Notices

Federal Register
Vol. 67, No. 130
Monday, July 8, 2002

This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Information Collection; Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; request for comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Forest Service is seeking comments from all interested individuals and organizations on an extension of an information collection associated with the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Public Law 106–393). Annually, each State Treasurer for those States containing National Forest System lands is requested to notify the Forest Service, by September 30, of the projected payment distributions to each county and, when required, each county's elected proportion of funds for Title II or for Title III of the act. Every two years, these States are also asked to provide the Forest Service with information on which counties elect to continue receiving their share of the State's payment under the 25 percent fund (16 U.S.C. 500) and which counties elect to receive their share of the State's full payment amount under the 2000 act.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing on or before September 6, 2002 to be assured of consideration. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

ADDRESSES: Comments concerning this notice should be addressed to the Director, Policy Analysis Staff, Forest Service, USDA, Mail Stop 1131, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250–1131.

Comments also may be submitted to the Director via facsimile transmission to (202) 205–1074 or by e-mail to *tquinn01@fs.fed.us.*

The public may inspect comments received at Forest Service headquarters in the Yates Federal Building, 201 14th Street, SW., Room 1 SW., Washington, DC, during normal business hours. Visitors are encouraged to call (202) 205–1775 to facilitate entry to the building.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tom Quinn, Policy Analysis Unit, (202) 205–1775 or *tquinn01@fs.fed.us.* Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Description of Information Collection

Title: Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000.

OMB Number: 0596–0165.

Expiration Date of Approval: 3/31/2002.

Type of Request: Extension with no revision.

Abstract: On May 23, 1908, the U.S. Congress enacted 16 U.S.C. 500, which created what is commonly known as the Twenty-Five Percent Fund. Under this act, States receive payment from the Federal Government of twenty-five percent of the revenues generated from the national forests that are located within their borders. On October 30, 2000, the Congress enacted the Secure Rural Schools, and Community Self-Determination Act (Public Law 106–393; hereafter, the act), which is intended to restore stability and predictability to the annual payments made to States and counties containing National Forest System lands and public domain lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management. Like the 25 percent fund, the counties may use the proceeds only for the benefit of public schools, roads, and other purposes.

The Secretary of Agriculture is directed to implement the act. Under the act, eligible counties and their States need to reach an agreement on the distribution of funds authorized by the act and the amount that each county will receive as its share of the State's full payment amount. Counties will need to determine whether they wish to continue to receive their share of the State's twenty-five percent payment or whether they choose their share of the State's full payment amount through the act. A decision to receive a share of the State's 25 percent payment is effective for two years; a decision to receive a share of the act's full payment amount stays in effect through fiscal year 2006.

Those counties choosing the full payment and receiving more than $100,000 under the act are required to make an election regarding the proportion of their funds (between fifteen and twenty percent) to be applied to Title II or Title III of the act. Title II allows the funds paid under the act to be used for special projects on Federal lands that meet the requirements described in Title II of the act, and Title III allows the funds to be spent on county projects that meet the requirements described under Title III of the act. Annually, each State Treasurer is requested to notify the Forest Service, by September 30, of the projected payment distributions to each county and, when required, each county's elected proportion of funds for Title II or for Title III.

Upon receipt, the Forest Service will evaluate the information from States in order to properly implement the act. States and counties must provide the requested information in order for the Forest Service to properly calculate and distribute the State's full payment amount authorized by Public Law 106–393 and, by extension, provide counties with their commensurate share of that full payment amount. This information collection is a vital and integral part of the Forest Service's ability to implement the act. Failure to implement the act would potentially lead to unnecessary harm to those schools and counties that benefit from the funds.

Estimate of Annual Burden: 30 minutes.

Type of Respondents: State Treasurers and Counties.

Estimated Annual Number of Respondents: 41.

Estimated Annual Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 22 hours per year.

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 information collection submission for Office of Management and Budget approval.

Dated: July 2, 2002.

Elizabeth Estill,

Deputy Chief, Programs and Legislation.

