

separating uses, such as designating some campsites for use only by groups with pack animals, to avoid conflict? Data collected in this information collection is not available from other sources.

Estimate of Burden: 15 minutes.

Type of Respondents: Visitors or potential visitors to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 3000.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 750 hours.

Comment Is Invited

Comments are invited on (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the stated purposes and the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall 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 respondents, including the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Use of Comments

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: March 16, 1999.

Robert Lewis, Jr.,

Deputy Chief for Research & Development.

[FR Doc. 99-6931 Filed 3-19-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Rocky Mountain Region: Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, Eastern Wyoming; Legal Notice of the Opportunity to Comment on Certain Proposed Actions and of Decisions Subject to Notice and Comment

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; Newspapers for legal notices.

SUMMARY: This is a list of those newspapers that will be used to publish

notice of all decisions which are subject to appeal under 36 CFR 217, notice of the opportunity to comment on certain proposed actions pursuant to 36 CFR 215.5, and notice of decisions subject to appeal under the general provisions of 36 CFR 215. As required at 36 CFR 215.5 and 215.9, such notice shall constitute legal evidence that the agency has given timely and constructive notice of decisions that are subject to public notice and comment and administrative appeal. Newspaper publications of notices of decisions is in addition to direct notice to those who have requested notice in writing and to those known to be interested in or affected by a specific decision.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Use of these newspapers for purposes of publishing the notices required under the provisions of 36 CFR 215 shall begin November 30, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul Momper, Regional Appeals and Litigation Coordinator, Rocky Mountain Region, Box 15127, Lakewood, Colorado 80225, Area Code 303-275-5161.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Responsible Officials in the Rocky Mountain Region shall give notice of the opportunity to comment on certain proposed actions and of decisions subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR part 215 in the following newspapers which are listed by Forest Service unit. Where more than one newspaper is listed for any unit, the first newspaper listed is the primary newspaper which shall be used to constitute legal evidence that the agency has given timely and constructive notice of decisions that are subject to administrative appeal. The day after the publication of the public notice in the primary newspaper shall be the first day of the appeal filing period.

Decisions by the Regional Forester

The Denver Post, published daily in Denver, Denver County, Colorado, for decisions affecting National Forest System lands in the States of Colorado, Nebraska, Kansas, and eastern Wyoming and for any decision of Region-wide impact. In addition, notice of decisions made by the Regional Forester will also be published in the *Rocky Mountain News*, published daily in Denver, Denver County, Colorado. Notice of decisions affecting National Forest System lands in the State of South Dakota will also be published in *The Rapid City Journal* published daily in Rapid City, Pennington County, South Dakota. For those decisions affecting a particular unit, the newspaper specific to that unit will be used.

Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests, Colorado

Forest Supervisor Decisions

The Denver Post, published daily in Denver, Denver County, Colorado.

District Ranger Decisions

Redfeather and Estes-Poudre Districts: *Coloradoan*, published daily in Fort Collins, Larimer County, Colorado.

Pawnee District: *Greeley Tribute*, published daily in Greeley, Weld County, Colorado.

Boulder District: *Boulder Daily Camera*, published daily in Boulder, Boulder County, Colorado.

Clear Creek District: *Clear Creek Courier*, published weekly in Idaho Springs, Clear Creek County, Colorado.

Sulphur District: *Granby Sky High News*, published daily in Granby, Grand County, Colorado.

Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests, Colorado

Forest Supervisor Decisions

Grand Junction Daily Sentinel, published daily in Grand Junction, Mesa County, Colorado.

District Ranger Decisions

Collbran and Grand Junction Districts: *Grand Junction Daily Sentinel*, published daily in Grand Junction, Mesa County, Colorado.

Paonia District: *Delta County Independent* published weekly in Delta, Delta County, Colorado.

Cebolla and Taylor River Districts: *Gunnison County Times*, published weekly in Gunnison, Gunnison County, Colorado.

Norwood District: *Telluride Daily Planet*, published daily in Telluride, San Miguel County, Colorado.

Ouray District: *Montrose Daily Press*, published daily in Montrose, Montrose County, Colorado.

Pike and San Isabel National Forests

Forest Supervisor Decisions

Pueblo Chieftain, published daily in Pueblo, Pueblo County, Colorado.

District Ranger Decisions

San Carlos District: *Pueblo Chieftain*, published daily in Pueblo, Pueblo County, Colorado.

Comanche District: *Plainsman Herald*, published weekly in Springfield, Baca County, Colorado. In addition, notice of decisions made by the District Ranger will also be published in the *La Junta Tribune Democrat*, published daily in La Junta, Otero County, Colorado, and in the *Ark Valley Journal*, published weekly in La Junta, Otero County, Colorado.

Cimarron District: Tri-State News, published weekly in Elkhart, Morton County, Kansas.

