

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 229, No. 74

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

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

Rural Utilities Service

Information Collection Activity; Comment Request

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended), the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) invites comments on this information collection for which RUS intends to request approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by February 1, 2010.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michele Brooks, Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., STOP 1522, Room 5159 South Building, Washington, DC 20250-1522. Telephone: (202) 690-1078. FAX: (202) 720-8435.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) regulation (5 CFR Part 1320) implementing provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) requires that interested members of the public and affected agencies have an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping activities (see 5 CFR 1320.8(d)). This notice identifies an information collection that RUS is submitting to OMB for extension.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed 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 the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the

methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (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. Comments may be sent to: Joyce McNeil, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 1522, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-1522. FAX: (202) 720-8435.

Title: Seismic Safety of New Building Construction.

OMB Control Number: 0572-0099.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: The Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7701 *et seq.*) was enacted to reduce risks to life and property through the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP). The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is designated as the agency with the primary responsibility to plan and coordinate the NEHRP. This program includes the development and implementation of feasible design and construction methods to make structures earthquake resistant.

Executive Order 12699 of January 5, 1990, Seismic Safety of Federal and Federally Assisted or Regulated New Building Construction, requires that measures to assure seismic safety be imposed on Federally assisted new building construction.

7 CFR Part 1792, Subpart C, Seismic Safety of Federally Assisted New Building Construction, identifies acceptable seismic standards which must be employed in new building construction funded by loans, grants, or guarantees made by the Rural Utilities Service, hereinafter referred to as agency, through lien accommodations or subordinations approved by the agency. This subpart implements and explains the provisions of the loan contract utilized by the agency for both electric and telecommunications borrowers.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response.

Respondents: Small business or organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,000.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours on Respondents: 750.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Joyce McNeil, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, at (202) 720-0812. FAX: (202) 720-8435.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: November 23, 2009.

Jonathan Adelstein,

Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.

[FR Doc. E9-28642 Filed 11-30-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Bridger-Teton National Forest; Pinedale Ranger District; Wyoming; Environmental Impact Statement for the Upper Green River Area Rangeland Project

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: The Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, will update and supplement the 2004 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to analyze the effects of domestic livestock grazing in the upper Green River area. As part of the process, the Forest Service will prepare a supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement for public comment. This project was previously published in the **Federal Register** on the following dates: (1) Notice of intent to prepare an EIS published on 7/23/2003 (Vol. 68, #141, page 43487), (2) Notice of availability of a draft EIS published on 3/12/2004 (Volume 69, #49, page 11853), (3) Notice of availability of a final EIS published on 2/4/2005 (Volume 70, #23, page 6004). The analysis contained in the EIS will be used by the Responsible Official to

decide whether or not, and how, livestock grazing would be authorized on the grazing allotments within the project area. The project area is located in western Wyoming; approximately 30 miles northwest of Pinedale, Wyoming near the Green River Lakes. The majority of the project area lies within Sublette County, with small portions that extend into Teton and Fremont counties. The entire 162,800 acre project area lies within the boundaries of the Pinedale Ranger District. The project area is comprised of the following six grazing allotments: Badger Creek, Beaver-Twin Creeks, Noble Pastures, Roaring Fork, Upper Green River, and Wagon Creek.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis were solicited in the 7/23/2003 Notice of Intent. All comments that were received during the previous analysis period will be reconsidered in the current analysis. The draft environmental impact statement is expected in March of 2010 and the final environmental impact statement is expected in July of 2010.

ADDRESSES: District Ranger, Pinedale Ranger District, Box 220, Pinedale, Wyoming 82941, telephone 307-367-4326, facsimile 307-367-5750 or send electronic mail to comments-intermtn-bridger-teton-pinedale@fs.fed.us and on the subject line, put only "Upper Green Grazing Allotments". Again, comments that were previously submitted will be considered and need not be re-submitted. Comments on the supplemental draft that is expected to be released in March of 2010 would be most helpful.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dave Booth, Project Manager, Pinedale Ranger District, 307-367-5754, dbooth@fs.fed.us, and see **ADDRESSES** above. 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

