

is no bona fide Pacific Northwest market.

*Estimate of Burden:* 2 hours per response.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 10.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 1.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 20.

#### Utility and Pulp Logs

Purchasers with utility and pulp logs may apply for an export permit if there is no bona fide Alaska market.

*Estimate of Burden:* 2 hours per response.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 20.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 1.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 40.

#### Reporting Exports

Purchasers must provide the Regional Forester with scale reports to document any volume exported.

*Estimate of Burden:* 1 hour per response.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 20.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 1.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 20.

#### Comments are Invited

The Forest Service invites comments on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Forest Service, including whether the information will have a practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Forest Service'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 respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

#### Use of Comments

All comments, including name and address when provided, will become a matter of public record. Comments received in response to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval.

Dated: April 3, 1998.

**Ronald E. Stewart,**

*Acting Associate Chief.*

[FR Doc. 98-9233 Filed 4-7-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Information Collection on the Economic, Social, and Cultural Contributions of Livestock Ownership

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent; request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Forest Service announces its intent to establish a new information collection. The new collection is necessary to provide baseline data on the economic, social, and cultural contributions of livestock ownership by surveying grazing permittees on two ranger districts of the Carson and Santa Fe National Forests, New Mexico. The information provided by both this pilot study and the proposed larger study, encompassing all the permittees on the two forests, will be used to help the Forest Service address issues related to grazing permit administration in northern New Mexico.

**DATES:** Comments must be received in writing on or before June 8, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** All comments should be addressed to: Carol Raish, Research Social Scientist, Rocky Mountain Research Station, Forest Service, USDA, 2205 Columbia SE, Albuquerque, NM, 87106.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Carol Raish, Rocky Mountain Research Station, telephone: (505) 766-1045.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

The Forest Service intends to invite private landowners, who hold federal grazing permits on the Canjilon Ranger District (Carson National Forest) and the Espanola Ranger District (Santa Fe National Forest), to participate in a pilot study designed to evaluate and refine the research methods and techniques proposed for a larger study to be conducted on the two forests. Forest Service researchers plan to distribute questionnaires to the 112 permittees associated with the two districts, with approximately one-third of the respondents from each district (or at least 18 persons per district) receiving a follow-up interview. Participation in the study is completely voluntary. In

addition to collecting data on the contributions of livestock ownership, researchers are assessing the use of a questionnaire in terms of response rate and quality; clarity, comprehensibility, and relevance of questions; and effectiveness and impact of interviewing techniques.

This study will focus on the rural communities of northern New Mexico. Many of the permittees are descendants of Hispanic settlers who have farmed and ranched in northern New Mexico for over 400 years. Much of the land which they now use under federal permit was formerly owned or used by local communities under Spanish and Mexican land grants. Cultural differences and historical issues of land ownership and use contribute to disagreements over land use between permittees and Federal land managers. This research study is designed to provide information to help agency managers manage the lands more effectively, work more cooperatively with livestock grazing permittees, and improve agency-community relations by promoting greater understanding.

#### Description of Information Collection

The following describes the information collection for which approval will be requested:

*Title:* Economic, Social, and Cultural Contribution of Livestock Ownership.

*OMB Number:* New.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* New.

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

*Abstract:* The information collected in both the pilot study and the larger study will assist Forest Service managers in understanding the role and contribution of livestock ownership to the economy, culture, and social interactions of the primarily Hispanic grazing permittees (and the small, rural communities) of northern New Mexico. Data gathered in this information collection is not available from other sources. The information collected and research outcomes will be presented in scientific and technology transfer publications and will be available to federal agencies and local communities, as well as to the study participants.

#### Questionnaire

Forest Service research personnel will administer a questionnaire to the 112 grazing permittees on the Canjilon and Espanola Ranger Districts. Response to the questionnaire will be voluntary.

The questionnaire consists of 46 questions divided into seven sections. Two sections request demographic

information and descriptive information on livestock operations. Questions on age, education, employment, primary language spoken in the household, and years of residence in the area provided demographic data. Information on livestock operations consists of questions concerning number of years the permittee and his family have owned livestock and have had Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management grazing permits. The number and type of animals owned is also requested. A third section deals with costs and benefits of owning livestock with questions focused on the costs of the livestock operation and on the economic contribution of the livestock to family income. Use of the animals and their by-products for household consumption and exchange with relatives and neighbors is also included.

The remaining four sections emphasize social, lifestyle, and cultural contributions of livestock ownership, including the reasons for owning livestock, community activities related to owning livestock, a rancher's preferred means of saving money, uses of the money earned from the livestock operation, and plans to use the livestock operation as a retirement activity. Questions also elicit information on the role of livestock ownership in selecting a place of residence, the social and business activities that result from livestock ownership, and whether a permittee grazes his cattle with relatives or neighbors or both.

A section on family goals requests respondents to prioritize statements concerning increasing family income, increasing the quality of life, maintaining traditional lifestyles and values, and having greater respect within the community. Another question asks respondents to prioritize family goals for the livestock operation, such as making more money from the operation, increasing the family's quality of life, avoiding being forced out of ranching, and increasing the size of the operation. The section on land ownership and use attitudes contains questions concerning the merits of hiring local versus non-local workers, selling land to local versus non-local buyers, and managing federal lands primarily for the benefit of local residents or for all U.S. citizens. Other questions deal with a rancher's willingness to sell inherited land and their views on what factors constitute land ownership.

*Estimate of Burden:* 1 hour and 15 minutes per respondent.

*Type of Respondents:* Voluntarily responding grazing permittees on the Canjilon and Espanola Ranger districts.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 112.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 1.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 140 hours.

#### Interviews

Forest Service researchers intent to conduct personal interviews with a randomly selected sample of one-third of the questionnaire respondents from each district (or at least 18 individuals per district). These interviews will be used to discuss views and opinions about the livestock operations in greater depth. The interviews will also expand the discussion concerning the role of livestock operations in family life and the maintenance of cultural traditions.

The questions for the interviews are the following:

1. Please describe your feelings about the land and livestock operation you own and what role they play in your family's life.

2. Do you use your land and livestock to teach your children about traditional values and their heritage? If so, how do you accomplish this?

3. Please give your opinion concerning who has the right to own land and make decisions concerning its use.

4. What are your views on the implementation of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo signed in 1848 by the United States and Mexico?

5. Describe your experiences and feelings concerning working with the government (Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management) on your allotment(s).

6. Please discuss the most serious problems you face in your livestock operation today. How would you solve these problems?

Since we seek to record the respondent's own story and opinions in the interview section, there may be some instances where questions are expanded or added to clarify or more fully develop a response due to the ethnographic nature of this portion of the study.

*Estimate of Burden:* 2 hours per respondent.

*Type of Respondents:* Voluntarily responding sample of grazing permittees from the Canjilon and Espanola Districts, who filled out the questionnaire.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 36.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 1,

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 72 hours.

#### Comment is Invited

The agency invites comments on the following: (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 respondents, including the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

#### Use of Comment

All comments, including name and address when provided, will become a matter of public record. Comments received in response to his notice will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval.

Dated: April 3, 1998.

**Ronald E. Stewart,**

*Acting Associate Chief,*

[FR Doc. 98-9234 Filed 4-7-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Utilities Service

#### Information Collection Activity; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

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**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended), the Rural Utilities Service's (RUS) invites comments on these information collections for which RUS intends to request approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by June 8, 1998.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** F. Lamont Heppe, Jr., Director, Program Development Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., STOP 1522, Room 4036 South Building, Washington, DC 20250-1522. Telephone: (202) 720-9550. FAX: (202) 720-4120.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Office of Management and Budget's (OMB)