



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Information Collection: Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Financial Assistance to Facilities that Purchase and Process Byproducts for Ecosystem Restoration (ALN 10.725) Wood Products Infrastructure Assistance (WPIA)

AGENCY: Forest Service, Agriculture (USDA).

ACTION: Notice; request for comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Forest Service (Agency) is seeking comments from all interested individuals and organizations on the extension with no revision of a currently approved information collection, *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Financial Assistance to Facilities that Purchase and Process Byproducts for Ecosystem Restoration (ALN 10.725) Wood Products Infrastructure Assistance (WPIA)*.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing on or before **[INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]** to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Comments concerning this notice should be addressed to Jeff High, USDA Forest Service, Ouachita National Forest, P.O. Box 1270, Hot Springs, AR 71901. Comments also may be submitted by email to Jeffrey.c.high@usda.gov.

Comments submitted in response to this notice may be made available to the public through relevant websites and upon request. For this reason, please do not include in your comments information of a confidential nature, such as sensitive personal information or proprietary information. If you send an email comment, your email address will be automatically captured and included as part of the comment that is placed in the public docket and made available for public viewing. Please note that comments

containing any routine notice about the confidentiality of the communication will be treated as public comments that may be made available to the public notwithstanding the inclusion of the routine notice.

The public may request that an electronic copy of the supporting documents for the information collection and/or any comments received be sent via return email.

Requests should be emailed to *jeffrey.c.high@usda.gov*.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeff High, USDA Forest Service, Ouachita National Forest, P.O. Box 1270, Hot Springs, AR 71901, 501-802-7412, *jeffrey.c.high@usda.gov*. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may call 711 to reach the Telecommunications Relay Service then provide the phone number of the person named as a point of contact for further information.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Financial Assistance to Facilities that Purchase and Process Byproducts for Ecosystem Restoration (ALN 10.725) Wood Products Infrastructure Assistance (WPIA)

OMB Number: 0596-0254

Expiration Date of Approval: October 31, 2026

Type of Review: Extension with no Revision of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The grants and agreements awarded under this announcement will support the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), 2021. Section 40804(b)3 directs the USDA Forest Service to provide financial assistance to an entity seeking to establish, reopen, expand, or improve a sawmill or other wood processing facility in close proximity to a unit of Federal or Indian land that has been identified as high or very high priority for ecological restoration for the purpose of reducing the cost of forest management. Eligible applicants are for-profit entities; State, local governments; Indian

Tribes; school districts; community, not-for-profit organizations; institutions of higher education; and special purpose districts (e.g., public utilities districts, fire districts, conservation districts, and ports). The need and process to collect information from applicants is detailed in 2 CFR Part 200 and Forest Service Handbook 1509.11, Chapter 20, which prescribes administrative requirements and processes applicable to all Forest Service Domestic Federal Financial Assistance awards. Specifically, collection of information will be completed by applicants seeking financial assistance under the WPIA program using a simple form to gather required metrics that demonstrate proximity of project facility locations to Federal and Tribal lands and ties of project outcomes to ecological restoration on Federal and Tribal lands. Information collected will be reviewed by Forest Service staff to evaluate eligibility of applicants and the merits of proposals submitted. Without the information collection, determining applicant eligibility and whether proposals meet legislative requirements would be difficult or impossible, and applicant success would be diminished.

Affected Public: Individuals and Households; the Private Sector (Businesses and Non-Profit Organizations); and State, Local or Tribal Government

Estimated Annual Burden Per Response: 8.25 hours

Estimated Annual Number of Respondents: 78

Estimated Annual Number of Responses per Respondent: 1

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 643.5 hours

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.

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 for Office of Management and Budget approval.

Lisa Northrop,

Associate Deputy Chief, State and Private Forestry and National Forest System

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