Signed in Washington, DC, on May 23, 2003.

James R. Little,

Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Information Collection; Aviation Forms

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; request for comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Forest Service is seeking comments from all interested individuals and organizations on the extension of the currently approved collection of four aviation forms that assist in the documentation of pilot and aircraft qualifications, approval, and data records. These OMB approved forms include: (1) Airplane Pilot Qualifications and Approval Record (FS–5700–20); (2) Helicopter Pilot Qualifications and Approval Record (FS–5700–20a); (3) Airplane Data Record (FS–5700–21); (4) and Helicopter Data Record (FS–5700–21a).

DATES: Comments must be received in writing on or before August 4, 2003 to be assured of consideration. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

ADDRESSES: Comments concerning this notice should be addressed to Jim Barnett, Fire and Aviation Staff, Mail Stop 1107, 1400 Independence Avenue, Washington DC 20250–1107.

Comments also may be submitted via facsimile to (202) 205–1401 or by e-mail to: *jbarnett02@fs.fed.us.*

The public may inspect comments received at the Yates Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, Washington DC during normal business hours. Visitors are encouraged to call ahead to (202) 205–0985 to facilitate entry to the building.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jim Barnett, Fire and Aviation Staff, (202) 205–0985. Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1–800–877–8339 twenty-four hours a day, every day of the year, including holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Airplane Pilot Qualifications and Approval Record (FS–5700–20), Helicopter Pilot Qualifications and Approval Record (FS–5700–20a), Airplane Data Record (FS–5700–21), and Helicopter Data Record (FS–5700–21a).

OMB Number: 0596–0015.

Expiration Date of Approval: May 31, 2003.

Type of Request: Extension with revision.

Abstract: The Forest Service contracts with approximately 400 vendors for aviation services that are utilized in resource protection and project management. Total annual use of contract aircraft and pilots in recent years has exceeded 100,000 hours. Hence, in order to maintain an acceptable level of safety, mission preparedness, and cost effectiveness in aviation operations, Forest Service contracts call for rigorous qualifications for pilots and specific condition; equipment and performance requirements for aircraft. Aviation operations are conducted under extremely adverse conditions of weather, terrain, turbulence, smoke reduced visibility, minimally improved landing areas, and congested airspace around wildfires.

To ensure agency contracting officers that the pilots and aircraft meet the specific Forest Service qualifications and other requirements for aviation operations, prospective contract pilots must provide the information on the FS–5700–20 and FS–5700–20a forms. Contract Officers' Technical Representatives use the FS–5700–21 and FS–5700–21a forms as worksheets when checking the aircraft for contract compliance. A portion of the completed form is furnished to the contractor as proof of compliance.

The following changes were incorporated into the forms: (1) Below the title of each of the existing forms is a Reference to FSH 5709.12. This handbook no longer exists. The replacement reference should read FSH 5709.16. (2) Forms FS–5700–21 (Airplane Data Card) and FS–5700–21a (Helicopter Data Card) reflect the many changes that have occurred in the contracting and aircraft approval process since the forms were last updated. The basic changes consist of removing some unnecessary information from the ''cards,'' and adding information to the ''Authorized Uses'' blocks. In the other sections of the form the changes reflect the deletion of unneeded information and the addition of blocks to meet new requirements such as updated Avionics and Synthetic Long-Line requirements.

Without the information supplied on these forms, Forest Service contracting officers and pilot and aircraft inspectors cannot determine if pilots and aircraft meet the detailed qualification, equipment, and condition requirements essential to safe, effective accomplishment of Forest Service specified flying missions. Without reasonable basis to determine pilot qualifications and aircraft capability, Forest Service employees using these resources would be unnecessarily exposed to flying hazards.

The completed forms are maintained in Forest Service Regional headquarters under the care of the Regional aviation pilot and aircraft inspectors. Copies of the forms may be shared with the Office of Aircraft Services, Department of Interior, since each organization accepts contract inspections conducted by the other as meeting their own requirements.

The data collected from these forms will be used to document the basis for approval of contract pilots and aircraft for specific Forest Service aviation missions. Based upon the approvals documented on these forms, approval cards are issued to each contractor pilot and for each contractor aircraft. Forest Service personnel verify possession of properly approved cards before using contractor pilots and aircraft.

