

**Pt. 228**

at National Forests or National Grasslands where the funds were collected until September 30, 2010, unless the program is extended.

(b) Funds deposited into the special account specified in paragraph (a) of this section shall be expended at a National Forest or National Grassland in an amount equal to the fees collected at that unit and shall be used to pay for the costs of:

(1) Conducting inventories of forest botanical products;

(2) Determining, monitoring, and revising sustainable harvest levels for forest botanical products;

(3) Monitoring and assessing the impact of harvest levels and methods;

(4) Conducting restoration activities, including vegetation restoration; and

(5) Administering the pilot program, including environmental or other analyses.

**PART 228—MINERALS**

**Subpart A—Locatable Minerals**

- Sec.
- 228.1 Purpose.
- 228.2 Scope.
- 228.3 Definitions.
- 228.4 Plan of operations—notice of intent—requirements.
- 228.5 Plan of operations—approval.
- 228.6 Availability of information to the public.
- 228.7 Inspection, noncompliance.
- 228.8 Requirements for environmental protection.
- 228.9 Maintenance during operations, public safety.
- 228.10 Cessation of operations, removal of structures and equipment.
- 228.11 Prevention and control of fire.
- 228.12 Access.
- 228.13 Bonds.
- 228.14 Appeals.
- 228.15 Operations within National Forest Wilderness.

**Subpart B—Leasable Minerals**

228.20–228.39 [Reserved]

**Subpart C—Disposal of Mineral Materials**

- 228.40 Authority.
- 228.41 Scope.
- 228.42 Definitions.
- 228.43 Policy governing disposal.
- 228.44 Disposal on existing Federal leased areas.
- 228.45 Qualifications of applicants.

**36 CFR Ch. II (7–1–12 Edition)**

228.46 Application of other laws and regulations.

**GENERAL PROVISIONS**

- 228.47 General terms and conditions of contracts and permits.
- 228.48 Appraisal and measurement.
- 228.49 Reappraisal.
- 228.50 Production records.
- 228.51 Bonding.
- 228.52 Assignments.
- 228.53 Term.
- 228.54 Single entry sales or permits.
- 228.55 Cancellation or suspension.
- 228.56 Operating plans.

**TYPES AND METHODS OF DISPOSAL**

- 228.57 Types of disposal.
- 228.58 Competitive sales.
- 228.59 Negotiated or noncompetitive sales.
- 228.60 Prospecting permits.
- 228.61 Preference right negotiated sales.
- 228.62 Free use.
- 228.63 Removal under terms of a timber sale or other Forest Service contract.
- 228.64 Community sites and common-use areas.
- 228.65 Payment for sales.
- 228.66 Refunds.
- 228.67 Information collection requirements.

**Subpart D—Miscellaneous Minerals Provisions**

228.80 Operations within Misty Fjords and Admiralty Island National Monuments, Alaska.

**Subpart E—Oil and Gas Resources**

- 228.100 Scope and applicability.
- 228.101 Definitions.

**LEASING**

- 228.102 Leasing analyses and decisions.
- 228.103 Notice of appeals of decisions.
- 228.104 Consideration of requests to modify, waive, or grant exceptions to lease stipulations.

**AUTHORIZATION OF OCCUPANCY WITHIN A LEASEHOLD**

- 228.105 Issuance of onshore orders and notices to lessees.
- 228.106 Operator's submission of surface use plan of operations.
- 228.107 Review of surface use plan of operations.
- 228.108 Surface use requirements.
- 228.109 Bonds.
- 228.110 Indemnification.

**ADMINISTRATION OF OPERATIONS**

- 228.111 Temporary cessation of operations.
- 228.112 Compliance and inspection.
- 228.113 Notice of noncompliance.

## Forest Service, USDA

## § 228.4

228.114 Material noncompliance proceedings.

228.115 Additional notice of decisions.

228.116 Information collection requirements.

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SOURCE: 39 FR 31317, Aug. 28, 1974, unless otherwise noted. Redesignated at 46 FR 36142, July 14, 1981.

### Subpart A—Locatable Minerals

#### § 228.1 Purpose.

It is the purpose of these regulations to set forth rules and procedures through which use of the surface of National Forest System lands in connection with operations authorized by the United States mining laws (30 U.S.C. 21-54), which confer a statutory right to enter upon the public lands to search for minerals, shall be conducted so as to minimize adverse environmental impacts on National Forest System surface resources. It is not the purpose of these regulations to provide for the management of mineral resources; the responsibility for managing such resources is in the Secretary of the Interior.

#### § 228.2 Scope.

These regulations apply to operations hereafter conducted under the United States mining laws of May 10, 1872, as amended (30 U.S.C. 22 *et seq.*), as they affect surface resources on all National Forest System lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture to which such laws are applicable: *Provided, however,* That any area of National Forest lands covered by a special Act of Congress (16 U.S.C. 482a-482q) is subject to the provisions of this part and the provisions of the special act, and in the case of conflict the provisions of the special act shall apply.

#### § 228.3 Definitions.

For the purposes of this part the following terms, respectively, shall mean:

(a) *Operations.* All functions, work, and activities in connection with

prospecting, exploration, development, mining or processing of mineral resources and all uses reasonably incident thereto, including roads and other means of access on lands subject to the regulations in this part, regardless of whether said operations take place on or off mining claims.

(b) *Operator.* A person conducting or proposing to conduct operations.

(c) *Person.* Any individual, partnership, corporation, association, or other legal entity.

(d) *Mining claim.* Any unpatented mining claim or unpatented millsite authorized by the United States mining laws of May 10, 1872, as amended (30 U.S.C. 22 *et seq.*).

(e) *Authorized officer.* The Forest Service officer to whom authority to review and approve operating plans has been delegated.

#### § 228.4 Plan of operations—notice of intent—requirements.

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (a)(1) of this section, a notice of intent to operate is required from any person proposing to conduct operations which might cause significant disturbance of surface resources. Such notice of intent to operate shall be submitted to the District Ranger having jurisdiction over the area in which the operations will be conducted. Each notice of intent to operate shall provide information sufficient to identify the area involved, the nature of the proposed operations, the route of access to the area of operations, and the method of transport.

(1) A notice of intent to operate is not required for:

(i) Operations which will be limited to the use of vehicles on existing public roads or roads used and maintained for National Forest System purposes;

(ii) Prospecting and sampling which will not cause significant surface resource disturbance and will not involve removal of more than a reasonable amount of mineral deposit for analysis and study which generally might include searching for and occasionally removing small mineral samples or specimens, gold panning, metal detecting, non-motorized hand sluicing, using