

requires disbursements to be made via an electronic funds transfer (EFT) mechanism unless the payment recipient has a waiver from the Secretary of Treasury. The Secretary of Treasury has granted a waiver for any individual for whom payment by an EFT mechanism would create a hardship. CCC and FSA have developed a waiver form that may be filed by a payment recipient for whom payment by an EFT mechanism would create a hardship. The second information collection will be used when necessary to request a replacement check for a check that was not received by the intended recipient. The information collection provides an undertaking of indemnity as required by Government Accounting Office standards.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received on or before April 16, 2002 to be assured consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Deborah Simmons, Financial Specialist, USDA, FSA, FMD, STOP 0581, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-0581; telephone (703) 305-1309; e-mail Debbie_Barker@wdc.fsa.usda.gov; or facsimile (703) 305-1144.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) Hardship Waiver Request.

OMB Control Number: 0560-NEW.

Type of Request: Approval of a new information collection.

Abstract: The Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 requires that all Federal payments other than payments under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, must be made by an EFT mechanism effective January 1, 1999. In 31 CFR 208, the Secretary of Treasury granted a waiver of the EFT requirement to any individual for whom payment by an EFT mechanism would create a hardship. A Federal agency is required to send a disclosure letter regarding the EFT requirement to any individual that continues to receive payment by paper check, unless the individual has invoked a self-certified hardship waiver.

Individuals that wish to invoke a self-certified hardship waiver of the EFT requirement must provide specific data related to the individual. The form included in this information collection package would require the full name and address of the requestor, a signature, and the date signed. The completed form must be returned to an FSA office. Without collection of this information, FSA must continue to mail a disclosure letter regarding the EFT requirement with every paper check issued to the individual.

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

Respondents: Individuals requesting a self-certified hardship waiver of the EFT requirement.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 100,000.

Estimated Number of Annual Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 20 minutes.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Undertaking of Indemnity.

OMB Control Number: 0560-NEW.

Type of Request: Approval of a new information collection.

Abstract: CCC disburses funds using a CCC check or a commodity certificate when payment is not disbursed through an EFT mechanism. When an issued CCC check or commodity certificate is not received by the intended recipient, or is received and later becomes lost, stolen or destroyed, the intended recipient may sign an undertaking of indemnity to request that the CCC check or commodity check be replaced.

Estimate of Respondent Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 30 minutes per response.

Respondents: Individuals, partnerships or corporations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,000.

Estimated Number of Annual Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 45 minutes.

Comments are sought on these requirements including: (a) 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; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of the 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 the Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office in Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503, and to Deborah Simmons, Financial Specialist, USDA-FSA-FMD, STOP 0581, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-

0581; telephone (703) 305-1309; e-mail Debbie_Barker@wdc.fsa.usda.gov; or facsimile (703) 305-1144. Copies of the information collection may be obtained from Ms. Simmons at the above address.

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.

Signed at Washington, DC, on February 1, 2002.

Larry Walker,

Acting Administrator, Farm Service Agency and Acting Executive Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.

[FR Doc. 02-3708 Filed 2-14-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Rams Horn Project, Mark Twain National Forest, Phelps and Pulaski Counties MO

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to analyze and disclose the environmental effects of proposed land management activities and corresponding alternatives within the Rams Horn project area. The Rams Horn project area is located immediately east of Fort Leonard Wood Military Reservation on National Forest System lands administered by the Houston/Rolla/Cedar Creek Ranger District in the Spring Creek and Big Piney River watersheds, southwest of Rolla, Missouri. The legal description of the project area is: Township 34 North, Range 9 West, sections 4-6; Township 34 North, Range 10 West, sections 1, 2; Township 35 North, Range 9 West, sections 6, 7, 16-21, 26-36; Township 36 North, Range 10 West, sections 34-36, Fifth Principal Meridian.

The purpose of this project is to implement land management activities that are consistent with the direction in the Mark Twain Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) and respond to specific needs identified in the project area. The project-specific needs include addressing: wildlife habitat maintenance and improvement, reduction of non-native invasive noxious weeds, watershed rehabilitation, recreation management, and associated or connected actions.

DATES: Initial comments concerning the scope of the analysis should be received within 30 days following publication of

this notice to receive timely consideration in the preparation of the draft EIS.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments and suggestions on the proposed action or requests to be placed on the project mailing list to: John C. Bisbee, District Ranger, Houston/Rolla/Cedar Creek Ranger District, 108 South Sam Houston Boulevard, Houston, Missouri 65483. E-mail should have a subject line that reads "NEPA Houston" and be sent to: mailroom_r9_mark_twain@fs.fed.us.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mark Hamel, Project Leader/NEPA Coordinator, Houston/Rolla/Cedar Creek Ranger District, 108 South Sam Houston Boulevard, Houston, Missouri 65483, phone (417) 697-4194.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The information presented in this notice is included to help the reviewer determine if they are interested in or potentially affected by the proposed land management activities. The information presented in this notice is summarized. Those who wish to provide comments, or are otherwise interested in or affected by the project, are encouraged to obtain additional information from the contact identified in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** Section.

