

Estimated annual number of respondents: 2,657.

Estimated annual number of responses per respondent: 3.2013.

Estimated annual number of responses: 8,506.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 7,697 hours. (Due to rounding, the total annual burden hours may not equal the product of the annual number of responses multiplied by the average reporting burden per response.)

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.

Done in Washington, DC, this 24th day of September 1999.

Bobby R. Acord,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 99-25426 Filed 9-29-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-U

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Revision of the Land and Resource Management Plan for the Tonto National Forest Located in Gila, Maricopa, Pinal and Yavapai Counties, Arizona

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

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

SUMMARY: Pursuant to 36 CFR 219.10(g), the Regional Forester for the Southwestern Region gives notice of the agency's intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Revised Tonto National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). According to 36 CFR 219.10(g), Forest Plans are ordinarily revised on a 10-year cycle or at least every 15 years. The existing Tonto National Forest Plan was approved on October 31, 1985 and has been amended 23 times. The proposed action is to update the amended Forest Plan, make format changes and edit to improve clarity, and modify based on needs determined through the EIS process.

The responsible official for approving the Forest Plan revision is Eleanor S. Towns, Regional Forester, Southwestern Region, USDA Forest Service, 517 Gold Avenue SW, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102. The Forest Supervisor, Tonto National Forest, is delegated responsibility for preparing the environmental impact statement.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis (the need to revise, add or delete specific sections of the Forest

Plan) should be received in writing by December 31, 1999. The Draft EIS should be available for public review in September 2002. The Final EIS and revised Forest Plan should be completed by March 2004.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Charles R. Bazan, Forest Supervisor, Tonto National Forest, 2324 E. McDowell Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85006, Attn: Forest Plan Revision.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Eddie Alford, Planning Group Leader or Paul Stewart, Acting Team Leader, (602) 225-5200.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The requirement and process for developing, adopting and revising land and resource management plans for the National Forest System are defined by the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended and the National Forest Management Act of 1976. Implementing regulations are defined at Title 36, Chapter II, Part 219, Subpart A of the Code of Federal Regulations (36 CFR 219, Subpart A).

The Forest Supervisor has amended the Forest Plan, pursuant to 36 CFR 219.10(f), 23 times since its adoption in 1985. The "Five Year Review" was completed and approved on November 4, 1991. This report identified changed conditions and demands, and identified amendment and revision needs. In addition, new laws and revisions to the Code of Federal Regulations have resulted in the need to update portions of the Forest Plan.

Initiation of the Forest Plan revision process has been delayed since 1995 pending finalization of proposed changes to National Forest System planning regulations, which would significantly alter the current process. Amendments continued to be processed and approved to address immediate needs. Currently proposed or needed amendments may be acted upon, consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act, during the Forest Plan revision process. Regulations at 36 CFR 219.10(g) require that the Tonto National Forest proceed with revision at this time using existing planning regulations, regardless of the status of currently proposed changes in the regulations.

The content of the Forest Plan is prescribed in planning regulations (36 CFR 219.11) and includes:

(a) A brief summary of the management situation including demand and supply conditions for commodities and services, production potentials, and use and development opportunities;

(b) Forest multiple-use goals and objectives that include a description of the desired future condition of the Forest and an identification of the quantities of goods and services that are expected to be produced or provided during the planning period;

(c) Multiple-use prescriptions and associated standards and guidelines for each management area including proposed and probable management practices; and

(d) Monitoring and evaluation requirements that will provide a basis for a periodic determination and evaluation of the effects of management practices.

Planning regulations (36 CFR 219.13) also require that area planning for specific individual resources be integrated into the Forest Plan. These individual resource-planning requirements include but are not limited to:

(a) Timber resource land suitability (219.14);

(b) Roadless areas, unless otherwise provided by law (219.17);

(c) Grazing resource suitability (219.20);

(d) Recreation resource, including the visual resource (219.21); and

(e) Research natural areas (219.25).

Alternatives required by implementing regulations of the National Forest Management Act and the National Environmental Policy Act will be considered during the planning process. An alternative addressing the Resource Planning Act (RPA) program tentative resource objectives, a "no action" alternative that reflects the current Forest Plan direction, and a reasonable range of alternatives will be developed to respond to public issues, management concerns and resource opportunities identified during the planning process (36 CFR 219.12; 40 CFR 1501.7, 1502.14). The initial proposed action is to update the amended Forest Plan by reformatting and editing to improve clarity, and to ensure direction is consistent with new laws and regulations.

