

response to SNPLMA requirements. In addition, the Bureau of Land Management intends to partner with the Forest Service to use the NVUM program as its means for estimating the volume of visitation and describing key visitor characteristics.

At recreation sites or access points, agency personnel or contractors will conduct onsite interviews of visitors as they complete their visit. Interviewers will ask about the purpose and length of the visit, the trip origin, activities, annual visitation rates, trip-related spending patterns, use of recreation facilities, satisfaction with agency services and facilities, and the composition of the visiting party. Primary analysis of the information for the Forest Service and partnering agencies will be performed by Forest Service staff in the Washington Office and by scientists in one or more of the agency's research stations.

Estimate of Annual Burden: 9 minutes (average).

Type of Respondents: Visitors to lands managed by the US Forest Service, USDI Bureau of Land Management, and within Clarke County, Nevada to lands managed by the USDI—Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Park Service.

Estimated Annual Number of Respondents: 69,000.

Estimated Annual Number of Responses per Respondent: One.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 9,900 hours.

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 lead agency, including whether the information will have practical or scientific utility; (2) the accuracy of the lead 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 request for Office of Management and Budget approval.

April 6, 2009.

Richard W. Sowa,

Acting Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest System.

[FR Doc. E9-8188 Filed 4-9-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Information Collection; Land Management Agency Volunteer Surveys

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 the new information collection, the Land Management Agency Volunteer Surveys.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing on or before June 9, 2009 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 James Absher, Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture (Forest Service), 4955 Canyon Crest Drive, Riverside, CA 92507.

Comments also may be submitted via facsimile to (951) 680-1501 or by e-mail to: jabsher@fs.fed.us.

The public may inspect comments received at Building One Reception, 4955 Canyon Crest Drive, Riverside, CA 92507 during normal business hours. Visitors are encouraged to call ahead to (951) 680-1500 to facilitate entry to the building.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James Absher, Pacific Southwest Research Station, Forest Service, (951) 680-1559. Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339 twenty-four hours a day, every day of the year, including holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Land Management Agency Volunteer Surveys.

OMB Number: 0596-New.

Type of Request: New.

Abstract: The Forest Service and university researchers will contact individuals who currently volunteer, or have recently volunteered, for selected natural resource (land) management agencies (LMA). Through a short Web-based survey, respondents will provide information regarding how often and

why they volunteer, the positive and negative aspects of that experience, and basic socio-demographics. The results of this information collection will help researchers and managers improve their ability to provide land management services to the public, as well as strengthen volunteers' experiences at their respective agencies.

Participation in the survey will be strictly voluntary. If necessary, respondents will be allowed to answer via postal mail at their convenience. A Forest Service researcher, agency technician, or a cooperating university researcher will collect and analyze the data. The Forest Service and university researchers are experts in applied social research and survey methods.

Additionally, in order to ensure anonymity, personal information will not be stored with contact information at any time, and contact information will be purged from researcher files once data collection is complete. Responses will be used to assess volunteers' experience with agencies that have a land management function such as parks, forests, recreation areas or wildlife refuges. Although an abundance of research exists regarding volunteering in general, there is very little rigorous, academic research on volunteering as it applies to LMAs, largely because there is no reliable, uniform, and comprehensive data available. Further, it is unknown whether the findings emerging from other studies of volunteerism are applicable in the context of LMAs. Because of the enormous role that volunteers play in the operations of LMAs, clarity and insight into volunteer characteristics and experiences is imperative. Ultimately, findings will help researchers and resource managers determine the best ways to involve, retain, and manage volunteers.

The primary beneficiaries of results from these surveys will be LMAs, such as the Forest Service, and other agencies at all levels of government that are concerned with enjoyment, preservation, and advancement of our natural resources. These results will be particularly important to LMAs because these agencies have recently become heavily dependent on volunteer support. Without this information collection, managers of volunteers in LMAs will continue to rely upon anecdotal or unreliable information, which may perpetuate poor volunteer recruitment, retention, and satisfaction. The information collected will help researchers develop and test models of volunteer management, supply information to LMA program managers and other voluntary action managers

who are focusing their own work on natural resource management values and objectives, and will facilitate further application of findings. The exact number of respondents will be dependent upon the number of agencies that choose to participate. Volunteers from up to ten different agencies, or sub-units of those agencies, per year will be selected to participate. Each will be allocated 200–600 surveys, for a maximum of 4,000 completed surveys per year for the project as a whole.