The Rescission Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-19, Section 504(a)) requires the Forest Service to schedule and complete analysis and decisions for grazing allotments where needed. The purpose and need for the proposed action is to authorize grazing activities on the Badger Creek, Beaver-Twin Creeks, Noble Pastures, Roaring Fork, Upper Green River, and Wagon Creek Allotments in a way that sustains the health of the land and has value to grazing permittees. The allotment

management plan is the document used to implement revised or updated direction and/or refine desired rangeland conditions and institute management prescriptions to meet them. Allotment management plans may be revised by this decision. Integral to this is a need to confirm or attain compliance and consistency of this analysis and its resultant decision with legal mandates, including the National Environmental Policy Act of 1976 (NEPA), as well as policy direction, including the Bridger-Teton National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). This action contributes toward the accomplishment of Goal 1.1(h) in the Forest Plan (page 113), which states "provide for about 260,000 Animal Unit Months (AUMs) of livestock grazing annually" and Goal 4.7 which states "Grazing use of the National Forest sustains or improves overall range, soils, water, wildlife, and recreation values or experiences". To date the Forest Service has identified three alternatives.

Alternative A: Grazing as Currently Permitted (No Action Alternative)

Although allotment management plans (AMPs) would be prepared for each of the six allotments, the grazing management practices specified for the allotments with existing AMPs would not be changed. The Upper Green River and Roaring Fork allotments would continue to operate under the guidelines specified in AMPs that are over 25 years old, and season-long grazing would persist in the Badger Creek and Beaver-Twin Creeks allotments. In addition, no new utilization standards would be initiated to move existing resource conditions in the project area toward the desired future conditions (DFCs) specified in the Forest Plan.

Alternative B: Proposed Action

Authorize continued grazing under a specific management regime, designed to sustain or improve the overall ecological condition of the project area. The updated direction would be incorporated in respective allotment management plans (AMPs) to guide grazing management within the project area. New allotment management plans (AMPs) would be developed for the Badger Creek, Beaver-Twin Creeks, Noble Pastures, and Wagon Creek allotments, and the existing AMPs for the Roaring Fork and Upper Green River allotments would be updated as a result of this action. Grazing management strategies would be developed or revised in accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), 36 CFR 222.1(b)(2), which describes allotment

management planning provisions. Current grazing management strategies would be maintained where resource objectives are being achieved, and new management strategies would be implemented in areas where resource objectives have not been met. Rotational grazing systems would be initiated in the Badger Creek, Beaver-Twin Creeks, and Roaring Fork allotments and modified, as needed, in the remaining allotments to ensure desired conditions are reached.

Alternative C: No Grazing by Domestic Livestock (No Grazing Alternative)

Alternative C would eliminate livestock grazing in the project area. This alternative was developed to demonstrate the effects that eliminating domestic cattle grazing would have on the environment and to more clearly illustrate the potential effects of implementing either Alternative A or Alternative B. Under this alternative, domestic livestock grazing in all six allotments of the project area would be phased out over several years as existing Term Grazing Permits expire.

Responsible Official

District Ranger, Pinedale Ranger District, P.O. Box 220, Pinedale, Wyoming 82941.

Nature of Decision To Be Made

The District Ranger will decide whether or not to authorize continued grazing under a specific management regime designed to sustain and/or improve the overall ecological condition of the project area. The decision would include adaptive management and any mitigation measures needed in addition to those prescribed in the Forest Plan.

Preliminary Issues

The Forest Service has identified the following potential issues.

Issue 1—Effects of livestock grazing on riparian and aquatic function.

Issue 2—Effects of livestock grazing on Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive species.

Issue 3—The social and economic effects of authorizing livestock grazing in the area.

Issue 4—Effects of livestock grazing on rangeland function.

Scoping Process

The following methods were used to invite the public to participate in this project: A scoping letter was mailed to those listed on the Bridger-Teton National Forest's general mailing list on February 10, 2000. The mailing list included private landowners, term grazing permit holders, special interest

groups, interested members of the public, and local, State, and Federal agencies. The letter described the proposed action, the purpose and need for the project, the process that would be followed for completing the environmental analysis, and the scope of the decision to be made. Additionally, the letter solicited public participation in the process, specifically the submission of comments, concerns, and recommendations regarding management of the six allotments in the project area. Term grazing permit holders, or their representatives, were contacted shortly after the project was initiated to solicit their input concerning management of the six allotments within the project area. This project was previously published in the **Federal Register** on the following dates: (1) Notice of intent to prepare an EIS published on 7/23/2003 (Vol. 68, #141, page 43487), (2) Notice of availability of a draft EIS published on 3/12/2004 (Volume 69, #49, page 11853), (3) Notice of availability of a final EIS published on 2/4/2005 (Volume 70, #23, page 6004). Public comments were received in response to the scoping announced in the Notice of Intent and in response to the Draft EIS described in the 3/12/2004 Notice of Availability.

