

Item	FS-2400-42a	FS 2400-14	FS-2400-14BV
Estimate of Annual Burden .....	3.0 hours .....	14.4 hours .....	34.4 hours.
Type of Respondents .....	Individuals, large and small businesses, and corporations bidding on National Forest timber sales and Integrated Resource Contracts.		
Estimated Annual Number of Respondents.	445 .....	825 .....	200.
Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent.	1.8 .....	3.9 .....	1.2.
Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents.	2,400 hours .....	46,332 hours .....	8,256 hours.

**Comment Is Invited**

Comment is invited on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the stated purposes or the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical or scientific utility; (2) 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; (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 name and address when provided, will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval. All comments also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: April 21, 2009.

**Gloria Manning,**

*Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest System.*

[FR Doc. E9-10010 Filed 4-30-09; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-11-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**Forest Service**

**Salmon River Ranger District; Idaho; Allison-Berg Allotment EIS**

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

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

**SUMMARY:** The EIS will document changed conditions on the Allison-Berg allotment relative to effects on bighorn sheep and their habitat sufficient to support a determination whether continued grazing by domestic sheep

should be allowed or not, and if so, under what conditions.

**DATES:** Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received by June 15, 2009. The draft environmental impact statement is expected in September 2010, and the final environmental impact statement is expected by March 2011.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments to Darcy Pederson, Acting District Ranger, Salmon River Ranger District, 304 Slate Creek Road, White Bird, Idaho 83554. It is important that reviewers provide their comments at such times and in such a way that they are useful to the Agency's preparation of the EIS. Therefore, comments should be provided prior to the close of the comment period and should clearly articulate the reviewer's concerns and contentions. The submission of timely and specific comments can affect a reviewer's ability to participate in subsequent administrative review or judicial review.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be part of the public record for this proposed action. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, anonymous comments will not provide the respondent with standing to participate in subsequent administrative review or judicial review.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Joanne Bonn, via phone at (208) 839-2211 or (208) 983-1950, or in person at 304 Slate Creek Road, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., PDT, Monday through Friday.

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 April 1996 the Nez Perce National Forest made the decision to authorize domestic sheep, horse/pack stock, and cattle grazing on the Allison-Berg allotment. This decision was accompanied by an Environmental Assessment which concluded that the action would have no significant impacts under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and is consistent with the National Forest Management Act (NFMA). Under this decision, the permittee has been issued ten-year term grazing permits. The latest ten-year term grazing permit, issued in April 2006, allows for both a spring/summer and a fall/winter domestic sheep grazing period. Incidental numbers of horses/pack stock and cattle are permitted to graze spring through fall.

In prior NEPA/NFMA decision documentation for this allotment, no specific concerns related to the bighorn sheep were noted. New information and changed conditions related to bighorn sheep result in a need for the U.S. Forest Service to revisit and update the environmental effects analysis for this allotment.

The Payette National Forest, which manages National Forest System lands south of this allotment, is finalizing an extensive analysis addressing bighorn sheep viability issues on that forest. In September, 2008 the Payette National Forest released the "Draft Supplement to the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Southwest Idaho Ecogroup Land and Resource Management Plans." This draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) discusses the effects of grazing domestic sheep within or near the range of bighorn sheep for both the Hell's Canyon and Salmon River populations. Although no decision is being made in relation to the Allison-Berg allotment, the Payette National Forest is producing information that is directly pertinent to the update of the Nez Perce National Forest's effects

analysis for the Allison-Berg allotment, including bighorn sheep habitat modeling, bighorn sheep population modeling, geographic population range modeling, quantitative risk assessment modeling, disease spread modeling and cumulative effects analysis. Current maps produced by the Payette National Forest and included in their DSEIS show the Allison-Berg allotment is located within the geographic population range of bighorn sheep. The allotment contains a substantial amount of modeled bighorn sheep habitat. The expected date for completion of a final SEIS by the Payette National Forest is December 2009.

Bighorn sheep sightings since 2007 and telemetry and GPS data from radio-collared bighorn sheep in a cooperative study begun in 2008 with the Nez Perce Tribe have confirmed both collared and uncollared bighorn sheep presence on the Allison-Berg allotment during both the spring/summer and the fall/winter grazing periods.

