

# **Federal**

## **Timber**

### **Purchasers**

#### **Committee**

January 12,2007

Lathrop Smith  
Forest~anagement  
USDA Forest Service  
1400 Independence Ave, S W  
~ail Stop 1103  
Washington, DC 20250-1103

VIA FAX TO 202-205-1045

RE: Comments on Information Collection; Request for Comment; Operating Plans  
(Federal Register: October 19,2006 Volume 71, Number 202, Page 61706)

The Federal Timber Purchasers Committee (FTPC) hereby submits comments in response to the above referenced Federal Register Notice request for comment. The FTPC is a nationwide coalition of organizations with interest and expertise in federal timber sales and related contract issues. Our members purchase, harvest, and process Forest Service timber and have a direct economic interest in Forest Service rules, policies, and procedures that affect timber sales.

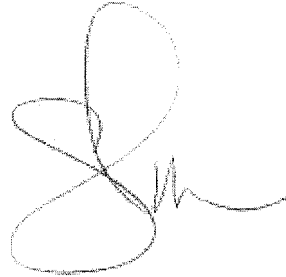
The FTPC supports the use and requirement of operating plans for timber sales exceeding 2 years in length. The FTPC generally has found that the collection of information in the operating plan is appropriate and should provide the agency with the information necessary to oversee and monitor the operation of a timber sale. Information collected includes, but is not limited to, detailing use of best management practices and measures used to protect public and environmental safety. The FTPC believes the agencies' estimate of burden, 1.6 hours per response, to be accurate and sufficient, recognizing that more time would be needed for larger sales or special circumstances. At this time the FTPC does not suggest any enhancement to the information collection process, nor do we suggest ways to minimize the collection burden, as we feel this is not a considerable or significant burden to the timber purchasers and those affected.

In summary, the Federal Timber Purchasers Committee (FTPC) supports the use of operating plans. We urge the Forest Service to ensure this tool can be successfully

utilized to further the contractual obligations of the Forest Service to the timber contractor.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you would like to discuss our experience in the use of the operating plan for federal timber sales, do not hesitate to contact me at 530-938-5725 or [shenson@rfpco.com](mailto:shenson@rfpco.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SHenson', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Steve Henson  
Chairman  
Federal Timber Purchasers Committee