The information will be collected and revised by contracting officers or their representatives including the aircraft inspectors, and will represent data that determines whether the aircraft and/or pilots meet all contract specifications in accordance with Forest Service Handbook 5709.16, chapter 10, section 16. If the information is not collected by the Forest Service, the burden of collection, inspection and approval will be placed on another agency, most likely the Federal Aviation Administration. However, a joint study, conducted with the Department of Transportation, concluded that the Forest Service can complete their contract inspections more economically than by transferring this additional responsibility to the Federal Aviation Administration.

Estimate of Annual Burden: One hour.

Type of Respondents: Aircraft vendors that wish to contract with the Federal government for aircraft services and pilots.

Estimated Annual Number of Respondents: Hundreds of vendors will respond each year. Each of these vendors may have multiple aircraft and pilots.

Estimated Annual Number of Responses per Respondent: Contract vendors will be required to provide one response per year for each aircraft and pilot that will be involved with a Federal contract.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: One and a half (1.5) hours per respondent per year.

Comment Is Invited

Comment is invited on: (1) Whether this collection of information is necessary for the stated purposes and the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical or scientific utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) 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 Comments

All comments received in response to this notice, including names and addresses when provided, will be a matter of public record. Comments will be summarized and included in the submission request toward Office of Management and Budget approval.

Dated: May 28, 2003.

Robin L. Thompson,

Acting Deputy Chief, State and Private Forestry.

[FR Doc. 03–13784 Filed 6–2–03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Supplement to the Final Environmental Impact Statement for Deadman Creek Ecosystem Management Projects, Colville National Forest, Ferry County, WA

AGENCY: Forest Service.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare a supplement to a final environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The USDA Forest Service will prepare a supplement to the final environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Deadman Creek Ecosystem Management Projects on the Three Rivers Range District of the Colville National Forest. The draft supplemental EIS will display the original alternatives as described in the final EIS. Specific actions include silviculture treatments that include timber harvest, pre-commercial thinning post and pole removal, post harvest fuels treatments, natural fuels under-burning, site preparation and reforestation, establishment of marten and pileated woodpecker management requirement areas, new road construction, road reconstruction, and road maintenance. The draft supplemental EIS will add to and update the analysis described in the final EIS. The supplemental information includes updated data in all specialist reporting areas. Emphasis areas where considerable changes were made in text and/or data include recreation/visuals, soils, fishery biology, hydrology, transportation, and roadless area analysis. There will be no additional scoping period on this project. There will be a 45 day public review and comment period on the draft supplemental EIS.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments regarding the scope of this supplemental analysis to Rolando Ortegon, Acting Forest Supervisor, Colville National Forest, 765 South Main, Colville, Washington 99114.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tom Pawley, Deadman Creek Ecosystem Management Projects Leader, Three Rivers Ranger District, 255 West 11th, Kettle Falls, Washington 99141, phone (509) 738–7700.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for this proposed action was originally published in the **Federal Register** on November 12, 1996. The draft EIS was released February 11, 2000 with the comment period ending April 28, 2000. On March 20, 2001 the Record of decision (ROD) to implement Alternative D (modified) of the Deadman Creek Ecosystem Management Projects was signed. On September 7, 2001, the Colville National Forest Supervisor withdrew the ROD. New supplemental information will be analyzed in this draft supplemental EIS to address issues raised by public and appellants in the appeal of the ROD.

The original key issues will guide the analysis. These issues are the effects of new road construction, and the effects of entry into inventoried roadless areas and other areas with similar characteristics. The supplemental information to be analyzed includes: a better defined purpose and need section; indicators or units of measure for key issues; changes in regulations and requirements regarding threatened, endangered, and sensitive wildlife and fish species, and sensitive plant species, and how that affects the proposed project; the results of additional field work conducted in soils and hydrology; supplemental information on recreation within the project areas; changes in direction regarding Inventories Roadless Areas and other areas lacking classified roads; inclusion of a required Roads Analysis report; and additional cumulative effects in most of the resource areas.

The public is invited to offer suggestions and comments in writing following the release of the draft supplemental EIS. Comments received, including the names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposal and will be available to public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal for subsequent decision under 36 CFR part 215. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 127(d); and any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information (FOIA) permits such confidentiality may be granted in only limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within a specified number of days.

The draft supplemental EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and released for public review June 2003. The comment period on the draft supplemental will be 45 days from the date the EPA publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

The Forest Service believes it is important to give reviewers notice of this early stage of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of a draft supplemental EIS must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so 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. 509, 553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft supplemental EIS stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final supplemental EIS may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *City of Angoon* v. *Hodel*, 400 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