) research results of specific projects; (3) outreach activities; (4) identification of issues of interest; (5) budget and plan of work; (6) report on Initiatives; (7) presentation on Oregon Initiatives in natural resources; (8) public comments. All BMNRI Board Meetings are open to the public. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend. Members of the public who wish to make a brief oral presentation at the meeting should contact Larry Hartmann, BMNRI, 1401 Gekeler Lane, La Grande, Oregon 97850, 541-962-6537, no later than March 7, 1997, to have time reserved on the agenda.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Direct questions regarding this meeting to Larry Hartmann, Manager, BMNRI, 1401 Gekeler Lane, La Grande, Oregon 97850, 541-962-6537.

Dated: February 3, 1997.

Larry Hartmann,
Manager.

[FR Doc. 97-3590 Filed 2-12-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Inviting Preapplications for Technical Assistance for Rural Transportation Systems

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS), an Agency within the Rural Development mission area, announces the availability of \$500,000 in competing Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) funds for fiscal year (FY) 1997 specifically for technical assistance for rural transportation systems. The funds are designed to assist private nonprofit corporations serving rural areas in providing technical assistance, for planning and developing transportation systems, and for training for rural communities needing improved passenger transportation systems or facilities in order to promote economic development through a link between transportation and economic development initiatives. The RBEG program is administered on behalf of RBS at the State level by the Rural Development State Offices.

DATES: The deadline for receipt of a preapplication in the Rural Development State Office is May 1, 1997. Preapplications received after that date will not be considered for FY 1997 funding.

ADDRESSES: Entities wishing to apply for assistance should contact the Rural Development State Offices to receive further information and copies of the preapplication package. A list of State Offices follows:

State Director, Rural Development,
Sterling Center Suite 601, 4121
Carmichael Road, Montgomery, AL
36106-3683, (332) 279-3400
State Director, Rural Development, 800
West Evergreen, Suite 201, Palmer,
AK 99645, (907) 745-2176
State Director, Rural Development, 3003
North Central Avenue, Suite 900,
Phoenix, AZ 85012, (602) 280-8700
State Director, Rural Development, 700
West Capitol, P. O. Box 2778, Little
Rock, AR 72203, (501) 324-6281
State Director, Rural Development, 194
West Main Street, Suite F, Woodland,
CA 95695-2915, (916) 668-2000
State Director, Rural Development, 655
Parfet Street, Room E 100, Lakewood,
CO 80215, (303) 236-2801
State Director, Rural Development,
(Delaware and Maryland), 5201 South
Dupont Highway, P. O. Box 400,
Camden, DE 19934-9998, (302) 697-
4300

State Director, Rural Development, 4440
NW 25th Place, P. O. Box 147010,
Gainesville, FL 32614-7010, (352)
338-3400

State Director, Rural Development,
Stephens Federal Building, 355 E
Hancock Avenue, Athens, GA 30601,
(706) 546-2162

State Director, Rural Development,
Federal Building, Room 311, 154
Waianuenue Avenue, Hilo, HI 96720,
(808) 933-3000

State Director, Rural Development, 3232
Elder Street, Boise, ID 83705, (208)
378-5600

State Director, Rural Development, Illini
Plaza, Suite 103, 1817 South Neil
Street, Champaign, IL 61820, (217)
398-5235

State Director, Rural Development, 5975
Lakeside Blvd, Indianapolis, IN
46278, (317) 290-3100

State Director, Rural Development,
Federal Building, Rm 873, 210 Walnut
Street, Des Moines, IA 50309, (515)
284-4663

State Director, Rural Development, 1200
SW Executive Drive, P.O. Box 4653,
Topeka, KS 66604, (913) 271-2700

State Director, Rural Development, 771
Corporate Drive, Suite 200, Lexington,
KY 40503, (606) 224-7300

State Director, Rural Development, 3727
Government Street, Alexandria, LA
71302, (318) 473-7920

State Director, Rural Development, 444
Stillwater Avenue, Suite 2, P.O. Box
405, Bangor, ME 04402-0405, (207)
990-9106

State Director, Rural Development,
(Massachusetts, Rhode Island,
Connecticut), 451 West Street,
Amherst, MA 01002, (413) 253-4300

State Director, Rural Development, 3001
Coolidge Road, Suite 200, East
Lansing, MI 48823, (517) 337-6635

State Director, Rural Development, 410
Agri Bank Building, 375 Jackson
Street, St Paul, MN 55101, (612) 290-
3842

State Director, Rural Development,
Federal Building, Suite 831, 100 W
Capitol Street, Jackson, MS 39269,
(601) 965-4316

State Director, Rural Development, 601
Business Loop 70 West, Parkade
Center, Suite 235, Columbia, MO
65203, (573) 876-0976

State Director, Rural Development, 900
Technology Blvd., Unit 1, Suite B,
P.O. Box 850, Bozeman, MT 59715,
(406) 585-2580

State Director, Rural Development,
Federal Building, Room 308, 100
Centennial Mall N, Lincoln, NE
68508, (402) 437-5551

State Director, Rural Development, 1390
South Curry Street, Carson City, NV
89703-5405, (702) 887-1222