Proposed Action

The proposed land management activities (proposed actions) include the following, with approximate values: (1) *Wildlife habitat maintenance and improvement*—(a) Maintain 200 acres of unique post oak savanna habitat by personnel use firewood removal and prescribed burning, (b) maintain 400 acres of unique post oak savanna habitat by prescribed burning, (c) maintain existing open and semi open habitat by utilizing prescribed fire on 1,050 acres, (d) maintain existing open and semi open habitat by utilizing grazing and/or prescribed fire on 100 acres, (e) maintain existing open and semi open habitat by utilizing mechanical means such as brush hogging and/or prescribed fire on 100 acres, (f) enhance the warm season grass component in existing open and semi open habitat by planting 50 acres with Gamma grass, (g) maintain and enhance habitat for old growth wildlife species by designating 1,600 acres of old growth, and, (h) create 1,100 acres of 0–9 age class habitat (would be accomplished with: group selection harvest on 1,400 acres, shelterwood harvest on 550 acres, clearcut harvest on 400 acres) and 700 acres of Woodland Habitat in Oak, Oak-Pine, and Pine which exhibits a condition of 20–30 percent forbs, grass and shrub ground cover (would be accomplished with:

group selection harvest on 1,400 acres, commercial thinning on 400 acres, and thinning on 400 acres of pine plantations to encourage oak regeneration), (2) *Reduction of non-native invasive noxious weeds*—eliminate multi-flora rose on 100 acres through the use of herbicides; (3) *Watershed rehabilitation*—(a) improve bottomland riparian habitat by planting hardwoods on 50 acres, (b) improve bottomland riparian habitat by removing existing river access sites and access roads, (c) improve overall watershed health by closing and rehabilitating 2 miles of old non system road corridors, and, (d) improve existing stream crossing; (4) *Recreation management*—(a) improve an existing river access site by providing proper parking facilities for canoeists, and, (b) relocate an existing river access site (will require construction of ¼ mile of new system road and parking area) because of watershed concerns and for public safety; (5) *Associated or connected actions*—actions pertinent to this project, such as; (a) construction and obliteration of 10 miles of temporary road to accomplish some of the items listed in (item 1) above, (b) fire line construction, etc.

Decision Space

Decision making will be limited to activities relating to the proposed actions. The primary decision to be made will be whether or not to implement the proposed actions listed above, a no-action alternative, or another alternative that responds to the projects purpose and needs.

Preliminary Issues

Preliminary comments made by the public and agencies were considered in the development of the tentative or preliminary issues. These are as follows: effects on Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive (TES) species and Management Indicator Species (MIS); concern over new road construction, and road closures; concern over motorized recreational access; current and designated old growth; current vegetative patterns, and species composition; and effects of restoration activities to the overall watershed.

Public Participation

The Forest Service will be seeking information, comments, and assistance from Federal, State, and local agencies, the Osage Tribe, and other individuals or organizations that may be interested in or affected by the proposed actions. Comments received in response to this notice will become a matter of public record. While public participation in

this analysis is welcome at any time, comments on the proposed actions received within 30 days of the publication of this notice will be especially useful in the preparation of the draft EIS. Timely comments will be used in preparation of the draft EIS. The scoping process will be used to: identify potential issues; identify additional alternatives to the proposed action; and, identify potential environmental effects of the proposed action and alternatives (i.e., direct, indirect, and cumulative effects). In addition, the public is encouraged to visit with Forest Service officials at any time during the analysis and prior to the decision.

Estimated Dates for Filing

The draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency and available for public review in April 2002. A 45-day comment period will follow publication of a Notice of Availability of the draft EIS in the **Federal Register**. Comments received on the draft EIS will be analyzed and considered in preparation of a final EIS, expected in June 2002. A Record of Decision (ROD) will also be issued at that time along with the publication of a Notice of Availability of the final EIS and ROD in the **Federal Register**.

Reviewers Obligation To Comment

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 the draft EIS must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal in such a way 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, 513 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft EIS stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final EIS may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F.2d 1016, 1022 (9th Cir, 1986), and *Wisconsin Heritage Inc. 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 45-day comment prior of the draft EIS in order that substantive comments and objections are available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider them and respond to them in the final EIS. To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments should be as

specific as possible. 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.