South Platte District: Daily News Press, published daily in Castle Rock, Douglas County, Colorado. In addition, notice of decisions made by the District Ranger will also be published in the *High Timber Times*, published weekly in Conifer, Jefferson County, Colorado, and in the *Fairplay Flume*, published weekly in Fairplay, Park County, Colorado.

Leadville District: Herald Democrat, published weekly in Leadville, Lake County, Colorado.

Salida District: *The Mountain Mail*, published daily in Salida, Chaffee County, Colorado.

South Park District: *Fairplay Flume*, published weekly in Fairplay, Park County, Colorado.

Pikes Peak District: *Gazette Telegraph*, published daily in Colorado Springs, El Paso County, Colorado.

Rio Grande National Forest, Colorado

Forest Supervisor Decisions

Valley Courier, published daily in Alamosa, Alamosa County, Colorado.

District Ranger Decisions

Valley Courier, published daily in Alamosa, Alamosa County, Colorado.

Routt National Forest, Colorado

Forest Supervisor Decisions

Laramie Daily Boomerang, published daily in Laramie, Albany County, Wyoming. In addition, for decisions affecting an individual district(s), the local district(s) newspaper will also be used.

District Ranger Decisions

Hahns Peak-Bears Ears District: *Steamboat Pilot*, published weekly in Steamboat Springs, Routt County Colorado is the newspaper of record for decision made by the hahns peak bears ears District Ranger. Additional notice to inform local communities about decision made by the District Ranger will also be placed in the *Hayden Valley Press*, published weekly in Hayden, Routt County, Colorado and in the *Northwest Colorado Daily Press*, published daily in Craig, Moffat County, Colorado.

Yampa and District: *Steamboat Pilot*, published weekly in Steamboat Springs, Routt County, Colorado.

Middle Park District: North Park District: *Jackson County Star*, published weekly in Walden, Jackson County, Colorado.

San Juan National Forest, Colorado

Forest Supervisors Decisions

Durango Herald, published daily in Durango, La Plata County, Colorado.

District Ranger Decisions

Durango Herald, published daily in Durango, La Plata County, Colorado.

White River National Forest, Colorado

Forest Supervisor Decisions

The Glenwood Post, published Monday through Saturday in Glenwood Springs, Garfield County, Colorado.

District Ranger Decisions

Aspen District: *Aspen Times*, published weekly in Aspen, Pitkin County, Colorado.

Blanco District: *Meeker Herald*, published weekly in Meeker, Rio Blanco County, Colorado.

Dillon District: *Summit Daily News*, published daily in Frisco, Summit County, Colorado.

Eagle District: *Eagle Valley Enterprise*, published weekly in Eagle, Eagle County, Colorado.

Holy Cross District: *Vail Trail*, published weekly in Vail, Eagle County, Colorado.

Rifle District: *Citizen Telegram*, published weekly in Rifle, Garfield County, Colorado.

Sopris District: *Valley Journal*, published weekly in Carbondale, Garfield County, Colorado.

Nebraska National Forest, Nebraska

Forest Supervisor Decisions

The Rapid City Journal, published daily in Rapid City, Pennington County, South Dakota for decisions affecting National Forest System lands in the State of South Dakota.

The Omaha World Herald, published daily in Omaha, Douglas County, Nebraska for decisions affecting National Forest System lands in the State of Nebraska.

District Ranger Decisions

Bassey District: *The North Platte Telegraph*, published daily in North Platte, Lincoln County, Nebraska.

Pine Ridge District: *The Chadron Record*, published weekly in Chadron, Dawes County, Nebraska.

Samuel R. McKelvie National Forest: *The Valentine Midland News*, published weekly in Valentine, Cherry County, Nebraska.

Fall River and Wall Districts, Buffalo Gap National Grassland: *The Rapid City Journal*, published daily in Rapid City, Pennington County, South Dakota.

Fall River and Wall Districts: *The Rapid City Journal*, published daily in

the Rapid City, Pennington County, South Dakota.

Fort Pierre National Grassland: *The Capitol Journal*, published Monday thru Friday in Pierre, Hughes County, South Dakota.

Black Hills National Forest, South Dakota and Eastern Wyoming

Forest Supervisor Decision

The Rapid City Journal, published daily in Rapid City, Pennington County, South Dakota.

District Ranger Decisions

The Rapid City Journal, published daily in Rapid City, Pennington County, South Dakota.

Bighorn National Forest, Wyoming

Forest Supervisor Decisions

Sheridan Press, published daily in Sheridan, Sheridan County, Wyoming.

In addition, for decisions affecting an individual district(s), the local district(s) newspaper will be used (see listing below).

District Ranger Decisions

Tongue District: *Sheridan Press*, published daily in Sheridan, Sheridan County, Wyoming.

Buffalo District: *Buffalo Bulletin*, published weekly in Buffalo, Johnson County, Wyoming.

Medicine Wheel District: *Lovell Chronicle*, published weekly in Lovell, Big Horn County, Wyoming.

