# Notices

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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

### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

September 15, 2006.

The Department of Agriculture has submitted the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13. Comments regarding (a) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), *OIRA_Submission@OMB.EOP.GOV* or fax (202) 395–5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, DC 20250–7602. Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of this notification. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720–8681.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

**Forest Service**

*Title:* Bid for advertised timber.

*OMB Control Number:* 0596–0066.

*Summary of Collection:* Individuals, large and small businesses, and corporations who wish to purchase timber or forest products from the National Forest must enter into a timber sale contract or Forest product contract with the Forest Service (FS). Information must be collected by FS in order to ensure that: National Forest System timber is sold at not less than appraised value; bidders meet specific criteria when submitting a bid; and anti-trust violations do not occur during the bidding process. Several statutes, regulations, and policies impose requirements on the Government and purchasers in the bidding process. The FS will collect information using several forms.

*Need and Use of the Information:* FS will collect information to determine bid responsiveness. The sale officer will ensure: The bidder has signed the bid form; provided a tax identification number; completed the unit rate, weighted average, or total sale value bid; entered the bid guarantee amount, type, and ensure the bid guarantee is enclosed with the bid, the bidder has provided the required information concerning Small Business Administration size and Equal Opportunity compliance on previous sales. The Timber Sale Contracting Officers will use the information to complete the contract prior to award to the highest bidder. Failure to include the required information may result in the bid being declared non-responsive or the Contracting Officer may be unable to make an affirmative finding of purchaser responsibility and not able to award the contract.

*Description of Respondents:* Business or other for-profit; Individuals or households.

*Number of Respondents:* 1,560.

*Frequency of Responses:* Reporting: On occasion.

*Total Burden Hours:* 58,055.

**Charlene Parker,**

*Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. 06–7871 Filed 9–21–06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–11–P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

### Recreation Resource Advisory Committees

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to establish Recreation Resource Advisory Committees and a call for nominations.

**SUMMARY:** The Secretary of Agriculture intends to establish five Forest Service Recreation Resource Advisory Committees (Recreation RACs) pursuant to Section 4 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (REA) that was passed into law as part of the 2005 Consolidated Appropriations Act (Pub. L. 108–447) on December 8, 2004. The Recreation RACs will operate in the Pacific Northwest, Pacific Southwest, Eastern, and Southern Regions and the State of Colorado and will provide recommendations regarding recreation fees to both the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) as appropriate. The public is invited to submit nominations for membership on the Recreation RACs.

**DATES:** All nominations should be received by the appropriate Regional Office by October 23, 2006. If necessary, managers in each region may continue accepting applications beyond this date to ensure broad and balanced representation on the Recreation RAC. Nominations must contain a completed application packet that includes background information and other information that addresses a nominee's qualifications. Application packets for Recreation RACs can be obtained from the Forest Service Regional Offices listed below or on the Web at *www.fs.fed.us/passespermits/rrac*.

**ADDRESSES:**

Regional Contacts for Recreation RACs:

1. *Pacific Northwest Regional Office:* Shandra Terry, Regional Public Involvement Coordinator, Public Affairs, 333 SW. 1st Ave., Portland, OR 97208, (503) 808–2242.

2. *Pacific Southwest Regional Office:* Frances Enkoji, Recreation RAC Coordinator, 1323 Club Drive, Vallejo, CA 94592, (707) 562–8846.

3. *Rocky Mountain Regional Office:* Pam DeVore, Recreation RAC Coordinator, Recreation, Heritage, and

Wilderness, 740 Simms Street, Golden, CO 80401, (303) 275–5043.

4. *Eastern Regional Office:* Marcia Heymen, Recreation RAC Coordinator, 626 E. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53202, (414) 297–3662.

5. *Southern Regional Office:* Caroline Mitchell, Planning and Recreation, Forest Service, 100 Reserve Street, Hot Springs, AR 71901, (501) 321–5318.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Julie Cox, National Recreation RAC Coordinator, 333 SW. 1st Avenue, Portland, OR 97208, (503) 808–2984.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

## Background

The REA directs the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of the Interior, or both to establish Recreation RACs in each State or region for Federal recreation lands and waters managed by the Forest Service or the BLM. These committees will make recommendations regarding the recreation fee program implementing or eliminating standard amenity fees; expanded amenity fees; and noncommercial, individual special recreation permit fees; expanding or limiting the recreation fee program; and fee-level changes.