[FR Doc. 02–17043 Filed 7–5–02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–11–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Revised Land and Resource Management Plan for the Finger Lakes National Forest (Seneca and Schuyler Counties, NY)

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Intent supplement.

SUMMARY: On May 2, 2002 the USDA Forest Service published in the **Federal Register,** a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and to revise the Finger Lakes National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). A supplement to the NOI was published on June 19, 2002 extending the comment period from 60 to 90 days. A document titled, ''Implementing the Finger Lakes Land and Resource Management Plan—A Fifteen Year Retrospective'' (Retrospective) was referenced in the NOI and was not available at the beginning of the 60-day public comment period. Printing the Retrospective has taken longer than expected. To ensure that those who want to reference the Retrospective when commenting on the NOI may do so, the comment period on the NOI is being extended until August 31, 2002.

Supplement: The Finger Lakes National Forest is extending the comment period for the NOI until August 31, 2001. Written comments on the NOI will now be accepted until that time. All other information in the May 2, 2002 NOI remains the same.

Dated: June 28, 2002.

Tamara S. Malone,

Deputy Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 02–16920 Filed 7–5–02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–11–M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Revised Land and Resource Management Plan for the Green Mountain National Forest (Addison, Bennington, Rutland, Washington, Windham, and Windsor Counties, VT)

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Intent Supplement.

SUMMARY: On May 2, 2002 the USDA Forest Service published in the **Federal Register**, a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and to revise the Green Mountain National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). A supplement of the NOI was published on June 19, 2002 extending the comment period from 60 to 90 days. A document titled, ''Implementing the Green Mountain Land and Resource Management Plan—A Fifteen Year Retrospective'' (Retrospective) was referenced in the NOI and was not available at the beginning of the 60-day public comment period. Printing the Retrospective has taken longer than expected. To ensure that those who want to reference the Retrospective when commenting on the NOI may do so, the comment period on the NOI is being extended until August 31, 2002.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Green Mountain National Forest is extending the comment period for the NOI until August 31, 2001. Written comments on the NOI will now be accepted until that time. All other information in the May 2, 2002 NOI remains the same.

Dated: June 28, 2002.

Tamara S. Malone,

Deputy Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 02–16919 Filed 7–5–02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–11–M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Ottawa National Forest, Ontonagon County, MI; Baltimore Vegetative Management Project

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: The USDA-Forest Service will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Baltimore Vegetative Management Project (VMP) to disclose the effects of the following activities: Timber harvest; site preparation for natural and artificial regeneration; tree planting; dispersed parking area improvement and development; trail construction; relocating a portion of an existing snowmobile trail; classification of old growth; maintenance of permanent openings and mowing roads for wildlife habitat; fisheries habitat improvement; expansion of an existing gravel pit; and transportation management that would include road construction, road reconstruction, temporary road construction, road maintenance, road decommissioning and obliteration, and road closure to passenger vehicles.

The project area begins approximately 4 miles north of Bruce Crossing, Michigan, and lies to the east and west of US Highway 45 (US–45). It is in the Baltimore Opportunity Area on the Ontonagon Ranger District and the North Ewen Opportunity Area on the Bergland Ranger District.

DATES: Comments and suggestions concerning the scope of the analysis should be received within 30 days following publication of this notice. The draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and available for public review in November 2002, and the final environmental impact statement (FEIS) is expected in March 2003.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and suggestions concerning the scope of the analysis should be sent to: District Ranger, Ontonagon Ranger District, 1209 Rockland Road, Ontonagon, MI 49953.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Strasser, Interdisciplinary Team Leader, Ontonagon Ranger District, Phone: (906) 884–2411.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The project area contains approximately 35,900 acres, of which approximately 28,475 are National Forest System acres, on the Ontonagon and Bergland Ranger Districts on the Ottawa National Forest, Ontonagon County, Michigan. The legal description of the project area contains all or parts of the following locations: T49N R38W, Sections 18, 19, 30; T49N R39W, Sections 1–36; T49N R40W, Sections 1–4, 8–17, 20–28, 33–36; and T50N R39W, Sections 27, 31–35, Michigan Meridian.