

Southern Research Station, at (706) 559-4268.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 requires that Federal agencies establish measurable goals and monitor their success at meeting those goals. Two items the Forest Service will measure are: (1) the views and satisfaction level of recreational visitors to National Forest System lands about the types and quality of recreation services the agency provides; and (2) the number of visitors who come to National Forest System lands for recreation. The agency is often asked for this kind of information from a variety of organizations that include Congressional staffs, newspapers, magazines, and recreational trade organizations.

The currently approved information collection is composed of two different survey forms that are designed to evaluate agency performance in meeting the needs of visitors to individual recreation sites. One form is used to describe the visitors, their level of satisfaction, and their evaluation of the agency's performance. The other form is required to estimate the number of visitors who use National Forests for recreation. The second collection form differs in both the sampling framework and the set of questions asked of visitors.

National Forest System land managers use the collected information to better understand their recreational visitors, to improve recreational opportunities and services, and to identify barriers that prevent the agency from meeting the recreational needs of its customers. Data from this information collection also will be considered in revisions of land and resource management plans for National Forest System lands, as required by the National Forest Management Act of 1976. The collected information will be shared with all National Forest System land managers and, upon request, with others. Results from this collection will be published in agency reports and various research journals.

Description of Information Collection

Title: Customer and Use Survey Techniques for Operations, Management, Evaluation, and Research.
OMB Number: 0596-0110.

Expiration Date of Approval: February 28, 2002.

Type of Request: Extension of a previously approved collection.

Abstract: The data from this information collection will provide the

agency with information about the characteristics, needs, and opinions of recreation visitors to selected recreation sites on Forest Service and other public agency lands.

Agency personnel, contract personnel, and volunteers, trained in conducting face-to-face interviews, will contact people who are visiting public lands for recreational purposes. Survey questions will focus on how well the agency meets visitors' expectations for recreational opportunities, their satisfaction with the recreational site of their choice, and if they have concerns regarding the agency's management of the site.

Agency land managers will use the collected information to better understand their recreational customers, to improve recreational opportunities and services, and to identify barriers that prevent the agency from meeting the recreational needs of its customers.

The collected information will be shared with agency land managers and upon request, with others.

Data gathered in this collection is not available from other sources.

Estimate of Burden: 10 minutes.

Type of Respondents: People who visit National Forest System land for recreational purposes.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 6,000.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 1,000 hours.

Description of Information Collection

Title: National Forest Visitor Use Monitoring.

OMB Number: 0596-0110.

Expiration Date of Approval: February 28, 2002.

Type of Request: Extension of a previously approved collection.

Abstract: Data from this information collection is used to estimate the numbers of recreational visitors to National Forests and Grasslands, and associated Wilderness, as well as the types of activities in which these visitors participate. The data are used to identify recreational markets, defined customers served, evaluate visitor satisfaction, and estimate the economic values and impacts of recreational visits.

Respondents are asked questions about the activities in which they participate while visiting National Forest System lands, the duration of their visit, how often they visit, what types of items they have purchased during their visit, and their satisfaction with various aspects of their visit.

Forest Service personnel will interview visitors as they exit National

Forest System recreational sites. Surveys will be conducted on about one-fourth of the National Forests each year, so that complete coverage of agency lands will occur over a four-year cycle. Each National Forest will retain a copy of data collected on its visitors. Results of this study will be published in agency reports and various research journals.

Data gathered in this collection is not available from other sources.

Estimate of Burden: 8 minutes.

Type of Respondents: People who visit the National Forest System lands for recreational purposes.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 60,000.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 8,000 hours.

Comment Is Invited

The agency invites comments on the following: (a) Whether the proposed 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; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) 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.

Use of Comment

All comments, including name and address when provided, will become a matter of public record. Comments received in response to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval.

Dated: August 5, 2002.

Robert Lewis, Jr.,

Deputy Chief, Research & Development.

