

This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

June 16, 2009.

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 regarding (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 to be collected; (d) 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 should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), *OIRA Submission* @OMB.EOP.GOV or fax (202) 395-5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, DC 20250-7602. Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of this notification. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720-8681.

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.

Rural Business Service

Title: 7 CFR 4287-B, "Servicing Business and Industry Guaranteed Loans."

OMB Control Number: 0570-0016.

Summary of Collection: The Business and Industry (B&I) program was legislated in 1972 under section 310B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, as amended (the Act). The purpose of the B&I program, as authorized by the Act, is to improve economic and environmental climate in rural communities, including pollution abatement and control. This purpose is achieved through bolstering the existing private credit structure through the guaranteeing of quality loans, which will provide lasting community benefits. The B&I program is administered by the Rural Business Service (RBS) through Rural Development State and sub-State offices serving each State. RBS will collect information using various forms from the lender and the borrower. This information is vital for making prudent financial decisions.

Need and Use of the Information: RBS will collect information to monitor the guaranteed loan portfolio to ensure that the lenders are adequately servicing the loans. RBS through its respective Business Programs Divisions in Washington, DC and its 47 State Offices throughout the United States will be the primary users of the information collected. If the information is not collected, RBS would not be able to make prudent credit decisions nor would the Agency be able to effectively monitor the lender's servicing activities and thus minimize losses under the program.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit; State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 12,730.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion; Quarterly; Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 18,223.

Rural Business Service

Title: 7 CFR 4279-A, Guaranteed Loan-making General.

OMB Control Number: 0570-0018.

Summary of Collection: The Business and Industry (B&I) program was legislated in 1972 under section 310B of

the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, as amended. The purpose of the program is to improve, develop, or finance businesses, industries, and employment and improve the economic and environmental climate in rural communities. This purpose is achieved through bolstering the existing private credit structure through the guaranteeing of quality loans made by lending institutions, thereby providing lasting community benefits. The B&I program is administered by the RBS through Rural Development State and sub-State offices serving each state.

Need and Use of the Information: RBS will collect information to determine eligibility and credit worthiness for a lender or borrower. The information is used by Agency loan officers and approval officials to determine lender program eligibility and for program monitoring.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit; State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 1,037.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 1,494.

Charlene Parker,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

June 16, 2009.

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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 should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), *OIRA Submission @OMB.EOP.GOV* or fax (202) 395-5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, DC 20250-7602. Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of this notification. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720-8681.

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National Agricultural Statistics Service

Title: Floriculture Survey.

OMB Control Number: 0535-0093.

Summary of Collection: The primary function of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is to prepare current official state and national estimates of crop and livestock production. Since 1985 Congress has provided funds to conduct an annual Commercial Floriculture Survey which obtains data on this important and growing industry. General authority for these data collection activities is granted under U.S. Code Title 7, Section 2204. This statute specifies that "The Secretary of Agriculture shall procure and preserve all information concerning agriculture which can be obtained by the collection of statistics * * * and shall distribute them among agriculturists". The floriculture industry accounted for more than \$8.6 billion in agricultural cash receipts at the U.S. level.

Need and Use of the Information: NASS will collect information to assess alternative agriculture opportunities. Data from the survey will provide statistics for Federal and State agencies to monitor the use of agricultural chemicals. If the information is not collected, data users could not keep abreast of changes.

Description of Respondents: Farms; Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 12,500.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 4,054.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Allegheny National Forest; Pennsylvania; Transition EIS

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: The Forest Service is proposing to authorize reasonable access for site-specific proposals to develop reserved and outstanding mineral rights within the Allegheny National Forest, with provisions to mitigate impacts to surface resources. We are also proposing to use design criteria and a site-specific review process through this decision to authorize reasonable access for future site-specific proposals to develop reserved and outstanding mineral rights within the Allegheny National Forest, with provisions to mitigate impacts to surface resources.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received by August 21, 2009. The draft environmental impact statement is expected January 2010, and the final environmental impact statement is expected April 2010.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Anthony V. Scardina, Allegheny National Forest, 4 Farm Colony Drive, Warren, PA 16365. Comments may also be sent via e-mail to *comments-eastern-allegheny@fs.fed.us*, or via facsimile to 814-726-1465. Comments sent via email should use the subject line "Transition EIS."

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be part of the public record for this proposed action. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, anonymous comments may limit the respondents ability to participate in subsequent administrative review or judicial review.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Anthony V. Scardina, Allegheny National Forest, 4 Farm Colony Drive,

Warren, PA 16365; (814) 728-6115 or *ascardina@fs.fed.us*.

Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Allegheny National Forest consists largely of land acquired from the private sector via purchase or donation. At the time of acquisition, ownership of oil and gas resources had often been conveyed to other private parties ("outstanding rights"), or reserved by the private seller or donor ("reserved rights"). As a result, ninety-three percent of the Forest is subject to outstanding or reserved oil and gas rights.

On April 9, 2009, the Forest Service, Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics (FSEEE), Allegheny Defense Project, and the Sierra Club filed a stipulation of dismissal, based upon a settlement agreement, with the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania (*FSEEE et al. v. Forest Service*, 08-323 (W.D. Pa.)). This lawsuit challenged the issuance of Notices to Proceed for development of reserved and outstanding mineral rights within the Allegheny National Forest without preparation of environmental analyses pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969. The lawsuit was dismissed in May 2009.

Briefly, the settlement filed with the court included the processing of 54 oil and gas proposals for a total of 588 wells, 2 pipelines, and 1 seismic line using current review and approval procedures. Furthermore, the settlement established that the appropriate level of NEPA be conducted prior to authorization of future proposals.

The Allegheny National Forest is also in the process of preparing a supplemental environmental impact statement for the 2007 Forest Plan. This process responds to instructions in the February 15, 2008, decision by the Chief of the Forest Service on appeals of the Allegheny National Forest Revised Land and Resource Management Plan pertaining to design criteria associated with the development of reserved and outstanding mineral rights within the Allegheny National Forest. Information for this process can be found at *http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/allegheny/* and by clicking on the link for the ANF 2007 Forest Plan Supplemental EIS.

Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose of this action is to authorize reasonable access for forest-