Responsible Official

The responsible official for this environmental impact statement is Randy Moore, Forest Supervisor, Mark Twain National Forest.

Dated: January 18, 2002.

John C. Bisbee,

District Ranger, Mark Twain National Forest.
[FR Doc. 02-3776 Filed 2-14-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Eastern Washington Cascades Provincial Advisory Committee and Yakima Provincial Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Meeting.

SUMMARY: The Eastern Washington Cascades Provincial Advisory Committee and the Yakima Provincial Advisory Committee will meet on Thursday, March 7, 2002, at the Wenatchee National Forest headquarters main conference room, 215 Melody Lane, Wenatchee, Washington. The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. and continue until 4 p.m. During this meeting we will discuss the Forest Supervisor's response to committee advice on noxious weed management, and also participate in a discussion of proposed public involvement for an upcoming forest roads inventory. All Eastern Washington Cascades and Yakima Province Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public. Interested citizens are welcome to attend.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Direct questions regarding this meeting to Paul Hart, Designated Federal Official, USDA, Wenatchee National Forest, 215 Melody Lane, Wenatchee, Washington 98801, 509-662-4335.

Dated: February 7, 2002.

Paul Hart,

Designated Federal Official, Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests.

[FR Doc. 02-3727 Filed 2-14-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Notice of Resource Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENCY: North Central Idaho Resource Advisory Committee, Grangeville, Idaho, USDA, Forest Service.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the authorities in the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463) and under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106-393) the Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests' North Central Idaho Resource Advisory Committee will meet Friday, March 8, 2002 in Orofino, Idaho for a business meeting. The meeting is open to the public.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The business meeting on March 8 begins at 10:00 AM, in Room 2b, Latah County Courthouse, 522 S. Adams Street, Moscow, Idaho 83843. Agenda topics will include discussion of project screening and selection process. A public forum will begin at 2:30 PM (PST).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ihor Mereszczak, Staff Officer and Designated Federal Officer, at (208) 983-1950.

Dated: February 8, 2002.

Ihor Mereszczak,

Acting Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 02-3777 Filed 2-14-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Notice of Appointment to the Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics

AGENCY: National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notification of appointment to the Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics.

SUMMARY: The Office of the Secretary of Agriculture, in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2, announces members appointed to the Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics. The appointment for the twenty-five member committee, which has representation across seven categories which covers a broad range of agricultural disciplines and interests, was signed on February 5, 2002. Appointed members by their associated category are: Consumer and

Information Organizations—Robert W. Spear, Nobleboro, ME; Ross Ronald Racine, Billings, MT; James Dennis Rieck, Winfield, IL. Educational Organizations—Ling-Jung (Kelvin) Koong, Corvallis, OR; Bobby Ray Phills, Tallahassee, FL; Gumecindo Salas, Springfield, VA. Farm Services Organizations—Jacklyn M. Folsom, Cabot, VT; John Irving Gifford, Rock Island, IL; Jack Charles Mitenbuler, Indianapolis, IN; Ranvir Singh, Marysville, CA; Mark Edward Whalon, East Lansing, MI. Government Agencies—Robert Dale Epperson, Fresno, CA. National Farm Organizations—Carol Ann Gregg, Grove City, PA; Mark W. Jenner, Mt. Prospect, IL; Sheila Kay Massey, Animas, NM; Ivan W. Wyatt, Cedar Point, KS. Producer and Marketing Organizations—Mark Dale Lange, Cordova, TN; Andrew William LaVigne, Lakeland, FL; Roger M. Cryan, Fairfax, VA; Ashby Pamplin Ruden, Reston, VA; Lee F. Schrader, West Lafayette, IN; Topper Thorpe, Castle Rock, CO; Hugh Anslum Warren, Greenwood, MS. Professional Organizations—Walter J. Armbruster, Darien, IL; Ronald C. Wimberley, Raleigh, NC.

Comments: The duties of the Committee are solely advisory. The Committee will make recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture with regards to the agricultural statistics program of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) and such other matters as it may deem advisable, or which the Secretary of Agriculture, Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics, or the Administrator of NASS may request. The Advisory Committee will be meeting on February 19-20, 2002. All meetings are open to the public. Committee members will be reimbursed for official travel expenses only.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Additional Information: Questions should be e-mailed to hq_aa@nass.usda.gov, faxed to (202) 720-9013, or telephoned to Rich Allen, Associate Administrator, NASS, at (202) 720-4333. All mailed correspondence should be sent to Rich Allen, Associate Administrator, U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Room 4117 South Building, Washington, DC 20250-2000.

Signed at Washington, DC, February 6, 2002.

R. Ronald Bosecker,

Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service.

[FR Doc. 02-3800 Filed 2-14-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-20-P