[FR Doc. 02-20219 Filed 8-8-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Plumas National Forest; California; Stream Fire Restoration Project

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The USDA, Forest Service, Plumas National Forest will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on a proposal to treat fuels on approximately 2,300 acres in the Stream Fire burned area. The Stream Fire burned 3,483 acres in July and August 2001, on the Plumas National Forest. The proposed action would implement long-term restoration of ecosystem function and reduce future fire severity. Reducing the risk of another stand replacing fire involves a combination of recurring fuel treatments to modify fire behavior and effective suppression. The proposed action would treat dead trees on approximately 2265 acres using the following methods: whole tree removal utilizing ground based, skyline, or helicopter logging methods, handpiling and burning of the piles, contour felling, and/or lopping/scattering of slash. Live and dead conifer trees less than 6 inches in diameter would be felled, handpiled and the piles burned on approximately 35 acres. Approximately 7 acres of helicopter landings would be constructed. Approximately 4 miles of temporary road would be constructed. Following completion of the project, the temporary roads would be closed and reforested. Approximately 1 mile of roads that were opened for fire suppression activities would be closed. Approximately 2300 acres would be reforested. The land allocations for the fire areas are Old Forest Emphasis, General Forest, and Threat Zone of the Urban Wildland Intermix.

The proposed action is designed to meet the standards and guidelines for land management activities depicted in the Plumas National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (1988) as amended by the Record of Decision for the Herger-Feinstein Quincy Library Group Forest Recovery Act (1999), and as amended by the Record of Decision for the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (2001).

The proposed project is located in Plumas County, California, within the Mt. Hough Ranger District of the Plumas National Forest in all or portions of Sections 15, 16, 20, 21, 22, 25, 26, 27, 28, and 29 of T27N, R12E., MDM.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Terri Simon-Jackson, Mt. Hough District Ranger, 29696 Highway 70, Quincy CA 95971.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rich Bednarski, Interdisciplinary Team Leader, telephone: (530) 283-7641.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Decision To Be Made

The decision to be made is whether to: (1) Implement the proposed action; (2) meet the purpose and need for action through some other combination of activities; or (3) take no action at this time.

Responsible Official and Lead Agency

The USDA Forest Service is the lead agency for this proposal. Mt. Hough District Ranger Terri Simon-Jackson is the responsible official.

Tentative or Preliminary Issues and Possible Alternatives

In October 2001, the Mt. Hough District Ranger solicited public comment for the Stream Fire Salvage and Reforestation proposed action. Comments that were received from that process will be considered in this analysis. Controversy and uncertainty regarding post fire treatments have prompted the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Other alternatives may be developed based on significant issues identified during the scoping process for this EIS. All alternatives will need to respond to the specific condition of providing benefits equal to or better than the current condition. Alternatives being considered at this time include: (1) The Proposed Action and (2) No Action.

Public participation is especially important at several points during the analysis. The Forest Service will be seeking information, comments, and assistance from Federal, State, and local agencies and other individuals or organizations that may be interested in or affected by the proposed action. To facilitate public participation, information about the proposed action is listed in the Plumas National Forest Quarterly Schedule of Proposed Actions; will be mailed to all who have expressed interest in the proposed action; and notification of the public scoping period will be published in the Feather River Bulletin, Quincy, CA.

Comments received during the scoping process should be in writing and should be specific to the proposed action. The comments should describe as clearly and completely as possible any issues the commenter has with the proposal. The scoping process includes:

- (a) Identifying potential issues;
- (b) Identifying issues to be analyzed in depth;
- (c) Eliminating non-significant issues or those previously covered by a relevant environmental analysis;
- (d) Exploring additional alternatives;
- (e) Identifying potential environmental effects of the proposed action and alternatives.

Dates

Comments concerning the scope of the analysis should be received in writing on or before September 6, 2002.

Identification of Permits or Licenses Required

An Air Pollution Permit and a Smoke Management Plan are required by local agencies.

Estimated Dates for Filing

The draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency and available for public review in November 2002. The comment period on the draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability of the draft EIS in the **Federal Register**. At that time, copies of the draft EIS will be distributed to interested and affected agencies, organizations, and members of the public for review and comment. It is very important that those interested in the management of the Plumas National Forest participate at that time.