The Forest Service hereby gives notice that it is beginning a full environmental analysis and decision making process for this proposal so that interested or potentially affected people may know how they may contribute to the final decision. The Forest Service invites comments and suggestions from Federal, State, and local governments and agencies, Native American tribes, individuals, organizations and businesses on the scope of the analysis to be included in the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS). The scope of the analysis is limited to

those actions for which the Forest Supervisor has the legal authority to approve in a forest plan decision. Written comments are encouraged during the initial comment period, which ends December 31, 1999.

Specific information, which is needed at this stage of the process, includes:

(a) Names and addresses of interested parties, including specific agency or organization contacts, in order to update the Forest Plan mailing list;

(b) Suggestions for effective public involvement;

(c) Identification of areas or topics of interest; and

(d) New information or changed conditions which may indicate a need to change direction from the current Forest Plan.

Comments, as well as names and addresses on the Forest Plan mailing list, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available to the public. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered. Any person may request the agency withhold their name, address or comment from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act permits such confidentiality. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding a request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address.

Following this initial scoping, public meetings will be scheduled and/or informational newsletters will be produced consistent with public interest and involvement needs; and additional meetings with individuals or groups may also be arranged. It is anticipated that at least one additional comment period will be provided prior to issuance of the DEIS. The DEIS and proposed revised Forest Plan should be available for public review in September 2002. After a minimum comment period of 90 days, the final environmental impact statement and revised Forest Plan should be completed by March 2004.

The following information applies to review of the DEIS when it is issued. The 90-day public comment period on the DEIS will commence on the day the Environmental Protection Agency publishes a "Notice of Availability" in the **Federal Register**. It is very important that those interested in this proposed action have established their interest by that time. Written comments on the DEIS should be as specific as possible and may also address the adequacy of the statement or the merits

of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the statement (see The Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3). Please note that comments you make on the DEIS will be regarded as public information.

In addition, Federal court decisions have established that reviewers of a DEIS must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewers' position and contentions (*Vermont Yankee Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978)). Environmental objections that could have been raised at the draft stage may be waived or dismissed by the courts if not raised until after completion of the final environmental impact statement (*City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 9th Circuit, 803 F.2d 1018, (1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334 (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 90 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.

Dated: September 24, 1999.

James T. Gladen,

Deputy Regional Forester.

[FR Doc. 99-25401 Filed 9-29-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-U

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Revised Land and Resource Management Plan, Uinta National Forest, Utah

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and a revised Land and Resource Management Plan for the Uinta National Forest, located in Utah, Wasatch, Juab, Tooele, and Sanpete Counties, Utah.

SUMMARY: The Department of Agriculture, Forest Service will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in conjunction with revision of the Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan), and a revised Forest Plan for the Uinta National Forest. The revised Forest Plan will supersede the current Forest Plan, which was

approved October 3, 1984, and has been amended seven times.

This notice describes the needs for change in the current Forest Plan that to date have been identified by Uinta Forest Supervisor, Peter W. Karp, to be revised; the environmental issues considered in the revision; the estimated dates for filing the EIS; the information concerning public participation; and the names and addresses of the responsible agency official and the individual who can provide additional information.

DATES: Comments regarding the scope of the analysis should be received in writing by November 30, 1999. The agency expects to file a Draft EIS in the Fall of 2000, and a Final EIS in the Spring of 2001.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to: Peter W. Karp, Forest Supervisor, Uinta National Forest, PO Box 1428, 88 West 100 North, Provo, UT 84603-1428.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marlene DePietro, Planning Team Leader, Uinta National Forest (801) 342-5161.

Responsible Official: Jack Blackwell, Intermountain Regional Forester, 324 25th Street, Ogden, UT 84401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to part 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 219.10(g), the Regional Forester for the Intermountain Region gives notice of the agency's intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement to revise the Uinta National Forest Plan. According to 36 CFR 219.10(g), land and resource management plans shall ordinarily be revised on a 10 to 15 year cycle. The existing plan was approved October 3, 1984.

The Regional Forester gives notice that the Uinta National Forest is beginning an environmental analysis and the decision-making process for this proposed programmatic action to revise the Uinta Forest Plan.

Forest plans describe the long-term direction for managing national forests. Agency decisions in these plans do the following:

- Establish multiple use goals and objectives (36 CFR 219.11)
- Establish forest-wide management requirements (standards and guidelines) (36 CFR 219.13 to 219.26)
- Establish management areas and management area direction through the application of management prescriptions (36 CFR 219.11(c))
- Establish monitoring and evaluation requirements (36 CFR 219.11(d))
- Determine suitability and potential capability of lands for resource production. This includes identifying lands not suited for timber production