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Done at Washington, DC, on December 13, 2012.

Alfred V. Almanza,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 2012–30530 Filed 12–18–12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–DM–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Dakota Prairie Grasslands, North Dakota; Oil and Gas Development Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare a supplemental environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: In June of 2003, the Dakota Prairie Grasslands Record of Decision for Oil and Gas Leasing on the Little Missouri and Cedar River National Grasslands was signed. This decision spelled out leasing stipulations, consistent with the Revised Dakota Prairie Grasslands Land and Resource Management Plan, based on the 2001 Northern Great Plains Management Plans Revision FEIS which included a Reasonably Foreseeable Development Scenario (RFDS) for Oil and Gas for the Little Missouri and Cedar River National Grasslands.

In the 11 years since the analysis was completed there has been a change in the manner in which oil and gas development has occurred on the Dakota Prairie Grasslands, primarily that multiple (4–6) wells can be drilled from a single well pad rather than just one; as was most common in the past. The improvements in horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing technologies to improve the ability to access oil and gas located deep underground are the primary reasons for these changes in development.

At this time it is necessary to review the analysis to determine whether or not the effects of the changed pattern of oil and gas development are different from those effects considered in the 2001 FEIS, and whether or not there is a need to change Land and Resource Management Plan standards and guidelines (and possibly leasing stipulations) in order to continue oil

and gas development on the Little Missouri and Cedar River National Grassland units of the Dakota Prairie Grasslands.

DATES: Scoping is not required for supplements to environmental impact statements (40 CFR 1502.9(c)(4)). Review and comments will be solicited once the Draft SEIS is filed with EPA. The draft supplemental environmental impact statement is expected in February, 2013 and the final supplemental environmental impact statement is expected in May, 2013.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karen Dunlap, Interdisciplinary Team Leader, at 240 W. Century Avenue, Bismarck, ND 58503, by email at kdunlap@fs.fed.us or by phone at 701–250–4463 x105.

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 Time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose and Need for Action

In light of a changed pattern of oil and gas activity from what was anticipated in the 2001 RFDS, there is a need for the DPG to supplement our analysis to determine if any changes need to be made to the stipulations in the 2003 Oil and Gas Leasing ROD that authorizes oil and gas leasing on the DPG. The purpose of the analysis is to determine whether or not the effects anticipated in the 2001 FEIS are still accurate and, if they are not, whether or not any additional management direction and/or leasing stipulations are necessary to protect National Forest System lands while still allowing for oil and gas development on the DPG on those lands previously determined to be administratively available for leasing.

Proposed Action

The Dakota Prairie Grasslands has conducted preliminary analysis of the changed condition and, at this time, proposes no change to management direction in the LRMP or to leasing stipulations from the 2003 ROD. However, consistent with 40 CFR 1502.9(2), we will supplement the FEIS to consider the changed pattern of oil and gas development relative to the updated RFDS. The updated RFDS is available by request at the address below or online at: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php/?project=40652.

Responsible Official

Dennis Neitzke, Grasslands Supervisor, Dakota Prairie Grasslands,
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Black Hills National Forest Advisory Board

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.


The purpose of the Board is to provide advice and recommendations on a broad range of forest issues such as forest plan revisions or amendments, forest health including fire and mountain pine beetle epidemics, travel management, forest monitoring and evaluation, recreation fees, and site-specific projects having forest-wide implications.

The meeting is open to the public. The purpose of the meeting is: (1) To accomplish the required annual Ethics Training; (2) to provide an update on the Sheridan Lake Valve Situation; (3) to provide an update on the Record of Decision for the Mountain Pine Beetle Response Project; and (4) to review Travel Management Plan Goals and Implementation for the purpose of planning fee schedules and program for the year 2014.

DATES: The meeting will be held January 2, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Forest Service Mystic Ranger District Office, 8221 South Highway 16, Rapid City, SD 57792. Written comments may be submitted as described under SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.

INFORMATION: All comments, including names and addresses when provided, are placed in the record and are available for public inspection and copying. The public may inspect comments received at the Supervisor’s Office, Black Hills National Forest, 1019 North Fifth Street, Custer SD 57730.

Please call ahead to Scott Jacobson, Committee Management Officer, at 605–673–9216, to facilitate entry into the building to view comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Scott Jacobson, Committee Management Officer, Black Hills National Forest Supervisor’s Office, 605–673–9324, sjacobson@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 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following business will be conducted: (1) Annual Ethics Training; (2) update on the Sheridan Lake Valve Situation; (3) update on the Record of Decision for the Mountain Pine Beetle Response Project; and (4) review of Travel Management Plan Goals and Implementation for the purpose of planning fee schedules and program for the year 2014. Anyone who would like to bring related matters to the attention of the committee may file written statements with the committee staff before the meeting. The agenda will include time for people to make oral statements of three minutes or less.

Individuals wishing to make an oral statement should request in writing by December 26, 2012 to be scheduled on the agenda. Written comments and requests for time for oral comments must be sent to Scott Jacobson, Supervisor’s Office, Black Hills National Forest, 1019 North Fifth Street, Custer SD 57730, or by email to sjacobson@fs.fed.us, or via facsimile to 605–673–9208. A summary of the meeting will be posted at http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/blackhills/workingtogether/advisorycommittees within 45 days of the meeting.

Meeting Accommodations: If you require sign language interpreting, assistive listening devices or other reasonable accommodation please request this in advance of the meeting by contacting the person listed in the section titled For Further Information Contact. All reasonable accommodation requests are managed on a case by case basis.


David J. Mertz,
Natural Resource Staff Officer and Acting Forest Supervisor.