On March 13, 2009 the Nez Perce National Forest prescribed non-use by domestic sheep on the Allison-Berg allotment for resource protection during the time needed to update the NFMA and NEPA analysis for the allotment. This decision to prescribe non-use was based on the following factors: (1) Continued sightings of bighorn sheep (including some that are now radio-collared) within and near the allotment, (2) the lack of identified and agreed to measures that would meet the objective of the State of Idaho Interim Strategy to ensure separation of bighorn sheep and domestic sheep, (3) data assembled to date on movement and distribution of radio-collared Salmon River bighorns has not provided the Forest with information that would enable development of BMPs to ensure separation, and (4) there is a need to obtain and utilize new information from the Payette NF analysis to update our decision documentation for the allotment.

This Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS initiates the process to update our decision documentation for the Allison-Berg allotment. The expected date for publication of our draft EIS allows time for proper review and consideration of the Payette National Forest's bighorn analysis as well as any additional GPS and telemetry data for the collared Salmon River bighorns.

#### **Proposed Action and Possible Alternatives**

The Salmon River Ranger District of the United States Forest Service proposes to authorize continued domestic sheep, horse/pack stock, and

cattle grazing within the Allison-Berg allotment. Alternatives that may be considered include (1) Authorization of grazing under conditions identified in the existing ten-year term permit; (2) modification of grazing consistent with the Strategy for Managing Separation between Bighorn Sheep and Domestic Sheep and Goats in the Salmon River Area (SRSS); (3) grazing with additional mitigation measures to ensure separation of bighorn sheep and domestic sheep; and (4) no grazing. The project is located 3 miles east of Riggins, Idaho in the Allison, Berg, and Kelly Creek drainages on the north side of the Salmon River.

#### **Responsible Official**

Salmon River District Ranger.

#### **Nature of Decision To Be Made**

To determine whether to authorize grazing of domestic sheep on the Allison-Berg Allotment, and if so, under what conditions.

#### **Scoping Process**

This notice of intent initiates the scoping process, which guides the development of the environmental impact statement.

It is important that reviewers provide their comments at such times and in such manner that they are useful to the agency's preparation of the environmental impact statement. Therefore, comments should be provided prior to the close of the comment period and should clearly articulate the reviewer's concerns and contentions. The submission of timely and specific comments can affect a reviewer's ability to participate in subsequent administrative appeal or judicial review.

Dated: April 20, 2009.

**Thomas K. Reilly,**

*Acting Forest Supervisor.*

[FR Doc. E9-9500 Filed 4-30-09; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-11-M**

## **DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

### **Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service**

[Docket No. APHIS-2009-0027]

#### **National Animal Identification System; Public Meetings**

**AGENCY:** Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of public meetings.

**SUMMARY:** This is a notice to inform the public of seven upcoming meetings to discuss stakeholder concerns related to

the implementation of the National Animal Identification System. The meetings are being organized by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

**DATES:** The meetings will be held on May 14, 18, 20, 21, 22, and 27, and June 1, 2009, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day.

**ADDRESSES:** The public meetings will be held in Harrisburg, PA (May 14), Pasco, WA (May 18), Austin, TX (May 20), Birmingham, AL (May 21), Louisville, KY (May 22), Storrs, CT (May 27), and Greeley, CO (June 1).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Adam Grow, Director, Surveillance and Identification Programs, National Center for Animal Health Programs, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 200, Riverdale, MD 20737; 301-734-3752.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

As part of its ongoing efforts to safeguard animal health, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) initiated implementation of a National Animal Identification System (NAIS) in 2004. The NAIS is a cooperative State-Federal-industry program administered by USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). The purpose of the NAIS is to provide a streamlined information system that will help producers and animal health officials respond quickly and effectively to animal disease events in the United States.

The ultimate long-term goal of the NAIS is to provide State and Federal officials with the capability to identify all animals and premises that have had direct contact with a disease of concern within 48 hours after discovery. Meeting that goal requires a comprehensive animal-disease traceability infrastructure. An NAIS User Guide and a Business Plan, both available on our Web site at [http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/animal\\_id/index.shtml](http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/animal_id/index.shtml), provide detailed information about our plans for implementing the system.

Despite concerted efforts, APHIS has not been able to fully implement the NAIS. Many of the same issues that producers originally had with the system, such as the cost and impact on small farmers, privacy and confidentiality, and liability, continue to cause concern.

In order to provide individuals and organizations an opportunity to discuss their concerns regarding the NAIS and offer potential solutions, we plan to hold several public meetings and to solicit comments via our Web site. Our goal is to gather feedback and input from a wide range of stakeholders to assist us in making an informed