The Reviewer's Obligation To Comment

The Forest Service believes, at this early stage, it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of draft statements must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewer's position and contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft environmental impact statement stage, but that are not raised until after completion of the final environmental impact statement, may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F.2d 1016, 1022 (9th Cir. 1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). Because of these court rulings, it is very important that those interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the 45 day comment period so that substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider them and respond to them in the final EIS.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the draft EIS should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft statement. Comments may also address the

adequacy of the draft EIS or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the statement. Reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulation of implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

Dated: August 5, 2002.

Robert G. MacWhorter,

Acting Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 02-20155 Filed 8-8-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Eastern Washington Cascades Provincial Advisory Committee and the Yakima Provincial Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Eastern Washington Cascades Provincial Advisory Committee and the Yakima Provincial Advisory Committee will meet on Thursday, September 5, 2002, at the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests headquarters main conference room, 215 Melody Lane, Wenatchee, Washington. The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. and continue until 3 p.m. The location of the meeting is subject to change, please contact the headquarters office at (509) 6624335 for meeting location information. During this meeting we will discuss noxious weed management and prevention, and recreation management issues. All Eastern Washington Cascades and Yakima Province Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public. Interested citizens are welcome to attend.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Direct questions regarding this meeting to Paul Hart, Designated Federal Official, USDA, Wenatchee National Forest, 215 Melody Lane, Wenatchee, Washington 98801, 5096624335.

Dated: August 2, 2002.

Paul Hart,

Designated Federal Official, Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests,

[FR Doc. 02-20158 Filed 8-8-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

John Day/Snake Resource Advisory Council, Hells Canyon Subgroup

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Hells Canyon Subgroup of the John Day/Snake Resource Advisory Council will meet on September 14 and 15, 2002 at the Forest Service Administrative Site, Pittsburgh Landing. The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. and continue until 5 p.m. the first day and will begin at 8 a.m. on the second day and adjourn by 2 p.m. the final day. Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Fee Demo, (2) Adopt-A-Beach, (3) Open public forum. All meetings are open to the public. Public comments will be received September 14, 2001 at 10 a.m. at the Pittsburgh Administrative Site.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Direct questions regarding this meeting to Kendall Clark, Area Ranger, USDA, Hells Canyon National Recreation Area, 88401 Highway 82, Enterprise, OR 97828, 541-426-5501.

Dated: August 2, 2002.

Karyn L. Wood,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 02-20129 Filed 8-8-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Grays Harbor Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Grays Harbor Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will hold its next meeting on August 28, 2002. The meeting will be held at the Pacific Ranger District's Quinault Office, Quinault, Washington. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. and end at approximately 9 p.m. Agenda topics are: (1) Approval of minutes of previous meeting; (2) Presentation of FY 2003 Title II project proposals; (3) Selection of recommended projects and priorities; (4) Public comments; and (5) Identify next meeting date and location.

All Grays Harbor Resource Advisory Committee Meetings are open to the public. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Direct questions regarding this meeting

to Ken Eldredge, RAC Liaison, USDA, Olympic National Forest Headquarters, 1835 Black Lake Blvd. Olympia, WA 98512-5623, (360) 956-2323 or Dale Hom, Forest Supervisor and Designated Federal Official, at (360) 956-2301.

Dated: August 1, 2002.

Dale Hom,

Forest Supervisor, Olympic National Forest.

[FR Doc. 02-20128 Filed 8-8-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests Resource Advisory Committee will meet on Wednesday, August 21, 2002, at the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests headquarters main conference room, 215 Melody Lane, Wenatchee, Washington. The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. and continue until 3 p.m. The location of the meeting is subject to change, please contact the headquarters office at (509) 662-4335 for meeting location information. Committee members will review Chelan County and Kittitas County projects proposed for 2003 under Title II of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000. All Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests Resource Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public. Interested citizens are welcome to attend.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Direct questions regarding this meeting to Paul Hart, Designated Federal Official, USDA, Wenatchee National Forest, 215 Melody Lane, Wenatchee, Washington 98801, 509-662-4335.

Dated: August 2, 2002.

Sonny J. O'Neal,

Forest Supervisor, Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests.

[FR Doc. 02-20156 Filed 8-8-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Okanogana nd Wenatchee National Forests Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.