

4. The project area forms the backdrop for Thompson Falls and the Clark Fork valley. The scenic character of the landscape is distinctive due to its unique combination of vegetation patterns, rock formations and proximity to the Clark Fork River. How would prescribed burning and timber harvest affect the scenic quality?

5. Most of the project area is within two to three miles of Thompson Falls. How would prescribed burning affect air quality in town and the Clark Fork Valley?

6. Noxious weeds are established on much of the lower part of the analysis area. Would prescribed burning and timber harvest affect conditions, spread of existing weeds or establishment of new weeds in the area? What effect does noxious weed stocking have on big game forage and growing conditions for native plants? How can noxious weed stocking be reduced and native vegetation increased?

7. Approximately 5680 acres of the Game Range analysis area is within the Cube Iron—Silcox Roadless Area. Timber harvest and prescribed burning is proposed with no road construction. Concern for management of the area was expressed both within the agency and during public scoping. What effect would the project have on the roadless resource?

8. Concern has been expressed that complex silvicultural prescriptions that are designed to achieve multi-resource objectives and to be compatible with ecosystem processes, would not be economically feasible. Using prescribed fire in some areas may result in a loss of economically valuable timber. Because there are few roads in the area, 86 percent of the proposed harvest area would need to be helicopter yarded. Is this cost effective? What is the net public cost and benefit of the proposed project including effects on recreation?

Other issues commonly associated with timber harvesting and prescribed burning include effects on cultural resources, soil compaction and nutrients, and other resources. This list will be verified, expanded, or modified based on additional public scoping for this proposal.

Comment Period and Draft EIS Schedule

The Draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and available for public review in July 2001. At that time, the EPA will publish a Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS in the **Federal Register**. The comment period on the Draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the EPA's notice of availability

appears in the **Federal Register**. It is very important that those interested in management of the Game Range project participate at that time. The Final EIS is scheduled for completion by October 2001.

The Forest Service believes it is important, at this early stage, 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 its is meaningful and alerts the 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 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 v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). Because of these court rulings, it is very important those interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the 45-day comment period so 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.

I am the responsible official for this environmental impact statement. My address is Lolo National Forest, Building 24—Fort Missoula, Missoula, MT 59804.

Dated: May 7, 2001.

Deborah L.R. Austin,
Forest Supervisor.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Collection of Information

AGENCY: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 35), this notice announces the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration's (GIPSA) intention to request an extension for a currently approved collection of information. The collection of information is used to determine whether a State's central filing system for notifying farm product buyers of liens on farm products can be certified by the Secretary.

DATES: We invite you to comment on this notice; we will consider all comments that we receive by July 24, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Gerald Grinnell, Economic/Statistical Support, Packers and Stockyards Programs, GIPSA, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-3641; or via facsimile to (202) 690-1266.

Comments received may be inspected during normal business hours in the Economic/Statistical Support offices, room 3052 (same address as listed above).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information regarding the collection of information activities and the use of the information, contact Gerald Grinnell, at (202) 720-7455 (same address as listed above).

For a copy of the collection of information, contact Sharon Vassiliades, GIPSA, Regulatory Contact, at (202) 720-1738.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: "Clear Title" Regulations to implement section 1324 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1631).

OMB Number: 0580-0016.

Expiration Date of Approval: July 31, 2001.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved collection of information.

Abstract: The information is needed to carry out the Secretary's responsibility for determining whether a State's central filing system for notification of buyers of farm products of any mortgages or liens on the

products meets certification requirements under section 1324 of the Food Security Act of 1985. Section 1324 of the Food Security Act of 1985 requires that States implementing central filing systems for notification of liens on farm products must have such systems certified by the Secretary of Agriculture. GIPSA has been delegated responsibility for certifying the systems. Nineteen States currently have certified central filing systems.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting and recordkeeping burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 12 hours per response.

Respondents: States seeking certification of central filing systems to notify buyers of farm products of any mortgages or liens on the products.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 12 hours.

We are asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to extend its approval of our use of this collection of information activity for an additional 3 years.

We are soliciting comments to: (1) Evaluate 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; (2) evaluate 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; (3) enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) 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.

Dated: May 18, 2001.

David R. Shipman,

Acting Administrator, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration.

[FR Doc. 01-13269 Filed 5-24-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-EN-0

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Notice of Request for Extension and Revision of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration.

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) intention to request an extension for and revision to the currently approved information collection for "Regulations Governing the National Inspection and Weighing System under the United States Grain Standards Act and under the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946."

DATES: We invite you to comment on this notice; we will consider all comments that we receive by July 24, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Tess Butler, GIPSA, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-3604; or FAX to (202) 690-2755; e-mail: comments@gipsadc.usda.gov.

Comments received may be inspected during normal business hours in the office listed above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information regarding the collection of information activities and the use of the information, contact Tess Butler (202) 720-7486, or at the address listed above.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Cathy McDuffie, the Agency Support Services, Specialist, at (301) 734-5190.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Congress enacted the United States Grain Standards Act (USGSA) (7 U.S.C. 71 *et seq.*) and the Agricultural Marketing Act (AMA) (7 U.S.C. 1621 *et seq.*) to facilitate the marketing of grain, oilseeds, pulses, rice, and related commodities. These statutes provide for the establishment of standards and terms which accurately and consistently measure the quality of grain and related products, provide for uniform official inspection and weighing, provide regulatory and service responsibilities, and furnish the framework for commodity quality improvement incentives to both domestic and foreign buyers. The Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) of USDA's Grain

Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration establishes policies, guidelines, and regulations to carry out the objectives of the USGSA and the AMA.

The USGSA, with few exceptions, requires official certification of export grain sold by grade. Official services are provided, upon request, for grain in domestic commerce. The AMA authorizes similar inspection and weighing services, upon request, for rice, pulses, flour, corn meal, and certain other agricultural products. Conversely, the regulations promulgating the USGSA and AMA require specific information collection and recordkeeping necessary to carry out requests for official services. Applicants for service must specify the kind and level of service desired, the identification of the product, the location, the amount, and other pertinent information in order that official personnel can efficiently respond to their needs.

Official services under the USGSA are provided through FGIS field offices and delegated and/or designated State and private agencies. Delegated agencies are State agencies delegated authority under the Act to provide official inspection service, Class X or Class Y weighing services, or both, at one or more export port locations in the State. Designated agencies are State or local governmental agencies or persons designated under the Act to provide either official inspection services, Class X or Class Y weighing services, or both, at locations other than export port locations. State and private agencies, as a requirement for delegation and/or designation, must comply with all regulations, procedures, and instructions in accordance with provisions established under the USGSA. FGIS field offices oversee the performance of these agencies and provide technical guidance as needed.

Official services under the AMA are performed, upon request, on a fee basis for domestic and export shipments either by FGIS employees, individual contractors, or cooperators. Contractors are persons who enter into a contract with FGIS to perform specified inspection services. Cooperators are agencies or departments of the Federal Government which have an interagency agreement or State agencies which have a reimbursable agreement with FGIS.

Title: Regulations Governing the National Inspection and Weighing System Under the USGSA and AMA of 1946.

OMB Number: 0580-0013.

Expiration Date of Approval: September 30, 2001.