



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

September 15, 2016

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 are requested regarding (1) 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) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden 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 those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques and other forms of information technology.

Comments regarding this information collection received by [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER] will be considered.

Written comments should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), New Executive Office Building, 725 – 17th Street N.W., Washington, D.C., 20503. Commentors are encouraged to submit their comments to OMB via email to: OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov or fax (202) 395-5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, D.C. 20250-7602. 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.

Forest Service

TITLE: Application and Permit for Non-Federal Commercial Use of Roads, Trails and Areas Restricted by Regulation or Order

OMB CONTROL NUMBER: 0596-0016

SUMMARY OF COLLECTION: Authority for permits for use of National Forest System (NFS) roads, trails, and areas on NFS lands restricted by order or regulation derives from the National Forest Roads and Trails Act (16 U.S.C. 532-538). The authority for the Road Use Permit process comes from 36 CFR 212.5, 36 CFR 212.9 and 36 CFR 261.54. Section 212.9 authorizes the Forest Service (FS) to develop a road system with private holders that is mutually beneficial to both parties. The FS transportation system includes approximately 380,000 miles of roads.

These roads are grouped into five maintenance levels. Level one includes roads, which are closed and maintained only to protect the environment to level five, which is maintained for safe passenger car use. The roads usually provide the only access to commercial products including timber and minerals found on both Federal and private lands within and adjacent to National Forests. Annual maintenance not performed becomes a backlog that creates a financial burden for the FS. To remedy the backlog and pay for needed maintenance the FS requires commercial users to apply and pay for a permit to use the FS Road System. Maintenance resulting from

commercial use is accomplished through collection of funds or requiring the commercial users to perform the maintenance.

NEED AND USE OF THE INFORMATION: Information is collected from individuals, corporations, or organizations on the FS-7700-40 “Application for a Permit for Use of Roads, Trails and Areas Restricted by Regulation or Order” along with FS-7700-40a “Commercial Use Attachment” or FS-7700-40b “Oversize Vehicle Attachment” if applicable. The forms provide identifying information about the applicant such as, the name; address; and telephone number; description of mileage of roads; purpose of use; use schedule; and plans for future use. FS will use the information to prepare the applicant’s permit, FS-7700-41 or FS-7700-48, to identify the road maintenance that is the direct result of the applicant's traffic, to calculate any applicable collections for recovery of past Federal investments in roads and assure that the requirements are met. Without the Road Use Permit, the backlog of maintenance would increase and the FS would have great difficulty providing the transportation system necessary to meet our mission.

DESCRIPTION OF RESPONDENTS: Business or other for-profit; Individuals or households; State, Local or Tribal Government; Not-for-profit institutions

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS: 1,100

FREQUENCY OF RESPONSES: Reporting: On occasion

TOTAL BURDEN HOURS: 163

Charlene Parker
Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer

*Billing Code 3411-15

[FR Doc. 2016-22552 Filed: 9/19/2016 8:45 am; Publication Date: 9/20/2016]