(3) Evaluate the quality, utility, and clarity of the information technology; and
(4) Minimize the burden of the information collection on those who respond through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

All comments received in response to this notice, including names and addresses where provided, will be made a matter of public record. Comments will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval of the information collection.


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

[FR Doc. 2015–05227 Filed 3–5–15; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3410–05–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

March 2, 2015.

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.

Comments regarding this information collection received by April 6, 2015 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 NW., Washington, DC 20503. Commenters 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, DC 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 validOMB 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.

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Title: Colony Loss Surveys.
OMB Control Number: 0535–NEW.
Summary of Collection: The primary objectives of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) are to prepare and issue official State and national estimates of crop and livestock production, disposition and prices, economic statistics, and environmental statistics related to agriculture and to conduct the Census of Agriculture and its follow-on surveys. Pollinators (honeybees) are vital to the agricultural industry for producing food for the world’s population. Ad hoc surveys showed a dramatic rise in the number of disappearances of honeybee colonies in North America in late 2006. The collapse or decline of honeybee colonies is significant economically because many agricultural crops worldwide are pollinated by European honeybees. General authority for these data collection activities is granted under U.S.C. Title 7, Section 2204.

Need and Use of the Information: To collect critical information NASS will use two surveys which will complement its existing Bee and Honey Collection (0535–0153) that focuses on bee keepers with 5 or more colonies. The Colony Loss Quarterly Survey will be administered quarterly to a subsample of bee keepers responding to the annual Bee and Honey Inquiry. The Colony Loss Annual Survey will be administered to bee keepers with fewer than 5 colonies. The data collected will include state of colony residence, the commercial movement of colonies between states, newly added or replacement colonies, colony losses, and presence of colony stress factors, such as pests or parasites.

Description of Respondents: Farmers and Beekeepers.
Number of Respondents: 23,300.
Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Quarterly; One time.

Total Burden Hours: 8,353.

Charlene Parker,
Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.
[FR Doc. 2015–05263 Filed 3–5–15; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3410–20–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Forest Service

Flathead National Forest, Montana; Revision of the Land Management Plan for the Flathead National Forest and an Amendment of the Helena, Kootenai, Lewis and Clark, and Loilo National Forest Plans to Incorporate Relevant Direction From the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: As directed by the National Forest Management Act, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, is preparing the Flathead National Forest’s revised land management plan (forest plan) and an amendment to provide relevant direction from the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE) Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy into the forest plans for the Helena, Kootenai, Lewis and Clark, and Lolo National Forests. The Forest Service will prepare a single environmental impact statement (EIS) for its revised forest plan and the amendment.

This notice briefly describes the proposed action based on the need to change the existing plans, the nature of the decision to be made, and information concerning public participation. This notice also provides estimated dates for filing the EIS, the name and address of the responsible agency officials, and the individuals who can provide additional information. Finally, this notice identifies the applicable planning rule that will be used for completing the plan revision and amendment.

The revised Flathead forest plan will supersede the existing forest plan that was approved by the Regional Forester in 1986, and amended more than 20 times since. The existing Flathead forest plan will remain in effect until the revised forest plan takes effect. The management direction pertaining to grizzly bear within the current forest plans of the Helena National Forest, approved by the Regional Forester in 1986; Kootenai National Forest, approved by the Regional Forester in
The Forest Service is preparing the Flathead National Forest revised land management plan (forest plan) and an amendment to provide relevant direction from the North Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE) Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy into the forest plans for the Helena, Kootenai, Lewis and Clark and Lolo National Forests. The full proposed action for the Flathead National Forest’s revised forest plan includes forest-wide, geographic area, and management area desired conditions, objectives, standards, guidebook suitability of lands for specific multiple uses, including, for example, those lands suitable for timber production. The proposed action includes estimates of the long-term sustained yield and planned sale quantity for the forest. The proposed action includes a description of the plan area’s distinctive roles and contributions within the broader landscape, the identification of priority restoration watersheds, and suitability of national forest lands to support a variety of proposed and possible actions that may occur on the plan area over the life of the plan. The proposed action also identifies a monitoring program. The proposed action includes 188,206 acres to be recommended to Congress for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System and 22 rivers for inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Need for Action

The need for the proposed action is twofold: (1) Significant changes have occurred in conditions and demands since the Flathead’s 1986 Forest Plan and (2) to ensure the adequacy of regulatory mechanisms regarding habitat protection across the national forests in the NCDE in support of the delisting of the grizzly bear. Several areas where changes are needed in the Flathead NF plan were brought to the forefront by the requirements of the 2012 Planning Rule for the National Forest System; findings from the development of the Assessment of the Flathead National Forest (a precursor document in the planning process that identified and evaluated the existing condition across the forest landscape); changes in conditions and demands since the 1986 Forest Plan; and public concerns to date.

The 2012 Planning Rule, which became effective May 9, 2012, requires inclusion of plan components, including standards or guidelines, that address social and economic sustainability, ecosystem services, and multiple uses integrated with the plan components for ecological sustainability and species diversity. Social and economic management direction is needed to provide people and communities with a range of social and economic benefits for present and future generations. As an example, since approval of the Flathead’s 1986 Forest Plan, the role of timber harvest in meeting ecosystem management and social and economic objectives has changed. The 2012 Planning Rule requires the Forest to undertake a process to identify lands within the plan area for timber production suitability, and identified lands will develop plan components for lands suitable for timber production and for lands where timber harvest is appropriate for purposes other than timber production. To meet the Planning Rule’s requirement to provide for ecological sustainability, management direction is needed that addresses ecosystem diversity (including key ecosystem characteristics and their integrity), in light of changes in climate, fuels, vegetation management strategies, and future environmental conditions. Revised plan components are needed that focus on maintaining or restoring vegetation and ecosystems to provide for species diversity including threatened and endangered species, species of conservation concern, and species of public interest. Additionally, comprehensive management direction is needed to address suitability of certain areas for particular uses, address access and sustainable recreation, provide for the management of existing and anticipated uses, as well as protect resources. During the plan revision process, the 2012 Planning Rule requires the Forest Service to undertake processes to identify and evaluate lands that may be suitable for inclusion on the National Wilderness Preservation System and identify eligible rivers for inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, federal agencies are directed to use their authorities to seek to conserve endangered and threatened species. The Canada lynx was listed as a threatened species in 2000. Since that time, the Flathead Forest Plan has been amended with the Northern Rockies Lynx Management Direction (USDA FS 2007), the USFWS designated and updated Canada lynx critical habitat (USDI FWS 2009, 2014), and the Lynx Conservation and Assessment Strategy has been updated (Lynx Biology Team 2013). Thus, the Forest Plan needs to integrate recent and relevant information for Canada lynx to its plan.

Habitat conditions and management on the Flathead, Helena, Kootenai, Lewis and Clark, and Lolo National Forests have contributed importantly to the increased population size and improved status of the grizzly bear across the NCDE. Supporting a healthy, recovered grizzly bear population will depend on continued, effective management of the NCDE grizzly bear’s habitat. In 2013, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s announced the availability of a draft Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy for the NCDE population for public review and input. When finalized, the Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy will become the post-delisting management plan for the
NCDE grizzly bear population and its
habitat. By providing relevant direction from the NCDE Grizzly Bear
Conservation Strategy into forest plans, the Forest Service will be able to
demonstrate to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that adequate
regulatory mechanisms exist on national forests within the NCDE to support a
delisted grizzly bear population. Under
the transition provisions of the 2012
Forest Planning Rule (36 CFR 219.17),
an amendment to a plan that was
approved or revised under a prior planning
regulation, may be initiated under
the provisions of the prior planning regulation for 3 years after
May 9, 2012, and may be completed and
approved under those provisions (36
CFR 219.17 (b)(2)). The proposal is to
amend the Helena, Kootenai, Lewis and
Clark and Lolo National Forest plans
under the 1982 planning regulations in
effect prior to November 9, 2000 (see 36
CFR parts 200 to 299, Revised as of July
1, 2000). Thus, under the transition
provisions of the 2012 Forest Planning
Rule, the Forest Service has the
opportunity to carry out the
amendments concurrently with the
Flathead forest plan revision. The
Flathead planning team, in addition to
capturing the grand involvement, is
coordinating the National
Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) effort
for the amendment with the Kootenai,
Lolo, Lewis and Clark National Forests to ensure that adequate
regulatory mechanisms for habitat
protections specific to the de-listing of
the grizzly bear is consistent on
National Forest System lands
throughout the NCDE. Finally, public
participation through scoping may
identify other needs for change that will be
considered during the plan revision.

Public Involvement for the Flathead Plan
Revision
The Flathead National Forest began
public participation when developing
the Assessment of the Flathead National
Forest. To facilitate local participation, the Forest contracted with the U.S.
Institute for Environmental Conflict
Resolution in 2012 to develop a
collaborative stakeholder engagement
process. The Institute conducted
assessments with Forest Service
employees and a representative group of
key stakeholders to determine their
willingness to engage in a collaborative process convened by a neutral, third
day. The Meridian Institute
was selected to serve in that capacity and facilitated numerous topical work
groups, an interagency group, and
meetings to bring together all work
groups and interested citizens. Also, as
part of the public involvement process, the Forest Service led field trips and
held open house sessions to discuss
existing information and trends related to
a variety of conditions found on the
the forest. The information acquired from
the public involvement process was
used to help develop the Flathead NF
forest plan revision proposed action.

Responsible Officials
The responsible official who will
approve the Record of Decision for the
Flathead NF revised forest plan is
Sharon Labreque, Acting Forest
Supervisor for the Flathead National
Forest, 650 Wolfpack Way, Kalispell,
MT 59901, (406) 758–5208. The
responsible officials who will approve the Record of Decision for the
Amendment are: William Avey, Forest
Supervisor for the Helena and Lewis
and Clark National Forests Supervisor’s
Office, 2880 Skyway Drive, Helena, MT 59602, (406) 449–5201; Christopher S.
Savage, Forest Supervisor for the
Kootenai National Forest, 31374 U.S.
Highway 2, Libby, MT 59923–3022,
(406) 293–6211; and Timothy Garcia,
Forest Supervisor for the Lolo National
Forest, 24 Fort Missoula Road,
Missoula, MT 59903, (406) 329–3750.

Nature of Decision To Be Made
For the Flathead forest plan revision, the responsible official will decide
whether the required plan components (desired conditions, objectives,
standards, guidelines) are sufficient to
promote the ecological integrity and
sustainability of the Flathead National
Forest’s ecosystems, watersheds, and
diverse plant and animal communities.
In addition, the responsible official will
decide if the plan provides sufficient
management guidance to contribute to
social and economic sustainability, to
provide people and communities with
ecosystem services and multiple uses
including a range of social, economic,
and ecological benefits for the present
and into the future. Standards,
guidelines, and other direction related to
conservation of threatened and
dangerous species, (e.g., the Canada
lynx, grizzly bear, bull trout, and water
towelling) will be evaluated for the
Flathead National Forest in the EIS.

For the amendment component of the
proposed action, the responsible
officials will decide whether desired
conditions, standards, guidelines, and
monitoring requirements relevant to
national forest grizzly bear habitat
management in the NCDE are necessary
and appropriate to amend the Helena,
Lewis and Clark, Kootenai, and Lolo
forest plans. The Kootenai National
Forest Plan spans two grizzly bear
ecosystems and the Lolo National Forest
Plan spans three. The proposed action
applies only to the NCDE. No changes in
forest plan direction are being
considered within the Cabinet-Yaak or
Bitterroot recovery areas.

This proposed action is programmatic
in nature and guides future
implementation of site-specific projects.
Additional NEPA compliance would be
required for site-specific projects as part of
a two-stage decision making process
(Council of Environmental Quality
regulations for implementing NEPA; 40
CFR 1508.23, 42 U.S.C. 4322(2)(C)), 36
CFR 219.7(f)).

Scoping Process
This notice of intent initiates the
scoping process, which guides the
development of the EIS. We are seeking
your input to continue to develop the
Flathead NF revised plan and for NCDE
grizzly bear habitat management for the
four amendment forests. In addition to
requesting comments specific to the
Flathead NF proposed action, we are
also seeking comments regarding the
potential list of species of conservation
concern, the identified recommended
wilderness acres and eligible wild and
scenic rivers, as well as other significant
issues.

The following community meetings are
planned to provide additional
information and address questions
related to the revision and amendment
proposed action:
• March 17, 2015, 5:30–7:30 p.m.,
Flathead National Forest Supervisors
Office, 650 Wolfpack Way, Kalispell,
MT 59901.
• March 19, 2015, 5:30–7:30 p.m.,
Riverstone Family Lodge, 6370 US Hwy
93N, Eureka, MT 59917.
• April 7, 2015, 5:30–7:30 p.m.,
Seeley Lake Community Center, Seely
Lake, MT 59868.
• April 8, 2015, 5:30–7:30 p.m., Fort
Missoula Pavilion, Missoula, MT 59804.
• April 9, 2015, 5:30–7:30 p.m.,
Superior Ranger Station Conference
Room, Superior, MT 59872.
• April 14, 2015, 5:30–7:30 p.m.,
Lincoln Community Hall, 404 Main St.,
Lincoln, MT 59639.
• April 15, 2015, 5:30–7:30 p.m.,
Stage Stop Inn, 1005 Main Ave. North,
Choteau, MT 59422.

Changes to the meeting schedule will
be communicated on the Flathead
Forest Plan revision Web page at
www.fs.usda.gov/goto/flathead/fpr, as
well as the amendment Web site at
www.fs.usda.gov/goto/flathead/
gbamen.

It is important that reviewers provide
their comments at such times and in
such manner that they are useful to the
agency’s preparation of the EIS. Therefore, comments should be provided prior to the close of the comment period and should clearly articulate the reviewer’s concerns and contentions. 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.

**Decision Will Be Subject to Objection**

Only those individuals and entities who have submitted substantive formal comments related to the Flathead NF plan revision and the four amendments during the opportunities provided for public comment (beginning with this NOI), will be eligible to file an objection (36 CFR 219.53(a)). The decision to approve the revised forest plan for the Flathead National Forest and the amendment for the Helena, Lewis and Clark, Kootenai, and Lolo National Forests will be subject to the objection process identified in 36 CFR part 219 subpart B (219.50 to 219.62).

**Documents Available for Review**

The Flathead National Forest plan revision Web site (www.fs.usda.gov/goto/flathead/fpr) provides the full text of the proposed action, describing preliminary desired conditions, objectives, standards, guidelines, and other plan content; the 2014 Assessment; summaries of the public meetings and public meeting materials; and public comments. The forest plan amendment component of the proposed action for the Helena, Kootenai, Lewis and Clark, and Lolo National Forests is located at www.fs.usda.gov/goto/flathead/gbamend, which can be linked from the individual Forest’s Web sites as well. The material available on these sites may be updated or revised at any time as part of the planning process.


Dated: February 26, 2015.

Sharon Labreque,
Acting Forest Supervisor, Flathead NF.

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**Forest Service**

**Forest Resource Coordinating Committee**

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Forest Resource Coordinating Committee (Committee) will meet via teleconference. The Committee is established consistent with the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA) (5 U.S.C. App. II), and the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (the Act) (Pub. L. 110–246). Additional information concerning the Committee, including the meeting agenda, supporting documents and minutes, can be found by visiting the Committee’s Web site at http://www.fs.fed.us/sfp/coop/fccc/.

**DATES:** The teleconference will be held on March 17, 2015 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time (EST). The meeting is subject to cancellation. For status of the meeting prior to attendance, please contact the person listed under FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held via teleconference. For anyone who would like to attend the teleconference, please visit the Web site listed in the SUMMARY section or contact Andrea Bedell-Loucks at ab loucks@fs.fed.us for further details. Written comments may be submitted as described under SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION. All comments, including names and addresses when provided, are placed in the record and are available for public inspection and copying. The public may inspect comments placed on the Committee’s Web site listed above.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Andrea Bedell-Loucks, Designated Federal Officer, Cooperative Forestry staff, 202–205–1190. Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The purpose of the meeting is to:
1. Finalize April meeting agenda—topics, presentations and logistics, and

The teleconference is open to the public. However, the public is strongly encouraged to RSVP prior to the teleconference to ensure all related documents are shared with public meeting participants. The agenda will include time for people to make oral statements of three minutes or less. Individuals wishing to make an oral statement should submit a request in writing 10 days before the planned meeting to be scheduled on the agenda. Anyone who would like to bring related matters to the attention of the Committee may file written statements with the Committee staff before or after the meeting. Written comments and time requests for oral comments must be sent to Laurie Schoonhoven, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Mailstop 1123, Washington, DC 20250 or by email to lschoonhoven@fs.fed.us. A summary of the meeting will be posted on the Web site listed above within 21 days after the meeting.

**Meeting Accommodations:** If you are a person requiring reasonable accommodation, please make requests in advance for sign language interpreting, assistive listening devices or other reasonable accommodation for access to the facility or proceedings by contacting the person listed in the section titled FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT. All reasonable accommodation requests are managed on a case by case basis.

Dated: March 2, 2015.

Patti Hirami,
Assistant Deputy Chief, State and Private Forestry.

[FR Doc. 2015–05195 Filed 3–5–15; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3411–15–P**

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**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**Food Safety and Inspection Service**

**[Docket No. FSIS–2015–0003]**

**Notice of Request for a New Information Collection: Gathering Sessions for Safe Food Handling Instructions**

**AGENCY:** Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations, the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is announcing its intention to request a new information collection for a survey of consumers about safe food handling instructions.

**DATES:** Submit comments on or before May 5, 2015.