The REA grants flexibility in the establishment of Recreation RACs by stating that the Secretaries:

1. May have as many additional Recreation RACs in a State or region as the Secretaries consider necessary;

2. Shall not establish a Recreation RAC in a State if the Secretaries determine, in consultation with the Governor of the State, that sufficient interest does not exist to ensure that participation on the committee is balanced in terms of the points of view represented and the functions to be performed; or

3. May use a resource advisory committee established pursuant to another provision of law and in accordance with that law.

To help determine the appropriate configuration of Recreation RACs, the Forest Service and BLM held 11 listening sessions in Idaho; Oregon; California; Colorado; Arizona; Nevada; Georgia; and Washington, DC; in June and July of 2005. Attendees included key partners, organizations with an interest in recreation management on Federal lands, and existing BLM and Forest Service advisory council members.

After the public meetings, conversations with congressional staff, internal Agency analysis, and legal review, the Forest Service and BLM developed the following advisory organization that has been approved by both the Departments of Agriculture and the Interior:

1. Establishment of five new Recreation RACs for the Forest Service's Pacific Northwest, Pacific Southwest, Eastern, and Southern Regions, and the State of Colorado.

2. Use of existing BLM Resource Advisory Councils (RACs) where appropriate;

3. Use of the existing Forest Service Black Hills National Forest Advisory Board; and

4. Does not establish Recreation RACs where the Secretaries, in consultation with the Governor of each State, have determined that sufficient interest does not exist as allowed in REA.

The Secretaries have signed an Interagency Agreement that authorizes the Forest Service to using existing BLM RACs and the BLM to use Forest Service-established Recreation RACs for the purposes stated in REA.

## Advisory Committee Organization

The organizational structure agreed to by the Secretaries is listed below by State for the Forest Service (FS) and the BLM:

| State | BLM RAC(s) | FS recreation RAC | Existing FS advisory board | No recreation RAC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Alabama | | Southern Region—FS. | | |
| Alaska | | | | Governor's request. |
| Arizona | BLM and FS. | | | |
| Arkansas | | Southern Region—FS. | | |
| California | | Pacific Southwest Region—BLM and FS. | | |
| Colorado | | Colorado—FS. | | |
| Connecticut | | No FS or BLM lands. | | |
| Delaware | | No FS or BLM lands. | | |
| Florida | | Southern Region—FS. | | |
| Georgia | | Southern Region—FS. | | |
| Idaho | BLM and FS. | | | |
| Illinois | | Eastern Region—FS. | | |
| Indiana | | Eastern Region—FS. | | |
| Iowa | | No FS or BLM lands. | | |
| Kansas | | Colorado—FS. | | |
| Kentucky | | Southern Region—FS. | | |
| Louisiana | | Southern Region—FS. | | |
| Maine | | Eastern Region—FS. | | |
| Maryland | | No FS or BLM lands. | | |
| Massachusetts | | No FS or BLM lands. | | |
| Michigan | | Eastern Region—FS. | | |
| Minnesota | | Eastern Region—FS. | | |
| Mississippi | | Southern Region—FS. | | |
| Missouri | | Eastern Region—FS. | | |
| Montana | BLM and FS. | | | |
| Nebraska | | | | Governor's request. |
| Nevada | BLM and FS. | | | |
| New Hampshire | | Eastern Region—FS. | | |
| New Jersey | | No FS or BLM lands. | | |
| New Mexico | BLM and FS. | | | |
| New York | | Eastern Region—FS. | | |
| North Carolina | | Southern Region—FS. | | |
| North Dakota | BLM and FS will use the Dakotas BLM RAC. | | | |

| State | BLM RAC(s) | FS recreation RAC | Existing FS advisory board | No recreation RAC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ohio | | Eastern Region—FS. | | |
| Oklahoma | Black Kettle and Rita Blanca National Grasslands will use a New Mexico BLM RAC. | Southern Region—FS Ouachita National Forest will use the Southern Region Recreation RAC. | | |
| Oregon | | Pacific Northwest Region—BLM and FS. | | |
| Pennsylvania | | Eastern Region—FS. | | |
| Puerto Rico | | Southern Region—FS. | | |
| Rhode Island | | Eastern Region—FS. | | |
| South Carolina | | Southern Region—FS. | | |
| South Dakota | BLM and Dakota Prairie National Grassland will use the Dakotas BLM RAC. | | Black Hills National Forest will use its Advisory Board. | |
| Tennessee | | Southern Region—FS. | | |
| Texas | Black Kettle, Rita Blanca, and McClellen Creek National Grasslands will use a New Mexico BLM RAC. | Southern Region—FS National Forests of Texas will use the Southern Region Recreation RAC. | | |
| Vermont | | Eastern Region—FS. | | |
| Virginia | | Southern Region—BLM and FS. | | |
| Utah | BLM and FS. | | | |
| Washington | | Pacific Northwest Region—BLM and FS. | | |
| West Virginia | | Eastern Region—FS. | | |
| Wisconsin | | Eastern Region—FS. | | |
| Wyoming | | | | Governor's request. |

**Nomination and Application Information for Recreation RACs**

Each Forest Service Recreation RAC shall consist of 11 members appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture. These members shall provide a broad and balanced representation from the recreation community as follows:

1. Five persons who represent recreation users and that include, as appropriate, the following:

a. Winter motorized recreation, such as snowmobiling;

b. Winter nonmotorized recreation, such as snowshoeing, cross-country and downhill skiing, and snowboarding;

c. Summer motorized recreation, such as motorcycles, boaters, and off-highway vehicles;

d. Summer nonmotorized recreation, such as backpacking, horseback riding, mountain biking, canoeing, and rafting; and

e. Hunting and fishing.

2. Three persons who represent interest groups that include, as appropriate, the following:

a. Motorized outfitters and guides;

b. Nonmotorized outfitters and guides; and

c. Local environmental groups.

3. Three persons, as follows:

a. A State tourism official to represent the State;

b. A person who represents affected Indian tribes; and

c. A person who represents affected local government interests.

Any individual or organization may nominate one or more qualified persons to represent the interests listed above to serve on the Recreation RAC. To be considered for membership, nominees must—

1. Identify what interest group they would represent and how they are qualified to represent that group;

2. State why they want to serve on the committee and what they can contribute;

3. Show their past experience in working successfully as part of a collaborative group; and

4. Complete Form AD–755, Advisory Committee or Research and Promotion Background Information.

Letters of recommendation are welcome. Individuals may also nominate themselves. Nominees do not need to live in a State within a particular Recreation RAC area of jurisdiction nor live in a State in which Forest Service-managed lands are located.

Application packets, including evaluation criteria and the AD–755 form, are available at *http://www.fs.fed.us/passespermits/rrac* or by contacting the respective regions identified in this notice. Nominees must submit all documents to the appropriate regional contact. Additional information about recreation fees and REA is available at *http://www.fs.fed.us/passespermits/about-rec-fees.shtml.*

The Agency will also work with Governors and county officials to identify potential nominees.

The Agency will review the applications and prepare a list of qualified applicants from which the Secretary of Agriculture shall appoint both committee members and alternates. An alternate will become a participating member of the Recreation RACs only if the member for whom the alternate is appointed to replace leaves the committee permanently.

Recreation RAC members serve without pay but are reimbursed for travel and per diem expenses for regularly scheduled committee meetings. All Recreation RAC meetings are open to the public and an open public forum is part of each meeting. Meeting dates and times will be

determined by Agency officials in consultation with the Recreation RAC members, when the committee is formed.

Dated: August 31, 2006.

**Boyd K. Rutherford,**

*Assistant Secretary for Administration.*

[FR Doc. 06–8096 Filed 9–19–06; 3:07 pm]

BILLING CODE 3410–11–U

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

### Lincoln National Forest; New Mexico; Perk-Grindstone III Hazardous Fuel Reduction Project

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

**SUMMARY:** The Smokey Bear Ranger District of the Lincoln National Forest intends to prepare an environmental impact statement to address the Perk-Grindstone III Hazardous Fuel Reduction Project on National Forest System lands in Lincoln County, New Mexico. The proposed project is located adjacent to or in the immediate vicinity of the Village of Ruidoso. The project area is bounded on the west and south by the Mescalero Apache Indian Reservation.

The Village of Ruidoso is listed as a community at high risk from wildfire, as defined by the National Fire Plan of 2000 (NFP). The proposed project addresses this problem through hazardous fuel reduction and related forest health objectives, as directed by the NFP and as governed by all applicable laws and public policies. The project has been developed through local collaborative processes, continual public participation, and interdisciplinary design. It would involve up to approximately 4,730 acres of forest management treatments and integrated conservation measures within a gross project area of approximately 5,920 acres.

**DATES:** Comments concerning the scope of the analysis are requested within 14 days following the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**. The draft EIS is expected to be available for public review in February 2007 and the final EIS is expected to be published in May 2007.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written, oral, or e-mail scoping comments to the project leader by: (1) mail—Perk-Grindstone III Hazardous Fuel Reduction Project, Attn: Paul Klug—Project Leader, c/o USDA Forest Service—Smokey Bear Ranger District, 901 Mechem Drive, Ruidoso, NM 88345; (2) telephone—(406) 752–6400; or (3) e-mail—*pklug@fs.fed.us.* If you choose to comment by e-mail, please include your name and regular mailing address with the scoping comment.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Paul Klug, Forester, TEAMS Planning Enterprise, USDA Forest Service, (406) 752–6400. 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:**

#### Purpose and Need for Action

This proposal is being prepared to meet the intent of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 for authorized hazardous fuel reduction projects. The purpose of the Perk-Grindstone III Hazardous Fuel Reduction Project is to moderate potential wildfire intensity on National Forest System lands surrounding the Village of Ruidoso, New Mexico, an area that local cooperative planning has identified and prioritized for treatment: The project area is immediately adjacent to the community, which is listed as being at high risk from wildfire as defined by the National Fire Plan of 2000. The surrounding area is a topographically complex, densely forested landscape with current and future potential for high intensity wildfire. Although portions of the area received fuel reduction treatments between 1994 and 2004, a high-intensity wildfire in untreated areas could exceed the capability of ground-based crews and equipment to use direct-attack firefighting methods, and could put at risk the lives of community residents and firefighters, private property, public facilities, and natural-resource values of the area targeted for conservation by the Forest Plan—including recreation, scenery, and wildlife habitat.

To serve the purpose of moderating potential wildfire intensity in this area and thereby reduce the risk of severe impacts from wildfire, particular forest management needs are indicated, to change current conditions toward desired conditions. These needs are as follows:

- Reduce the tonnage and continuity of woody debris on the forest floor that provides the basic fuel for wildfires.
- Reduce the density of lower- and mid-level trees that can help wildfires climb and torch the crowns of upper-level trees.
- In selected stands, reduce the density and continuity of upper-level trees that can help sustain a crown fire.
- Interrupt forest insect and disease trends that are currently killing large trees and adding to the fuel hazard.
- Create forest conditions that would allow the health and vigor of surviving large trees to improve and become more fire-resilient.
- Implement standards of resource management and environmental protection applicable to the area.

#### Proposed Action

Proposed forest management work includes noncommercial thinning, commercial thinning involving removal of logs and slash by ground-based skidding or helicopter, ground-based machine work and hand work to pile thinning slash, and slash-pile burning or broadcast burning to dispose of or reduce woody fuels. On existing roads used to support these treatments, maintenance work including forestry best management practices would be performed. No new permanent roads are proposed; however, new temporary roads would be developed to facilitate proper ground-based skidding and access log-landing areas, especially sites used to receive logs by helicopter. Upon completion of logging and other mechanized treatments, temporary roads would be rehabilitated and closed. The proposed forest management treatments and roadwork integrate various detailed design-features to conserve cultural or historical sites, air quality, soil, water quality, wildlife, native plants and trees, scenery, and recreation.

To achieve desired conditions for the area, the proposed action involves some removal of commercial-size trees from areas of protected habitat of the Mexican spotted owl, a threatened species. Under the current forest plan as amended, these treatments to reduce fuels near urban areas are anticipated; nonetheless, they are a departure from the forestwide standards and guidelines adopted to implement the recovery plan for this species. Therefore, to ensure project consistency with the forest plan, the plan would be amended at the same time as and in conjunction with the approval of an action alternative, should one be selected, that involves similar departure from current standards and guidelines to conserve the Mexican spotted owl. The plan amendment would be limited to apply only to the Perk-Grindstone III hazardous fuel reduction project area and its approved activities (36 CFR 219.8(e)).