No additional comments are sought at this time. All previously submitted comments will be used to prepare the supplemental Draft EIS. All those who commented on the 2004 DEIS in a timely manner will be eligible to appeal the final decision pursuant to 36 CFR 215. In addition, all those who comment on the supplemental DEIS in a timely manner will be eligible to appeal the final decision.

Dated: November 16, 2009.

Joe Harper,

Acting District Ranger.

[FR Doc. E9-28520 Filed 11-30-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Fresno County Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Fresno County Resource Advisory Committee will be meeting in Prather, California on January 13, 2010 and Clovis, California on January 27, 2010. The purpose of the January 13th meeting will be to review new project proposals that were submitted by the January 8th due date and the purpose of

the meeting on January 27th will be to vote and approve projects to be funded under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 110-343).

DATES: The meetings will be held on January 13, 2010 from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in Prather, CA and January 27, 2010 from 6 p.m. to 8:30 pm in Clovis, CA.

ADDRESSES: The meeting on January 13th will be held at the High Sierra Ranger District, 29688 Auberry Rd., Prather, CA and the meeting on January 27th will be held at the Sierra National Forest Supervisor's Office, 1600 Tollhouse Rd., Clovis, CA. Send written comments to Robbin Ekman, Fresno County Resource Advisory Committee Coordinator, c/o Sierra National Forest, High Sierra Ranger District, 29688 Auberry Road, Prather, CA 93651 or electronically to rekman@fs.fed.us.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robbin Ekman, Fresno County Resource Advisory Committee Coordinator, (559) 855-5355 ext. 3341.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting is open to the public. Committee discussion is limited to Forest Service staff and Committee members. However, persons who wish to bring Payments to States Fresno County Title II project matters to the attention of the Committee may file written statements with the Committee staff before or after the meeting. If you wish to make a presentation on your project proposal please contact Robbin Ekman by January 6, 2010. Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Review new project proposals and (2) Vote on projects to be funded.

Dated: November 23, 2009.

Ray Porter,

District Ranger.

[FR Doc. E9-28488 Filed 11-30-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

RIN 0596-AC91

Proposed Directives for Forest Service Concession Campground Special Use Permits

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of proposed directives; request for comment.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service is proposing changes to its directives governing permits for operation of campground and related Granger-Thye concessions (concessions with

Government-owned improvements) on National Forest System lands. The proposed directives would reduce from 50 to 10 percent the camping fee discount campground concessioners (concessioners) are required to offer to holders of Senior and Access Passes and Golden Age and Golden Access Passports. Additionally, the proposed directives would allow concessioners to propose camping fee discounts above 10 percent for these pass holders in their applications; would require concessioners to offer a 10 percent discount to holders of Senior and Access Passes and Golden Age and Golden Access Passports for standard amenity recreation fee (SARF) day use sites that they operate; and would require concessioners to provide free use to holders of Annual and Volunteer Passes at SARF day use sites they operate. Furthermore, existing concessioners could request amendment of their permit to incorporate all of these changes, as well as an increase in their land fee for the remaining term of their permit if their gross revenue increases significantly due to the reduction in the camping fee discount. Alternatively, the proposed directive changes would allow existing concessioners to continue operating under the terms of their current permit until it expires. Public comment on the proposed directives is invited and will be considered in development of the final directives.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing by February 1, 2010.

ADDRESSES: Send comments electronically by following the instructions at the Federal eRulemaking portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Comments also may be submitted by mail to U.S. Forest Service, Attn: Carolyn Holbrook, Recreation and Heritage Resources Staff, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Stop 1125, Washington, DC 20250-1125. If comments are sent electronically, please do not send duplicate comments by mail. Please confine comments to issues pertinent to the proposed directives, explain the reasons for any recommended changes, and, where possible, reference the specific section and wording being addressed.

All comments, including names and addresses when provided, will be placed in the record and will be available for public inspection. The public may inspect comments received on these proposed directives in the Office of the Director, Recreation, Heritage, and Volunteer Resources Staff, 4th Floor Central, Sidney R. Yates Federal Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW.,