Tensleep District: *Northern Wyoming Daily News*, published daily in Worland, Washakie County, Wyoming.

Painstrock District: *Greybull Standard*, published weekly in Greybull, Big Horn County, Wyoming.

Medicine Bow National Forest, Wyoming

Forest Supervisor Decisions

Laramie Daily Boomerang, published daily in Laramie, Albany County, Wyoming.

District Ranger Decisions

Laramie District: *Laramie Daily Boomerang*, published daily in Laramie, Albany County, Wyoming.

Douglas District: *Casper Star-Tribune*, published daily in Casper, Natrona County, Wyoming.

Brush Creek and Hayden Districts: *Rawlins Daily Times*, published daily in Rawlins, Carbon County, Wyoming.

Shoshone National Forest, Wyoming

Forest Supervisor Decision

Cody Enterprise, published twice weekly in Cody, Park County, Wyoming.

District Ranger Decisions

Clarks Fork District: *Powell Tribune*, published twice weekly in Powell, Park County, Wyoming.

Wapiti and Greybull Districts: *Cody Enterprise*, published twice weekly in Cody, Park County, Wyoming.

Wind River District: *The Dubois Frontier*, published weekly in Dubois, Teton County, Wyoming.

Lander District: *Wyoming State Journal*, published twice weekly in Lander, Fremont County, Wyoming.

Dated: March 15, 1999.

Tom L. Thompson,

Deputy Regional Forester.

[FR Doc. 99-6864 Filed 3-19-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Forest Service****Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Threemile Timber Harvest**

SUMMARY: The Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to provide timber for the Tongass National Forest timber sale program. The Record of Decision will disclose how the Forest Service has decided to provide harvest units, roads, and associated timber harvesting facilities. The proposed action is to harvest timber on approximately 2300 acres including both clearcut with reserves and overstory removal harvest methods. This would entail harvest of an estimated 48 million board feet of timber. Approximately 33 miles of new roads would be built, as well as a new log transfer facility at No Name Bay.

A range of alternatives responsive to significant issues will be developed including a no-action alternative. The proposed timber harvest is located in the Tongass National Forest, Petersburg Ranger District, on Kuiu Island, Alaska, within Value Comparison Units 416, 417, 418, 419 and the east side of VCU 420. The *Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan* (1997) provides the overall guidance (land use designations, goals, objectives, management prescriptions, standards and guidelines) to achieve the desired future condition for the area in which this project is proposed. The Forest Plan allocates portions of the project area into four management prescriptions: Timber Production, Modified Landscape, Semi-Remote Recreation, and Old-growth Habitat Land Use Designations.

DATES: For the Forest Service to best use the scoping input, comments should be

received by May 1, 1999; however, scoping comments will be accepted at any time.

ADDRESSES: Please send written comments to Petersburg Ranger District; Tongass National Forest; Attn: Threemile Timber Harvest EIS; P.O. Box 1328, Petersburg, AK, 99833.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTRACT: Questions about the proposal and EIS should be directed to Everett Kissinger, Interdisciplinary Team Leader, P.O. Box 309, Petersburg, AK, 99833, phone (907) 772-3841.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Public participation will be part of the planning process and will be especially important at several points during the analysis. The first is during the scoping process. The Forest Service will be seeking information, comments, and assistance from federal, state, and local agencies, and from individuals and organizations that may be interested in, or affected by, the proposed activities. The scoping process will include: (1) Identification of potential issues; (2) identification of issues to be analyzed in depth; and, (3) elimination of insignificant issues or those which have been covered by a previous environmental review. Written scoping comments will be solicited through a scoping package sent to a project mailing list. For the Forest Service to best use the scoping input, comments should be received by May 1, 1999; however, scoping comments will be accepted at any time. Tentative issues identified for analysis in the EIS include subsistence, wildlife habitat, road development and access management, and timber sale economics and timber supply. Based on the results of scoping and the resource capabilities within the project area, alternatives including a no-action alternative will be developed for a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS). The Draft EIS is projected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in September 1999. Subsistence hearings, as provided for in Title VIII, Section 810 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), are planned during the comment period on the Draft EIS. The Final EIS is anticipated by March, 2000.

The comment period on the Draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes a notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

The Forest Service believes, at this early stage, it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First,

reviewers of draft environmental impact statements must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewer's position and contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553, (1978). Environmental objections that could have been raised at the draft environmental impact statement stage may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F.2nd 1016, 1022 (9th Cir. 1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). Because of these court rulings, it is very important that those interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the 45 day comment period so that substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider them and respond to them in the final environmental impact statement.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns of the proposed action, comments during scoping and comments on the draft environmental impact statement should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific areas with the project areas or specific pages or chapters of the draft statement. Comments may also address the adequacy of the draft environmental impact statement or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the statement. Reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR parts 215 or 217. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Requesters should be aware that, under FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision