

Need and Use of the Information: APHIS will collect information to prevent the spread of insect pests and noxious weeds in the United States. If the information were not collected there would be no way of preventing noxious weeds from entering the United States.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 30,000.

Frequency of Responses:

Recordkeeping; Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 11,345.

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Title: Plum Pox Compensation.

OMB Control Number: 0579-0159.

Summary of Collection: Plum Pox is an extremely serious viral disease of plants that can affect many stonefruit species, including plum, peach, apricot, almond, and nectarine. The United States Department of Agriculture is responsible for preventing plant pest and noxious weeds from entering the United States, preventing the spread of pests and weeds not widely distributed in the United States and eradicating those imported pests and weeds when eradication is feasible. Chapter 8 of the Plant Quarantine Act (7 U.S.C. 161) provides authority for the Secretary of Agriculture to quarantine any State, Territory, or District of the United States to prevent the spread of insect pests and plant diseases new or not widely distributed throughout the United States. Section 102 of the Organic Act (7 U.S.C. 147a) states, in part, that "the Secretary of Agriculture, either independently or in cooperation with the States * * * is authorized to carry out operations or measures to detect, eradicate, suppress, control, prevent, or retard the spread of plant pests." The Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) will collect information using form PPQ 651, Application for Plum Pox Compensation, in order to qualify agricultural producers for disaster payments in conjunction with losses suffered as a result of Plum Pox.

Need and Use of the Information: APHIS will collect the owner's name and address, a description of the owner's property, and a certification statement that the plums removed from the owner's property were commercial plums. The owners will also need to send APHIS a copy of the public order or destruction order that describes the number of plum trees removed. The information will be used to obtain the correct address to which funds are to be sent, and to verify the location and number of plum trees for which the owner is requesting replacement funds. If the information were not collected,

APHIS would be unable to reimburse eligible grove and nursery owners for the loss of their trees.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 12.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 2.

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Title: District of Columbia Plant Health Certificate.

OMB Control Number: 0579-0166.

Summary of Collection: The United States Department of Agriculture is responsible for preventing plant pests and noxious weeds from entering the United States, preventing the spread of pests and weeds not widely distributed in the United States and eradicating those imported pests and weeds when eradication is feasible. The Federal Plant Protection Act authorized the Department to carry out this mission. The Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) Division of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) provides certification services for plant material moving interstate to ensure other states that the plants and plant products they are receiving from the District of Columbia are free of prohibited or otherwise regulated plant pests. APHIS will collect information using form PPQ 571, District of Columbia Plant Health Certificate.

Need and Use of the Information: APHIS will collect information to certify that the domestic plant or other plant material described by the shipper has been inspected according to appropriate procedures and that it is considered free from certain plant diseases, insects, or other pests, and is considered to conform with the requirements of the importing State. If the information is not collected, it would likely result in the interstate spread of damaging agricultural pests. Further, entities in the District of Columbia would be unable to ship their products to other States, as other States require this certification.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions.

Number of Respondents: 4.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 40.

Nancy B. Sternberg,

Departmental Clearance Office.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Availability of Environmental Assessment To Amend the Hiawatha National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of Environmental Assessment.

SUMMARY: On May 1, 2001, Hiawatha National Forest Supervisor, Clyde N. Thompson (Responsible Official) announced the preferred alternative and availability of the Rock River Canyon Wilderness Environmental Assessment for a 30-day comment and review period. The preferred alternative would amend the Hiawatha National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) to revise the standards and guidelines for management of the Rock River Canyon Wilderness. This notice is pursuant to National Forest System Land and Resource Management Planning regulations (36 CFR 219.35(b), 65 FR 67579, November 9, 2000). Copies of the Environmental Assessment (EA) are available upon request.

DATES: On May 1, 2001, Hiawatha National Forest Supervisor, Clyde N. Thompson announced the preferred alternative and availability of the Rock River Canyon Wilderness Environmental Assessment for public review and comment. Comments on the EA must be received no later than May 31, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Send comments or requests for documents to: Forest Supervisor, Hiawatha National Forest, 2727 North Lincoln Road, Escanaba, MI 49829 or email comments to mailroom_r9_hiwatha@fs.fed.us, with the subject line: "Rock River Canyon Wilderness EA."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janel Crooks, Project Coordinator, at 906-387-2512. TDD 906-387-3371. Or access the forest web page at www.fs.fed.us/r9/hiawatha.

Responsible Official: Clyde N. Thompson, Forest Supervisor, 2727 North Lincoln Rd., Escanaba, Michigan 49829.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed Forest Plan Amendment No. 22 describes programmatic standards and guidelines that allow for existing recreation use while reducing resource impacts to the Wilderness and wilderness values. These standards and guidelines address trails, camping and other management concerns. The preferred alternative designates existing

trails, prohibits new trails, and institutes voluntary registration for overnight and day use. This is a non-significant amendment. Public involvement has been an important part of the decision making process for this proposal. Public comments were gathered in 1992 through a survey of users. In April 1993, a public scoping letter was sent to over 400 interested parties and a notice was published in the local newspaper. On December 17, 1999, a second public scoping letter was mailed to over 400 interested parties and a legal notice was published in the Escanaba Daily Press, Escanaba, MI. On May 1, 2001, legal notice was published in the Daily Press, Escanaba, MI, notifying the public of the availability of the EA for review. A 30-day comment period follows release of the EA on May 1, 2001. Comments on the EA must be received no later than May 21, 2001. A final decision is expected by November 2001. This decision will be subject to appeal pursuant to USDA Forest Service regulations 36 CFR 217.3.

Dated: April 16, 2001.

Clyde N. Thompson,

Forest Supervisor.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Garnet Stars & Sands Project; Idaho Panhandle National Forests, Benewah and Latah Counties, Idaho

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The St. Joe Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests is beginning an analysis and preparation of an environmental Impact Statement to address recreational digging, leasing and/or sale of the garnet resource in the Emerald, Hidden, Wood and Cat Spur Creek drainages. The responsible official is Forest Supervisor, Idaho Panhandle National Forests, 3815 Schreiber Way, Coeur d' Alene, ID 83815.

The garnet resource consists of both sands and gemstones. The sands are used for industrial purposes, primarily as abrasives. The Project Area produces extraordinary quality and quantity of large garnets, with some of the drainages producing star garnets. These gemstones are used commercially for jewelry and are sought after by recreationists.

Much of the Emerald Creek drainage, on public and private lands, has been mined in the past. Two lease renewals,

one new lease application, one prospecting permit extension, and eight new prospecting permit applications have been submitted. In addition, the Forest Service currently manages a public digging areas (by fee permit) in 281 Gulch, a tributary to Emerald Creek.

The Purpose and Need for this project is based in the fact that the garnet resource is finite and valuable and there is considerable public interest in leasing of gemstones and sands and retaining the recreational digging area. The Purpose and Need for this project is as follows:

- Respond to public interest in developing the mineral resource, while conserving the garnet resource for future generations.
- Gemstone deposits within the current Forest Service recreational digging area in 281 Gulch are becoming depleted. If the Forest Service is going to continue to provide this unique recreational digging opportunity, other areas need to be tested, identified and developed.
- Resolve twelve pending mining applications or extensions (lease applications, permit applications and permit extensions) for both garnets and sand, dating back to 1996.

DATES: The Draft Environmental Impact Statement is expected to be filed by October 1, 2001. The Final Environmental Impact Statement is expected to be filed by June 30, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to: Garnet Stars & Sands, St. Joe Ranger District, PO Box 407, St. Maries, ID 83861.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions should be referred to Tracy Gravelle, St. Joe Ranger District, Avery Office, HC Box 1, Avery, ID 83861.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Proposed Action

Public Recreational Gemstone Digging Areas

(1) The Forest Service would reserve Wood Creek and certain tributaries of the East Fork of Emerald Creek (281 Gulch, Garnet Gulch, No Name, PeeWee and Strom Creeks) and for public recreational digging of gemstone garnets. These areas would not be available for commercial lease.

These drainages would be tested with a combination of auger holes, hand or machine-dug trenches. After testing, drainages will be listed in order of priority for development. Each drainage would require different development. The following activities are likely:

Only one drainage at a time would be open.

All site may have trees cut and removed and/or used for reclamation.

An average of 200–300 feet per year would be opened and reclaimed according to design features in Chapter 2 of the EIS.

Reclamation will follow Best Management Practices and include site-specific mitigations that will be developed for this analysis.

Details by Drainage

281 Gulch: Progressive digging would continue in the two forks to the confluence of the East and West Forks. Digging would then continue on the main fork of 281 to Road 447.

Overburden removal would be needed.

Garnet Gulch: The original parking area for Pee Wee and NoName creeks would be used for this drainage. The a-frame would be located at the parking area and a toilet facility installed. An estimated ½ mile trail would be constructed. Some overburden removal may be necessary.

PeeWee and No Name Creeks: These drainages have been recreational digging areas previously and are known to have high quality gemstones. At the time, there was no equipment brought in to remove overburden and it is believed that there may be more resource available. Development would include a toilet facility but the parking and other site space still exist. These two areas shared parking areas. Overburden removal is likely going to be necessary.

Strom Gulch: Parking, the a-frame and toilet may be developed on the upper road (Rd. 1487) or this site would utilize the facilities for Pee Wee and NoName Creeks. No overburden removal is expected.

Wood Creek: parking and a site for the a-frame and toilet would be developed. Some overburden removal may be necessary.

Lease Application

(2) The pending lease application (ID 29529) for gemstones on Bechtel Butte would be approved. This entails the following: 5 to 6 pits 15 feet in diameter; one backhoe trench 100 feet long by 20 feet wide and 8 feet deep on the ridge; a bobcat excavator would be used to fill in and dig smaller trenches (T42N, R1E, Sections 9, 10, 15 & 16). It is expected that these activities would begin in 2002 and continue through 2007.

Prospecting Permits

Prospecting permits also suggest that there could be further development applied for in the form of a lease application. In order to perform an efficient analysis, for some of the permits we are assuming subsequent