Estimate of Annual Burden: 20 minutes.

Type of Respondents: Individuals who currently volunteer, or who have recently volunteered, for a natural resources (land) management agency, age 18 or older.

Estimated Annual Number of Respondents: 4000.

Estimated Annual Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.0.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 1,333 hours.

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 lead agency, including whether the information will have practical or scientific utility; (2) the accuracy of the lead 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 submission request toward Office of Management and Budget approval.

Dated: April 6, 2009.

Richard W. Sosa,

Acting Assistant Deputy Chief, National Forest System.

[FR Doc. E9–8187 Filed 4–9–09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–11–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Bend/Fort Rock Ranger District; Deschutes National Forest; Oregon; Lava Rock OHV System

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) on a proposed action to designate a motorized off-highway vehicle (OHV) trail system on a portion the Bend/Fort Rock Ranger District. In addition, the project would close and decommission roads and unneeded trails. The project area encompasses 140,650 acres and is roughly bounded by U.S. Highway 97 to the west; Newberry National Volcanic Monument to the east, Forest Roads 9701–900 and 1801–400 to the north, and Forest Road 22 to the south. The project area is approximately six miles south of Bend, Oregon. The alternatives will include the proposed action, no action, and additional alternatives that respond to issues generated through the scoping process. The agency will give notice of the full environmental analysis and decision making process so that interested and affected people may participate and contribute to the final decision.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received by 30 days following the date that this notice appears in the **Federal Register**. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement is expected to be available in July 2009 and the final environmental impact statement is expected September 2009.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Shane Jeffries, District Ranger, Bend/Ft. Rock Ranger District, 1230 NE 3 St., Suite A–262, Bend, OR 97701. Comments may also be sent via e-mail to comments-pacificnorthwest-deschutes-bend-ftrock@fs.fed.us, or via facsimile to (541) 383–4700. Please put “Lava Rock OHV Project” in the subject line of your e-mail.

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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Peter Sussmann, Interdisciplinary Team Leader, at (541) 383–5594 or via e-mail at prsussman@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose of the Lava Rock OHV Project is to designate appropriate motorized trails for Class 1, Class 2 and Class 3 OHVs while reducing overall road and trail densities within the project area. The need for this site-specific proposal results directly from the implementation of the Forest Service Travel Management Rule, a nationally codified rule that prohibits motorized travel off of designated routes. The Deschutes National Forest is currently in the process of developing an EIS to display the effects of implementing the rule, which is expected to be completed by 2010. Recognizing the effect to the OHV community once the Rule is implemented, the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests worked in conjunction with the recommendations of the Deschutes Provincial Advisory Committee's Travel Management Working Group to identify opportunities for trail systems in sustainable locations. The Lava Rock OHV area is one of three areas identified by the working group of participants representing motorized and non-motorized recreation interests that had potential community support for a designated trail system.

Additionally, there is a need to meet the objectives for recreation as stated in the Deschutes National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (“Forest Plan”) and under Forest Service policy. The Forest Plan directs land managers to provide a full range of recreation opportunities, maintain existing trail systems, provide additions or modifications which will meet increasing and changing demands in dispersed recreation, and to designate trails and areas where OHVs can operate legally. Forest Service policy, as stated in the Forest Service Manual at FSM 2355, further directs land managers to provide a diversity of off-road recreational opportunities when use is compatible with established land and resource objectives, where use is consistent with resource capability and suitability, when the off-road opportunity is an appropriate National Forest Recreation Activity, and when there is a demonstrated demand for these opportunities.

Finally, there is an opportunity to reduce negative impacts to resources within the area that are caused by unregulated motorized use. There is a need to reduce the density of system roads within the project area to reduce fragmentation and minimize motorized disturbance to wildlife. Additionally, there is a need to concentrate motorized